

Hunter Education

Licenses, applications, harvest reporting and general information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Hunter Education Program

Before purchasing a Game-hunting License, all hunters 17 years of age and younger must obtain a Hunter Education number issued by New Mexico or another state or possess a New Mexico Mentored-Youth Hunter number. The Hunter Education number is valid for hunting all game species. The Mentored-Youth Hunter number is valid only for deer, turkey, javelina and small-game hunting licenses (page 18).

Online Hunter Education Certification Course (N.M. residents only): Youth hunters 11 years or older can obtain a Hunter Education number by completing an Online Hunter Education Certification Course. A service fee may apply.

Standard New Mexico Hunter Education Course: Hunter Education numbers can also be obtained at no cost by completing a traditional certified Hunter Education Course. There are no age requirements for enrollment in a Standard New Mexico Hunter Education Course, however, students 10 years of age and younger must be accompanied by an adult. The minimum age requirement to enroll in an instructor-led field day course is 10 years of age. Before the first class session, students are required to complete homework assignments. Homework may be completed online through a downloadable PDF file or with a hardcopy manual. Manuals are available at local NMDGF locations, after registration. Students must attend all class sessions and pass both a written exam and a firearm proficiency evaluation to be issued a Hunter Education number. Courses are offered year-round and statewide. Early registration is encouraged to avoid missing a deadline to apply for a hunt. For complete information on course dates, locations and requirements, as well as course content and homework, visit NMDGF at: www.wildlife.state.nm.us/education.

Registration for Hunter/Bowhunter Education Courses

All students wishing to register for a Hunter/Bowhunter Education Course must have a Customer Identification Number (CIN). The CIN is provided to each individual when she/he establishes a personal NMDGF account (page 8). If you require assistance obtaining class information or a Hunter Education number please contact the New Mexico Hunter Education Program: (505) 222-4731 or dgf-he@state.nm.us.

Bowhunter education is not mandatory for archers in New Mexico, however it is recommended by NMDGF. Other states may have different requirements which should be verified.

Become A Volunteer Instructor

The Hunter Education Program is looking for volunteer instructors. If you are interested in contributing to and preserving our hunting heritage, please contact the New Mexico Hunter Education Program at: (505) 222-4731 or online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us/education.

Fort Bliss

All hunters on Fort Bliss, including McGregor Range, are required to have proof of passing a state-certified Hunter Education Course. Mentored-Youth Hunters are not eligible.

Mentored-Youth Hunter

Licenses, applications, harvest reporting and general information: **1-888-248-6866**

Mentored-Youth Hunter Program

First-time hunters 10–17 years of age can pass an online quiz and receive a Mentored-Youth Hunter number. This number enables a Mentored-Youth Hunter to hunt under the supervision of an adult mentor, purchase a Game-hunting License or Game-hunting & Fishing License, and apply for or purchase hunting licenses **for the following species: deer, turkey, javelina and small game.**

Mentors can be either a parent, guardian or an adult with parental consent, must be 18 years of age or older and must possess a valid hunting license. The Mentored-Youth Hunter and mentor must be in unaided sight and audible distance from one another at all times while hunting.

Participation is a one-time opportunity and good for two consecutive license years, beginning when a Game-hunting License is purchased. When the Mentored-Youth Hunter has completed the program and successfully passed the New Mexico Hunter Education Course, he or she can hunt any legal species independently with no age restriction.

For more information about the Mentored-Youth Hunter Program visit: www.wildlife.state.nm.us/education or telephone: 1-888-248-6866.

Trapper Education

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) offers a variety of information for trappers and people interested in trapping on their website: <https://www.fishwildlife.org/afwa-inspires/furbearer-management>. Trappers are encouraged to review the information provided to learn more about furbearer management, scientific and social aspects of trapping, the benefits of trapping to wildlife management and species conservation, and responsible trapping practices. Links on their website include:

- **Trapper Education:** AFWA has developed the in-depth North American Basic Trapper Education Course which covers topics such as furbearer management, trapping regulations, types of equipment used, and ethical fur trapping. This on-line course is offered free of charge.
- **Best Management Practices (BMPs) for trapping:** AFWA, state agencies, and trapping groups developed BMPs through rigorous scientific evaluation of trapping devices and techniques to educate trappers on methods that maximize animal welfare, efficiency, selectivity, practicality, and safety. Over 600 trap types have been evaluated for 23 species of furbearers with a North American investment of approximately \$40 million dollars.
- **Research papers, surveys, and reports:** These documents pertain to use of traps in rare species restoration, furbearer management, public attitudes towards trapping, discussion of specific trapping devices, and harvest statistics throughout the country.