



2026 YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING APPLICATION

APPLICATION & QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

Applications will be accepted September 1 through October 1. You must use the new online [Illinois Youth Waterfowl Hunting Application](#). Only one application per youth hunter will be accepted. If more than one application is submitted by an individual, all applications from that individual will be rejected and permits revoked. No fee is charged for this permit. **Permits are not transferable.** Prior years hunters are eligible to apply, however **first-time applicants will be given preference.** Applicants must be between the ages of 10 and 17 at the time of the hunt. Arrangements for transportation, lodging, and ammunition must be provided by the parent or guardian. Each Illinois youth permit holder is required to be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or responsible adult, who may or may not hunt, depending on the location.

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTS

- Oct. 17 & 18 at **Moraine Hills SP – Black Crown Marsh Unit.** No blinds or decoys provided. 1 permit issued per day.
- Oct. 24 at **Clinton Lake - Salt Creek Waterfowl Management Area.** Blinds assigned through permit system. 4 permits issued.
- Oct. 24 at **Larry D. Closson Habitat Area.** Blinds assigned through permit system. 1 permit issued.
- Oct. 24 & 25 at **Marshall SFWA Duck Ranch Unit.** Blinds available. 3 permits issued per day.
- Oct. 24 & 25 at **Banner Marsh SFWA.** Blinds, boats and decoys available. 25 permits issued per day.
- Jan. 30 at **Horseshoe Lake SFWA.** Blinds assigned through permit system. 10 permits issued.
- Jan. 30 at **Union County SFWA.** Blinds assigned through permit system. 15 permits issued.

LICENSE INFORMATION

You must have a valid Illinois Hunting, Sportsman's, or Apprentice License unless you are:

- An Illinois resident who is disabled. A state I.D. card (available from the Secretary of State through the driver's license examining station) showing a P2, P2A, H2 or H2A disability.
- An Illinois resident on active duty and on leave from the U.S. Armed Forces.
- A disabled veteran. A veteran's disability card (at least 10% service related); available from local Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs offices.

Hunters born on or after January 1, 1980 must have successfully completed the Hunter Safety Training Course provided by the Department unless you are:

- Age 18 or under and hunting with a Youth Hunting and Trapping License and under the supervision of a legally licensed adult who is at least 21 years old. The youth hunter shall not hunt or carry a hunting device unless the youth is accompanied by, and under the close personal supervision, of one of these individuals.
- Hunting with an Apprentice Hunting License. This license is available one time only to resident or non-resident hunters. Apprentice Hunting License holders must be accompanied by a validly licensed adult at least 21 years old.
- To obtain information about Hunter Safety Education classes scheduled in your area, call the Safety Education Unit 1-800-832-2599 or online at: dnr.illinois.gov/safety.html

FIREARM OWNER'S I.D. CARD (ISSUED BY ILLINOIS STATE POLICE)

Regardless of who owns the gun, anyone who has a firearm or firearm ammunition in their possession must have in their possession a valid Firearm Owner's I.D. (F.O.I.D.) Card unless he or she is: a licensed out-of-state sportsman hunting in Illinois, or under the age of 21 and under the immediate control of a parent, guardian, or responsible adult who has in their possession a valid F.O.I.D. Card. Only one supervising adult in a hunting party is required to have a valid F.O.I.D. card if the youth hunters in the hunting party stay under the immediate control (accompanying youth hunters at all times) of the supervising adult possessing the valid F.O.I.D. card.

WATERFOWL STAMP & H.I.P REGISTRATION

Unless exempt, hunters must possess both a Federal and State Migratory Waterfowl stamp. Hunters under 16 years of age are not required to have a State or Federal Stamp. Habitat Stamps are not required to hunt waterfowl. Registration with HIP is required to hunt migratory game birds in Illinois, including doves, ducks, geese, snipe, woodcock, coots or rails. All licensed hunters must register with HIP if they intend to hunt migratory birds. Licenses, stamps, and HIP certifications are available at [vendor locations](#) or online at: www.exploremoreil.com.