



Hunting Opportunities for Utah’s Youth

Existing programs offer many options

By encouraging Utah’s youth to hunt, fish, watch wildlife and participate in shooting sports, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) hopes to help them develop a lifelong interest in wildlife and the outdoors. To reach this goal, the DWR offers a variety of outdoor youth-focused activities and hunting opportunities.



Before youth can hunt in Utah, they must complete Hunter Education—online or in a classroom—and then pass a final exam and shooting test.



There are many Utah hunts with days reserved just for youth. Among them are hunts for elk, chukar partridge, pheasant, turkey and waterfowl.

Free and low-cost licenses for youth

Anyone born after Dec. 31, 1965 must complete a DWR-approved Hunter Education course before they can obtain a hunting license. To cover the cost of the course, students must first purchase a \$10 certificate of registration. As soon as the student graduates, their certificate becomes a 365-day small-game hunting license at no additional cost. **In 2010, approximately 8,000 youth completed Hunter Education and received free hunting licenses.** A youth hunting license—for those under the age of 14—costs only \$11 per year.

Fishing licenses are also a good deal for youth. All children who are 11 and younger can fish for free, while 12- and 13-year-olds pay only \$5 for a 365-day fishing license.

Big game opportunities for youth

The DWR offers a variety of options and incentives to youth who hunt big game. The following chart lists some of the opportunities:

Big game opportunities for youth	Age requirements
Antlerless — Twenty percent of deer, elk and pronghorn permits reserved	18 or younger on archery opener
Deer — Twenty percent of general-season permits reserved	18 or younger on archery opener
Deer — Hunt three seasons (archery, muzzleloader and any weapon)	18 or younger on archery opener
Deer — Additional archery permits (1,500 reserved for youth after general-season permits sell out)	18 or younger on archery opener
Elk — Separate hunt (adults accompany youth but do not hunt)	18 or younger on hunt opener

Additional hunting opportunities for youth

The DWR also offers a variety of options and incentives to young upland game and waterfowl hunters. The following chart lists some of those opportunities:

Other hunting opportunities for youth	Age requirements
Chukar partridge — Separate youth hunt in areas statewide (pen-reared birds released just before the hunt).	15 or younger
Pheasant — Separate youth hunt in areas statewide (pen-reared birds released just before the hunt).	15 or younger
Turkey — Fifteen percent of limited-entry permits reserved. Also, a three-day youth hunt for general-season permit holders.	15 or younger by Jan. 27, 2011
Waterfowl — The marsh is open to youth for a separate hunting day, two weeks before the general-season opener.	15 or younger by youth hunt opener

Angling programs and opportunities

The DWR's Community Fisheries Program has developed 47 community fishing waters that give urban-dwelling anglers easy access to fishing. These ponds, combined with an education and equipment-lending program, provide opportunity for thousands of young anglers. In 2010, the DWR co-sponsored youth fishing clubs in nearly two dozen Utah communities.

The DWR also hosts and co-sponsors many fishing events for youth throughout the year. One of these events, held in central Utah for more than 20 years, hosts nearly 1,000 children with disabilities.

Youth-friendly laws and regulations

In 2008, the Utah Legislature removed the minimum age requirement for hunting small game and reduced the minimum age for big game hunting from 14 to 12 years of age. The DWR has also worked to simplify its regulations and now writes its hunting and fishing guidebooks in an easier-to-understand format. The following chart lists many of Utah's youth-friendly regulations:

Youth-friendly regulations	Age requirements
Duck stamp not required	15 or younger
Adult supervision while hunting	15 or younger
Cheaper small game license (\$11)	13 or younger when purchased
Age to hunt big game	12 or older
Age to hunt cougar and bear	12 by Dec. 31 or older
\$5 fishing license	12 or 13 when purchased
Free fishing	11 or under
Free fishing — children in state custody	18 or younger when free license obtained

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