Hunter Recruitment Opportunities

Mentored Youth Hunting Program (Kids Under 12)

The Mentored Youth Hunting Program is designed to allow youngsters under 12 years of age to gain hunting experience and learn at an early age about Pennsylvania's rich hunting heritage. It gives unlicensed youngsters the opportunity to receive one-on-one, hands-on experience and training in the field on the ethics, safety, responsibility, enjoyment and all other aspects of the hunting experience by persons who are dedicated to this pursuit. There simply is no better way to introduce a young person to hunting than with the close supervision of an adult mentor. Youngsters participating in this program do not need to have had a Hunter-Trapper Education class to be eligible.

General Information:

—A Mentor (licensed person 21 years or older) who is serving as a guide to a Mentored Youth (an unlicensed person under 12 years of age accompanied by a mentor while engaged in hunting or related activities) must secure a valid, current hunting license or otherwise qualify for a license and fee exemptions prior to engaging in any mentored youth hunting activities. Each youngster planning to participate in the Mentored Youth Hunting Program must obtain a permit, and each youngster will be issued his or her CID number (each youngster will need a Social Security number to receive a CID number). The permit will be assigned to the youngster. The $2.70 permit is obtainable from any issuing agent through PALS and online at the Game Commission's "The Outdoor Shop." The Mentored Youth Hunting Program permit includes big game tags for antlered deer and spring gobbler. Antlered deer or turkey harvests must be reported within five days online, using harvest report cards found in this Digest, or by phone by calling 1-855-724-8681.

—A Mentored Youth who participates in any hunting party must be listed on any required hunting roster and shall count as a member of the hunting party for maximum allowed numbers, and any regulations relating to big game animal hunting roster, and in parties hunting small game.

Seasons & Bag Limits:

—A Mentored Youth can hunt only **squirrels, groundhogs, coyotes, antlered and antlerless* deer** (youngsters are required to follow the same antler restrictions as a junior license holder, which is one antler of three or more inches in length or one antler with at least two points) and **turkeys*** in any of their respective seasons, and must follow daily and field possession bag limits for each species (one antlered deer and one bearded turkey in the spring, and one turkey in the fall, per license year).

—* An adult mentor can transfer one valid antlerless deer license to a Mentored Youth Hunting Program participant. The transfer of the antlerless license may not occur until after the mentored youth has harvested the antlerless deer. At that time, the license is to be transferred to the youngster to complete the harvest information and attach the carcass tag. The adult mentor has to report the deer and check the "taken by mentored youth" box on the harvest report card.

—* An adult mentor can transfer one fall turkey tag to a mentored youth if the youngster harvests a fall turkey. The harvest information and tag must be attached to the leg of the bird. The adult mentor has to report the turkey and check the "taken by mentored youth" box on the harvest report card.

—A Mentored Youth is eligible to hunt during any special youth hunting seasons that apply to any **eligible** Mentored Youth hunt species.

Safety:

—A Mentored Youth must be stationary (the state or condition where a person is still, fixed in place or static, indicated by a cessation of all forward, backward or lateral movement, whether in the standing, kneeling, sitting or prone position) and within arm's reach of the Mentor at all times while in possession of any lawful hunting device (any firearm or implement that is lawful to be possessed during the current season and used to harvest the particular species) while engaged in hunting or related activities.

—A Mentor may not accompany more than **one youngster (Mentored Youth or Licensed Junior Hunter)** at any given time while participating in the Mentored Youth Hunting Program. (A supervising adult can accompany any number of junior hunters outside of the Mentored Youth Hunting Program.)

—A Mentor and Mentored Youth may not collectively possess more than one lawful hunting device at any given time while engaged in hunting or related activities. Mentor must carry the lawful device in transit to and from the spot.

—A Mentor and Mentored Youth must be in compliance with fluorescent orange requirements for the species they are hunting.

Liability:

—A Mentor is responsible and accountable for all actions of the Mentored Youth occurring while engaged in hunting or related activities. A Mentor who causes or allows a Mentored Youth to engage in an unlawful act shall be punishable as the principal offender.

Youth Hunting Opportunities

(12 -16-year olds * or Junior License holders)

Youth Squirrel Season (12-16 years old without a license; and Junior License holders, who must have successfully completed an HTE course)	**Oct. 6-12**
Junior Pheasant Season and Junior Cottontail Rabbit Season (12-16 years old without a license; and Junior License holders, who must have successfully completed an HTE course)	**Oct. 6-13**
Deer (Antlerless Only; Junior License holders with required antlerless license; statewide)	**Oct. 18-20**
Youth Turkey Hunt (Spring Gobbler; Junior License holders with required license; statewide)	**April 20, 2013**

Youth Waterfowl Hunt Days (* Junior License Holders 12-15). The PGC Executive Director will designate one shooting day at Middle Creek and Pymatuning as a youth-only day, in addition to the statewide youth waterfowl hunting day held in late September each year.

Unlicensed Persons Accompanying A Licensed Hunter

An unlicensed person may accompany a properly licensed hunter or trapper provided the unlicensed person acts only as **observer** and does not, in any manner, participate in hunting or trapping. Any person accompanying a licensed hunter must wear the required amount of fluorescent orange. An unlicensed person **who has never held a hunting license in Pennsylvania or any other state** may accompany a properly licensed hunter or trapper and **participate** in these activities providing the following requirements are met: The person remains in sight and close to a hunter at least 18 years of age; the unlicensed person does not possess a firearm, bow or other hunting device; the person complies with fluorescent orange requirements; and the person is listed, if mandated, on a hunting roster as a member of the hunting party. The ratio of licensed hunters to non-licensed persons must not exceed 1:1.