

NDG&F July 18TH Newsletter

Some Hunter Education Classes Available

Adults and children looking to take a hunter education class in 2016 are reminded to enroll at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's website.

Hunter education coordinator John Mazur said the majority of classes were held by the end of May. However, he said classes will still be added throughout the year as they become finalized.

"Our volunteer instructors will be adding classes, but not nearly as many as we move toward the fall," Mazur said. "That's why it is important to monitor our website and to act quickly when a class suits your needs."

To register, click on the [hunter ed enrollment](#) link and "list of hunter education courses." Classes are listed by city, and can also be sorted by start date. To register for a class, click on "enroll" next to the specific class, and follow the simple instructions. Personal information is required.

Those who do not have access to the Internet and want to sign up for a class can call the hunter education program in Bismarck at 701-328-6615.

Individuals interested in receiving a notice by email when each hunter education class is added can click on the "[subscribe to news, email and text alerts](#)" link found below the news section on the department's home page. Check the box labeled "hunter education class notification" under the education program updates.

In addition, SMS text notifications of new classes can be sent directly to a cell phone. Simply text "NDGF HunterClass" to 468311 to subscribe to this feature.

State law requires anyone born after December 31, 1961 to pass a certified hunter education course to hunt in the state. Hunter education is mandatory for youth who are turning 12 years old, and children can take the class at age 11

Hunting Guide and Outfitter Test Set

The next guide and outfitter written examination is Aug. 13 at 1 p.m. at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department office in Bismarck. The test is given periodically to anyone interested in becoming a hunting guide or outfitter in the state.

In addition to passing a written exam, qualifications for becoming a guide include a background check for criminal and game and fish violations; certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and standard first aid; and employment by or contract with a licensed hunting outfitter.

Hunting outfitter eligibility requirements include the guide qualifications, as well as an individual must have held a hunting guide license for two years; and must have proof of liability insurance.

Interested individuals are required to preregister by calling the Game and Fish Department's enforcement office at 328-6604.

Pronghorn Hunting Season Set, Online Apps Available Monday

North Dakota's 2016 pronghorn hunting season is set, with 730 licenses available in seven open units, according to Jeb Williams, wildlife chief for the State Game and Fish Department.

Along with units 3B, 4A and 4C, which were the only open units in 2015, units 1A, 2A, 2B and 3A will hold a limited number of licenses.

"Overall, our pronghorn numbers are up 34 percent from last year, with better fawn production of 66 fawns per 100 does compared to 52 per 100 in 2015," Williams said. "With an average winter, the foundation is set for an even larger increase next year as many other units are doing well and are close to opening with the observed population levels. But we are continuing to be conservative to ensure steady population growth throughout the pronghorn range."

A total of 110 licenses are available in 1A, 60 in 2A, 40 in 2B, 35 in 3A, 110 in 3B, 300 in 4A and 75 in 4C. All licenses are valid for any pronghorn.

Similar to last year, each unit will have a season that is split into an early "bow-only" portion, and a later gun/bow season.

The bow-only portion of the season is from Sept 2 (noon) – Sept. 25. Anyone who draws a license can hunt pronghorn with a bow in the unit printed on the license.

From Sept. 30 (noon) – Oct.16, hunters who still have a valid license can use legal firearms or bow equipment, and again must stay in the assigned unit.

Only North Dakota residents are eligible to apply for a 2016 pronghorn license. Williams said people who have [accumulated bonus points](#) and choose not to apply this year will not lose their points.

In addition, state law allows youth who turn age 12 on or before December 31, 2016 to apply for a license.

Applicants can apply online at the Game and Fish Department website, gf.nd.gov starting Monday, July 18. Paper applications will be available by July 22 for printing off the website, and from license vendors, or by calling 800-406-6409.

The pronghorn license fee is \$30, and the deadline for submitting applications is Aug. 3.