

Apprentice Hunter Program - The People

The new “Apprentice Hunter” law was enacted by the 2015 State Legislature creating the opportunity for youth 10-17 years of age to hunt without completing hunter education.

Apprentice

An apprentice **MUST**:

- be between the ages of 10-17 years old at the time of license purchase.
- have appropriate current Montana hunting license(s) for the species being hunted; the licenses **MUST** show that he/she is *Apprentice Hunter Certified*.



An apprentice **MAY**:

- be a resident or nonresident
- obtain an *Apprentice Hunter Certification* for no more than 2 license years before they must complete a hunter safety and education course

An apprentice is **NOT ELIGIBLE** to:

- obtain a special bow and arrow license without first having completed a bowhunter education course
- obtain a resident hound training license for chasing mountain lion
- participate in a hunting license or permit drawing with a limited quota
- obtain any bighorn sheep license
- obtain an elk license if under 15 years of age

Violation of these terms could result in the loss of hunting privileges for up to one full license season.

Mentor

A mentor **MUST**

- be 21 years old or older
- be related to the apprentice by blood, adoption, or marriage; or be the apprentice’s legal guardian, or be designated by the apprentice’s legal guardian
- have completed hunter education—if born after Jan. 1, 1985
- have a current Montana hunting license
- complete a *Apprentice Hunter Mentor Form*
- agree to accompany and supervise the apprentice hunter and remain within sight of and direct voice contact with the apprentice hunter at all times while in the field
- confirm that the apprentice hunter possesses the physical and psychological capacity to safely and ethically engage in hunting activities



Violation of these terms could result in the loss of hunting privileges for up to one full license season.

Parent or Legal Guardian

If the mentor is not related to the apprentice by blood, adoption, or marriage, the parent **MUST**

- designate the mentor on an *Apprentice Hunter Mentor Form* (available online or at any FWP office.)



Apprentice Hunter Program - The Process



Obtaining an Apprentice Hunter Certificate

Who

The apprentice hunter **MUST** go to an FWP Office and have a completed *Apprentice Hunter Certification Form* to purchase their *Apprentice Hunter Certificate*.

Where

Purchase at any FWP office.

Fee

\$5



Completing Apprentice Hunter Mentor Form

Who

The mentor **MUST** complete the form. The mentor **MUST** sign their section and get signed approval from the parent or legal guardian, if applicable.

Where

The form can be picked up at any FWP office or downloaded from the FWP website.

Fee

There is no fee for the form.



Purchasing Species Specific License(s)

Who

The apprentice may purchase any appropriate licenses that the apprentice is eligible for once they have received their *Apprentice Hunter Certification*.

Where

Purchase at any FWP office or license provider.

Fee

An apprentice hunter who is under 12 years of age is eligible to obtain the unlimited reduced cost licenses available to a person who is 12 years of age. All other normal license fees apply.



Go Hunting

The mentor **MUST** accompany and supervise the apprentice while hunting and **MUST** remain within sight of and direct voice contact with the apprentice hunter at all times. The mentor **MUST** have the *Apprentice Hunter Mentor Form* in his/her possession at all times while in the field.

A mentor **MAY** also hunt when accompanying their apprentice

The apprentice **MUST** have their *Conservation License* and other applicable licenses in their possession at all times while in the field.





Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
 1420 E. 6th Avenue
 Helena, MT 59620-0701
 (406) 444-2535

Apprentice Hunter Certification Form

Take this completed form to an FWP office to be certified and to purchase your Apprentice Hunter Certificate (\$5). The Apprentice must also purchase a Conservation License along with any appropriate Montana hunting license(s) for the species being hunted.

Apprentice Information

Name				First	MI	Last		Jr./Sr.	Home Phone () -		
Mailing Address						Physical Address					
City						State		Zipcode	Country		
<input type="checkbox"/> Female	Weight	Height	Hair	Eyes	Date of Birth		ALS#	Last 4-digits of SSN			
<input type="checkbox"/> Male											
						Signature of Apprentice X					

A person 10-17 years of age may be certified to receive an apprentice hunting license and may hunt in Montana, without hunter education, when accompanied by a mentor. The apprentice hunter is NOT ELIGIBLE to:

- obtain a special bow and arrow license without first having completed a bowhunter education course;
- obtain a resident hound training license for chasing mountain lion;
- participate in a hunting license or permit drawing with a limited quota;
- obtain any bighorn sheep license;
- obtain an elk license if under 15 years of age.

Apprentice Hunter Mentor Form



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

APPRENTICE

A person 10-17 years old who is awarded an apprentice hunting certificate may hunt in Montana when accompanied by a mentor but is **NOT ELIGIBLE** to:

- obtain a special bow and arrow license without first having completed a bowhunter education course;
- obtain a resident hound training license for chasing mountain lion;
- participate in a hunting license or permit drawing with a limited quota;
- obtain any bighorn sheep license;
- obtain an elk license if under 15 years of age.

Apprentice Information

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Date of Birth: _____ ALS Number: _____

MENTOR

A mentor must be at least 21 years old and meet all of the following requirements:

related to the apprentice, or appointed by the apprentice's legal guardian; if born after Jan. 1, 1985, must have completed hunter education; must have a current Montana hunting license; agree to supervise closely the apprentice and remain within sight of and direct voice contact with the apprentice hunter at all times while in the field; confirm that the apprentice is psychologically and physically prepared to hunt.

Violation of these terms by an apprentice hunter or mentor could result in the loss of hunting privileges for up to one full license season.

Mentor Information

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Hunter Ed. Cert. #: _____ ALS Number: _____ Phone number: _____

Mentor is: Related to the apprentice by blood, adoption, or marriage, or is the apprentice's legal guardian

Designated as a mentor by the parent or legal guardian of the apprentice

I, the undersigned, confirm that the above named apprentice possesses the physical and psychological capacity to safely and ethically engage in hunting activities. Furthermore, I acknowledge that I have read and understand all of the above conditions required of me while acting as an apprentice mentor. In signing this form, I, the undersigned, swear or affirm that all of the information contained in this form is true and correct.

Signature of Mentor: _____

PARENT or LEGAL GUARDIAN and ASSIGNMENT to MENTOR

This section is required if mentor is NOT related to the apprentice by blood, adoption, or marriage.

Parent or Legal Guardian Information

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Hunter Ed. Cert. #: _____ ALS Number: _____ Phone number: _____

Assignment to mentor

I, _____, as the parent or legal guardian of the above named apprentice hereby affirm that the above named mentor is capable and qualified to assist the named apprentice and hereby grant my permission to him/her to accompany the named apprentice.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian Authorizing Mentor: _____

This form must remain in the possession of the mentor at all times while in the field.