

# Youth-Only Spring Turkey Hunting Weekend

## Frequently Asked Questions



### **When is the special Youth-only Turkey Weekend?**

By regulation, this special youth season is the first full weekend (consecutive Saturday-Sunday) in April each year. This is done so that interested hunters/families can plan ahead regardless of varying calendar dates each year. Please consult the hunting [Seasons](#) tab at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) or the current Spring Hunting Guide if you have any questions.

### **What ages are eligible to hunt turkeys during this special youth-only turkey season in Kentucky?**

Youths ages 15 and under may use shotguns, as well as crossbows or archery equipment, to hunt turkeys during this weekend. There is no minimum age for participants. Adults are required to immediately supervise participating youths and be able to take control of the firearm or other equipment if necessary for safety. Accompanying adults may certainly help youths with all aspects of their hunts, but a participating youth should be able to operate the firearm or other equipment used to take a turkey. Details about the season and regulations are outlined in the Spring Hunting Guide.

### **Do youths need a hunting license for this special turkey season?**

Youths ages 12-15 are required to have a current Kentucky 1) hunting license and 2) turkey permit. Licenses may be purchased 1) online here <https://app.fw.ky.gov/solar/>, 2) at local retail license vendors, and 3) by phone for a small processing fee by calling 1-877-KYTAG-01 (877-598-2401).

Resident youths may purchase either of these two options to be properly licensed for turkey hunting:

- 1) A Youth Sportsman's License for \$30 (includes hunting license, 2 turkey permits, and 2 deer permits; OR
- 2) A Youth Hunting License for \$6 AND Youth Turkey Permit for \$10 (includes 1 turkey good for spring or fall).

Nonresident youths may purchase a Nonresident Youth Hunting License for \$10 + Nonresident Youth Turkey Permit for \$15. Resident (who don't have the Youth Sportsman's License) and Nonresident Youths may also purchase an additional Youth Turkey Permit for \$10 so they can legally hunt for and harvest a second bird. License options are described in detail here: <http://fw.ky.gov/Hunt/Pages/Which-License-or-Permit-Do-I-Need-to-Hunt.aspx>.

Exemptions: Youths ages 11 and under are license (and permit) exempt – they are not required to have hunting licenses or turkey permits. Youths of any age hunting on land owned by their parents/legal guardians are also exempt from license requirements on that land; this "landowner exemption" also applies to the Hunter Education requirement for youths hunting on land owned by parents/guardians, unless parents/guardians are nonresident landowners. However, Youth Hunting Licenses or Youth Sportsman's Licenses make great mementos, help fund conservation and recreation programs in Kentucky, help us get additional grant funding, and help youths develop good habits of hunting lawfully with a license, and may be used for completing their Harvest Log and recording their Telecheck confirmation number on the back of their license. So, we encourage you to consider purchasing your youth a hunting license even if they're exempt.

**Are the adult mentors who are accompanying youths required to have a hunting license or Hunter Education certification?** No, except that youths hunting under a Hunter Education Exemption Permit must be accompanied by a Hunter Education-certified adult (or age exempt, being born before Jan. 1, 1975).

### **Is Hunter Education (“orange card”) required for youths during this special season?**

Yes, [Hunter Education](#) certification is required for youth hunters ages 12-15, but there are exceptions. A 1-year Hunter Ed Exemption Permit is available for \$5 online here: <http://fw.ky.gov/Education/Pages/Hunter-Education.aspx#temppermit>. Youths ages 11 and under are not required to have Hunter Ed certification, but must be accompanied by an adult who can immediately take control of the firearm if necessary. Youths hunting on land owned by their parents/legal guardians are exempt from hunter education requirements.

### **How do I replace a lost or damaged license or Hunter Education card?**

Hunters may reprint their current licenses and Hunter Ed cards free of charge anytime using “[My Profile](#)” at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov). Hunters may also use electronic copies on their smartphones, or use their current license and Hunter Ed certification numbers, provided they are valid and thus verifiable by a Conservation Officer.

### **Do youths need to complete a Harvest Log and Telecheck turkeys that they harvest?**

Yes, youths of all ages must abide by Harvest Log and Telecheck requirements like other hunters. A Harvest Log is a record kept by the hunter, showing species and sex harvested, date and county. A printable harvest log is available here: <http://fw.ky.gov/Hunt/Documents/HARVESTLOG.pdf> or the required information may be logged on the back of a license or even saved on a smart phone with a photo of the harvest. Telecheck may be completed by telephone by calling 800-CHK-GAME (800-245-4263) or online here: <https://app.fw.ky.gov/myprofile/>. The Telecheck Confirmation Number for each turkey must be recorded on the Harvest Log. Youths will need their Social Security Number and date of birth to complete the Telecheck process; they may create a profile in advance to speed up this process here

### **Do youths have to follow statewide bag limits for spring turkeys?**

Yes, the statewide spring season bag limit of 2 male or bearded turkeys applies to youths, like other hunters. This and other details are explained in the Spring Hunting Guide.

### **Are bearded hens legal to take during the spring turkey season?**

Yes, turkeys with visible beards (including hens) or males (jakes or toms) are legal to harvest.

### **What kind of equipment may a youth use during this special season?**

Youths may use shotguns ranging from .410 up to 10 gauge; shot sizes must be no larger than #4. Archery and crossbow equipment are also legal, but broadheads must have 7/8” cutting diameter. Details on legal methods for turkey hunting are described in the Spring Hunting Guide.

### **Where can youths hunt turkeys during this special season?**

Youths may hunt turkeys with firearms on 1) private lands with permission from the landowner, or 2) public lands that are open to the special Youth-Only Turkey Weekend season. Virtually all Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and Public Hunting Areas are open for this special season. Information about these opportunities are explained in the Public Lands Hunting section near the end of the Spring Hunting Guide or in the tables and text on our online [Public Lands Hunting page](#). [Maps](#) and other details are available at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

### **Can a youth who has turned 16 since purchasing a Youth Hunting License or Youth Sportsman’s License hunt turkeys during this special youth-only weekend?**

No, special youth-only seasons are open only to youths ages 15 and under. However, licenses and permits issued before the 16<sup>th</sup> birthday are valid for the hunter to use through the license year (expiring February 28<sup>th</sup> of that license year) to hunt deer, fall turkeys, and other game during regular seasons for those species.

### **Can the accompanying adult hunt/harvest a bird during the Youth-only Turkey Weekend?**

No, only youths may harvest turkeys during this special weekend. Although adults may assist youths in all aspects of the hunt, participating youths should be operating the firearms, bows or crossbows used to take turkeys.

**What other special youth hunting opportunities are there in Kentucky?**

Additional youth hunting opportunities such as youth-only deer seasons and youth quota hunts are described in the annual fall Kentucky Hunting & Trapping Guide and posted at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) and are also often announced on the Department's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.