

Northwoods Youth Deer Hunt Challenge open to ages 10-17

By **Beckie Gaskill**
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

The Northwoods Youth Deer Hunt Challenge for 2022-23 is now underway. The NYDHC is open to any youth, ages 10-17. The youth must be a permanent resident of Iron, Oneida or Vilas Counties. Hunters ages 10-12, who have not completed a hunter education course in Wisconsin, are eligible to compete in the Mentored Hunt category.

All other youth hunters must have a Hunter Education Certificate allowing the purchase of a hunting license in the state of Wisconsin. Each hunter must also have a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issued license for the category in which they wish to enter their harvested deer. No group hunting is allowed in order to be considered for this contest.

There are several categories in which youth can compete. Besides the mentored hunt category, open only to ages 10-11, categories in-

clude archery; which combines both early and late; and gun season, which combines early, regular and late seasons. A deer harvested in the youth gun hunt season can also qualify for entry.

Deer must be harvested from Forest, Iron, Lincoln, Oneida, Price or Vilas Counties in order to be considered. Harvesting a deer, however, is not required to attend the NYDHC banquet at the end of the season, or to receive door prizes at that event.

To be considered for the Northwoods Youth Deer Hunt Challenge, any antlered deer must be brought to one of the official scoring stations within 10 days (240 hours) of being registered with the state.

- Official scoring locations:
- The Lakeland Times of Minocqua

- Kurt's Island Sport Shop of Minocqua
- Strasburg's North Country Taxidermy of Hazelhurst

Banquet eligibility

All youth hunters who register for the Northwoods Youth Deer Hunt Challenge will be invited to the 2022-23 season banquet. Harvesting a deer is not necessary to be invited. However, all youth hunters and parents or guardians who wish to attend the banquet should register. The top three scoring deer from Archery, Crossbow and Gun categories will be awarded with special recognition at the banquet. The top scorer in the Mentored Hunt category will also receive special recognition. Scoring

ties will be broken by an office scorer using the Pope and Young scoring system.

The banquet is a great place for youth hunters and their families to meet other youth hunters, have some fun, and celebrate another great deer hunting season. It is a true family-oriented event aimed at families who love to spend time in the woods hunting together.

Registration closing date

Any deer harvested after December 5 will only have until December 15 to be registered with the NYDHC. The final day for registration with the contest will be December 15 at 5 p.m. The 10-day rule expires on December 5.

More information can be found on the website: <https://northwoodsdydhc.com/northwoods-youth-deer-hunt-challenge>.

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CHECK OUT THIS YEAR'S SPONSORS & INFO ON PAGE 31

Nineteenth Annual
Sept. 17-Dec. 15, 2022



How to be a sponsor

The Northwoods Youth Deer Hunting Challenge was developed to encourage young hunters to continue hunting into their adulthood. Each year the number of young hunters have declined and we feel that through this contest we are providing an opportunity for young hunters to develop a lifelong hobby and a positive step towards keeping the hunting tradition alive.

If you would like to participate as a sponsor, enclose a monetary donation (no cash please) and the completed sponsorship form (below) to The Northwoods Youth Deer Hunt Challenge c/o The Lakeland Times, P.O. Box 790, Minocqua, WI 54548. Forms and donations may also be delivered to The Lakeland Times office on the corners of Chippewa and Milwaukee Streets, Minocqua. Please make checks payable to: The Northwoods Youth Deer Hunting Challenge. Super, Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze level participating sponsors will have their business name printed in the 2 page spread in The Lake-

land Sports/Outdoors section each week for the duration of the contest. Super is \$3,000+; Platinum is \$2000-2999; Gold level is \$500-1999; Silver level is \$250-499 and Bronze level is \$50-249. For new sponsors to appear in Friday's ad, forms must be faxed attn: Heather Holmes to 715-358-2121 or delivered to The Lakeland Times office before 9 a.m. on Monday.

The Lakeland area youth and The Northwoods Youth Deer Hunting Challenge Committee thank you in advance for your sponsorship and continued support.

Bountiful Hunting!

Season Categories

Archery (early & late combined)-
ending Dec. 15 at 5 p.m

Gun (early, regular and late combined)

Rules

Entrants must:

- Be 10 – 17 years of age at any point during the current calendar year.
- Be 10, 11 or turn 12 years of age during the season without having completed hunter safety to qualify for the Mentored Hunt category.
- Possess a Hunter Education Certificate that allows the purchase of a hunting license in Wisconsin except for participants meeting the Mentored Hunt requirements.
- Possess a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources issued license valid to harvest deer for the respective Season Category the deer is being entered for.
- Be a permanent resident of Iron, Oneida or Vilas counties.
- Complete a registration application to be considered for Challenge Awards and Door prizes.

NOTE: Harvesting a deer is not required to be eligible for Door Prizes.

Registration applications MUST include all of the following information:

- Entrant's Name
- Mailing address to include city and zip code
- County of residence
- Hunter Education DNR Customer Number (except for Mentored Hunt participants)
- Phone number
- Deer Registration Confirmation number
- License number
- Date of harvest
- County of harvest
- Checked for antlered, antlerless or no harvest
- Official antlered deer scores will be completed by the registration station.
- Submit a photo of them posing with each deer entered into the Challenge.

NOTE: Some registration stations involved in the

Challenge provide this service.

Deer must be:

- Harvested from the wild and tagged with a carcass tag from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources license issued to the entrant.

NOTE: No group hunting allowed.

- Harvested and tagged in compliance with all Wisconsin rules and regulations applicable to the carcass tag used.
- Harvested from Forest, Iron, Lincoln, Oneida, Price or Vilas counties.

• Any antlered deer wishing to be considered for Challenge Awards must be brought into one of the following locations within 10 days (240 hours) of being registered with the state: North Country Taxidermy (Hazelhurst), Kurt's Island Sport Shop (Minocqua) The Lakeland Times (Minocqua)

All potential winning bucks will be verified by the state to make sure they were registered within the 10 day (240 hour) time frame.

Any deer harvested after December 5, will have only until Dec. 15 to be registered with the NYDHC. The final day for registration with the contest will be Dec. 15 at 5 p.m. the 10 day rules expires on Dec. 5.

Awards/Prizes

- Youth may enter more than one deer in the Challenge, however only one Challenge Award per person will be awarded.
- Challenge Awards, determined each year by the NYDHC committee, will be granted.
- To the top three scoring deer combining the Archery (Bow), Crossbow, Gun Season Categories. **NOTE** – this does not include 10 and 11 year olds.
- To the top scoring deer from the Mentored Hunt Category (10 and 11 year olds only).
- Scoring is 1 point per antler point that is 1" or greater plus the inside spread in inches measured to a 1/8". For example: 8 points greater

than 1" with a 17 3/8" inside spread = 25 3/8 total score

Official Scoring locations are:

North Country Taxidermy
of Hazelhurst

The Lakeland Times of Minocqua

Kurt's Island Sport Shop
of Minocqua

General

- Each top three scoring deer from the Archery (Bow), Crossbow and Gun categories will be awarded special recognition. Special recognition awards will be determined each year by the NYDHC committee.
- Scoring ties will be broken by an official scorer using the Pope and Young scoring system.
- Challenge Door Prizes will be distributed at random through a drawing.
- NOTE:** Must be present to be awarded a Challenge Door Prize.
- To ensure fairness and separation of duties, NYDHC committee members that have children participating in the Challenge will not be involved in the prize award process.
- All decisions made by judges of the NYDHC are final.
- Anyone found to be in violation of state law or any of the NYDHC rules will be subject to disqualification.
- Judges shall be comprised of NYDHC committee members that do not have children participating in the Challenge.
- Banquet – A recognition banquet will be held following the conclusion of the latest Season Category.
- 100% of the resources collected by the NYDHC will be allocated by the committee to promote the Outdoor Heritage of youth in Iron, Oneida and Vilas counties.