

Macon County Conservation District
Youth Deer Herd Management Program Application and Permit Fact Sheet

Welcome to the Macon County Conservation District's Youth Deer Herd Management Program. In this fact sheet you will find details on the District's application and drawing process and permit fees. Archery deer hunting will be allowed by permit only on the designated site from **November 1, 2026 to January 3rd, 2027**. This site will be open only to one youth age 6-18 and their adult chaperone (age 21 or older). Adult chaperones must accompany the hunter, but are not allowed to hunt and are there for assisting the youth only. Hunting is not allowed during the Illinois shotgun deer seasons.

1. Application process and pre-season drawing

Hunting applications will be made available during August in hard copy at Rock Springs Nature Center and for download at www.MaconCCD.org. Applications are due **Friday, September 11, 2026**. Applications will be available for a pre-season archery deer hunt drawing for a one week hunt per hunter per season. A public lottery drawing will be held at Rock Springs at **3 p.m. on Friday, September 18, 2026**. District archery permits will be mailed to successful applicants following the drawing. Illinois Conservation Police will be notified of results.

The Macon County Conservation District will provide a hunting blind for the hunters and their adult chaperone. Refer to the online hunt map for property boundaries and trail and blind locations.

Hunters will be allowed to harvest 1 deer of either sex while participating in the Youth Deer Herd Management Program. Part of the Bois du Sangamon property is a registered nature preserve and no other game are allowed to be taken.

2. Stand-by hunters during the archery season

Applicants that are unsuccessful will be kept in a standby pool that will be drawn from at random in the event an opening occurs during one of the hunting weeks.

3. Permits

All youth hunters must possess a free permit issued by the Conservation District in addition to all necessary state permits to participate in the youth hunt. The free youth only permit will allow you to harvest one deer of either sex.

Participation in this program will not preclude a youth from purchasing a permit and hunting in the general Deer Herd Management Program. Please refer to the district website for rules, facts, and site maps for that program.