

Macon County Conservation District
3939 Nearing Lane, Decatur, IL 62521, (217) 423-7708
Youth Deer Herd Management Program 2026 RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Deer hunting is by archery method only, **November 1 to January 3, 2027**. Hunting is not allowed during the Illinois shotgun deer seasons and firearms are prohibited. Youth hunters will draw in to hunt for a week slot. Youth hunter that successfully draw in will be allowed to harvest one deer of either sex during their allocated hunt period.
2. Hunters must sign in and out daily at the sign in box located at the designated hunter parking area. (Please see hunt map).
3. All hunters must complete the information indicated on the sign in/out form. Harvested deer must be reported on the form along with an IDNR confirmation number. Harvested deer must also be documented on the district trail camera mounted near the sign in mailbox.
4. Hunting will take place from the designated blind location. Hunting from tree stands or outside of the designated blind is not allowed.
5. Viewing of the blind location will be allowed through the 29th of October. After this date, hunters and their chaperone may view the blind from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. the day before their hunting period begins
6. The use of trail cameras is prohibited on District properties. Any trail cameras found will be disposed of immediately.
7. All hunters must comply with the Illinois and Federal Game Codes and must carry the permit issued by the Conservation District at all times while hunting.
8. Vehicles must be parked in the designated parking spot located on hunting map. A Youth Deer Management Program Parking Only sign will be located at parking location. A parking permit issued by the District must be placed in the windshield. Prior arrangements can be made with district staff if a hunter does not have a vehicle.
9. Any person who wishes to track a wounded deer outside District property must first obtain permission from the private landowner. Tracking dogs are not permitted in the youth hunting area. District staff will provide assistance with tracking and recovery of wounded deer if needed. For assistance contact **Mitch Lovgren, Natural Resources Manager** at **217-519-9926**.
10. Field dressing of deer is not allowed on hiking trails, next to roads or in parking lots. Please cover entrails with leaves, grass, etc.
11. The District reserves the right to suspend hunting at any time for any reason.

Violations

Violation of any of the above rules may result in the suspension or revocation of hunting privileges on District property. The Executive Director reserves the right not to issue a permit to any person. A ban from the Deer Herd Management Program consists of no participation in hunting on District properties. This includes participation in drawings, assisting a minor, retrieval of deer, etc.