

JUNIOR PHEASANT HUNT APPLICATION

2024





PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

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WHAT IS A JUNIOR PHEASANT HUNT?

Junior Pheasant Hunts are designed to provide youth with a unique opportunity to gain experience hunting. Every year, the Pennsylvania Game Commission works with sportsmen's groups across the state to sponsor and organize instructional pheasant hunts for youth. The Pennsylvania Game Commission helps support these hunts by stocking roughly 15,000 pheasants specifically for these hunts.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN A JUNIOR PHEASANT HUNT?

All hunters participating in the Junior Pheasant Hunt must be 16 years of age and younger and need to obtain one of the two following permit or license options. The first option to participate is to obtain a junior hunting license in which can be obtained after successfully completing a Hunter-Trapper Education course. The Hunter-Trapper Education course may be completed online or in person. A FREE Junior Pheasant Hunting Permit (available online at huntfish.pa.gov and at license vendors) is required to participate in the pheasant season for all junior hunters. The second option to participate is to obtain a mentored hunting permit, given that the hunter and mentor abide by all regulations included within the Pennsylvania Game Commission Hunting and Trapping Digest regarding mentored hunting. A summary of laws and regulations can be found in the most recent Hunting and Trapping Digest.

HOW CAN SOMEONE REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE IN A JUNIOR PHEASANT HUNT?

Interested participants can register for junior pheasant hunts on the Pennsylvania Game Commission's event webpage. Sportsmen's clubs hosting events are kindly asked to promote and require participants to register for events through this webpage. To register an event, please email mentoredhunting@pa.gov.

SUMMARY OF 2024 JUNIOR PHEASANT HUNTING REGULATIONS

- Junior hunters and mentored permit holders under 17 need a FREE permit.
- Pheasant hunting is open statewide during the Junior hunt: Oct. 12-19, 2024.
- Junior Pheasant Hunting stocking locations can be found at www.pgc.pa.gov.
- Male and female pheasants may be taken in all WMUs (2 daily, 6 possession).
- There is no open season for taking pheasants in Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas, except as authorized by executive order.

QUESTIONS?

For additional information or questions, please email us at mentoredhunting@pa.gov.



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GUIDELINES FOR PLANNING A JUNIOR PHEASANT HUNT

STEP 1: DETERMINE IF YOUR CLUB HAS THE CAPACITY TO HOST A HUNT

Mentorship is crucial for the success of these hunts. Prior to planning a hunt, consider how many hunt participants you would safely and realistically be able to support and if you can provide enough mentors for participants. Please note that mentors must be at least 21 years of age and possess a valid hunting license. Can your sportsmen's club secure enough mentors to host a hunt?

Prior to planning a hunt, consider if your sportsmen's club can supply the equipment and gear needed to host a hunt. All participants are required to wear at least 250 sq. inches of fluorescent orange and should have eye and ear protection. Can your sportsmen's club provide the guns and ammo needed to host a hunt?

Prior to planning a hunt, consider if your sportsmen's club can fund an event of this type. Could you find sponsors to help with the costs or could your club host a fundraising event?

The Pennsylvania Game Commission does NOT provide liability insurance for sportsmen's clubs who choose to host junior pheasant hunts. Prior to planning a hunt, consider if your sportsmen's club wants or needs liability insurance. At a minimum, we ask all mentors, event staff, and participant guardians to sign a *Junior Hunt Consent and Release Form*, prior to participating in a hunt.

If your club decides to host a junior pheasant hunt, a planning timeline is provided in [Appendix A](#) to help you coordinate an event.

STEP 2: SUBMIT APPLICATION TO HOST A HUNT AND ORDER BIRDS

Sportsmen's clubs planning on hosting a junior pheasant hunt must submit a "*Junior Pheasant Hunt Notification*" form (on page 8) and *Request for Live Birds form* (on page 9) to us via email at mentoredhunting@pa.gov or by mail at 2001 Elmerton Avenue Harrisburg, PA 17110 by **August 1, 2024**. Confirmation of number of participants must be done by **September 23, 2024**.

STEP 3: SET UP PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION AND ADVERTISE EVENT

Once your application has been accepted, the Pennsylvania Game Commission will post your junior pheasant hunt on our event webpage (event manager system). At least three months prior to your event, please go to our event webpage and make sure your event is posted and all the details are correct. A link for promotional purposes can be pulled from this page. If you have



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questions or any issues, please contact us at mentoredhunting@pa.gov or via phone at 717-787-7015.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission will collectively promote the state's junior pheasant hunt events but will not promote each event individually. To increase registration, we encourage sportsmen's clubs to take steps to promote their specific junior pheasant hunt. To assist sportsmen's clubs with promotions, a fillable flyer and social media graphics are available for download and use on our junior pheasant hunt webpage, as well as included in this packet. We recommend sportsmen's clubs start promoting their junior pheasant hunt at least two months in advance.

STEP 4: SCHEDULE A DAY TO PICK UP BIRDS AND RELEASE BIRDS

Sportsmen's clubs should contact their local Game Commission region office during the last week of September to schedule a time and place to pick up birds. Please note, birds must be transported on a trailer or a ventilated pick-up truck bed.

Northwest Region Office: 814.432.3187

Northcentral Region Office: 570.398.4744

Northeast Region Office: 570.675.1143

Southwest Region Office: 724.238.9523

Southcentral Region Office: 814.643.1831

Southeast Region Office: 610.926.3136

Pheasants provided by the Game Commission will be distributed at a rate of two legal birds per youth participant. Birds will be provided at the same sex ratio as the Game Commission distributes during the regular pheasant-hunting season. Male and female pheasants shall be stocked at each release site to promote a natural hunting scenario and aid in training youth to identify their target. The ratio will be 1:1 (female/male).

These pheasants are raised in a natural environment with minimum human contact. Since they are relatively wild, they can be injured easily – even die – during shipment. **Please see Appendix B for important information to assist you in handling crates with live pheasants, as well as releasing pheasants from the crates, to ensure a successful hunting experience for youth participating in your mentored event.**

All Game Commission-provided pheasants must be stocked prior to the event. To increase the chance of youth flushing pheasants, it is recommended that birds be held overnight and stocked at first daylight before youth arrive.

STEP 5: HOST THE HUNT



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On the day of the event, please ensure all participants have filled out and signed an *Emergency Medical Authorization Form and Junior Hunt Consent and Release* prior to participating. Each of these documents can be found at the end of this document.

APPENDIX A: JUNIOR PHEASANT HUNT PLANNING TIMELINE

6 MONTHS PRIOR

- Select a location to host junior pheasant hunt.
- Host an organizational planning meeting with sportsmen's club.
 - Outline what gear and equipment will be needed for hunt. How will this gear/equipment be supplied?
 - Does your club have liability insurance? If not, do you need it?
 - Will your club supply food for this event? Could you find a partner or sponsor to donate food for this event?
 - Does your club want to provide training prior? Like an orientation day or hunter education course.
 - Do you plan to hunt with dogs? If so, how many and who will bring them?
- Find sponsors or host fundraising events to help fund junior pheasant hunt, if needed.
- Start to recruit volunteers to staff event and mentors.

4 MONTHS PRIOR

- Fill out and submit junior pheasant hunt application form and if needed, the request for live birds form by **August 1, 2024**
- If your club is offering a hunter education course for participants, determine a date and secure instructors for event. If you need assistance, please reach out to us via email at huntereducation@pa.gov.

3 MONTHS PRIOR

- Check the Game Commission's event webpage to ensure your junior pheasant hunt is posted and all details are accurate.
- Host an organizational meeting with pertinent sportsmen club members, event staff, and mentors to:
 - Give an overview of the event.
 - Designate responsibilities and ensure everyone understands what they are doing.
 - Ensure funding has been secured and equipment will be available.
- Prepare all promotional and print materials needed for event.



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- Prepare a packet of information to send to participants at least two weeks in advance. Packet could include information about training opportunities prior, equipment/gear that participants must bring, schedule for the day etc.
- Create promotional materials to advertise event (or download and use the ones provided by the Game Commission). Make sure you provide a link or QR code on promotional materials to registration page and a deadline to register!

2 MONTHS PRIOR

- Promote your event.
- Send all print materials to participants.
- Visit hunt location to ensure it is still a good fit for the hunt.
- Create a first aid plan and gather any materials needed for it.

1 MONTH PRIOR

- Check the Game Commission event page, to verify the number of participants attending event. Ensure the registration closes on the correct date.
- Contact all event staff, mentors, and dog handlers to ensure everyone is still planning on attending.
- Start preparing and gathering supplies – gear/equipment—for hunt. If you are supplying guns, we highly recommend inspecting each gun prior to the day of the hunt.
- Ensure registration for event closes at least two weeks in advance.

1 WEEK PRIOR

- Print out participant roster from event page or reach out to PGC to have it printed for you.
- Confirm food, beverages, equipment, staff, mentors, etc. one last time.



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APPENDIX B: GUIDELINES FOR TRANSPORTING AND RELEASING PHEASANTS

RECEIVING AND TRANSPORTING PHEASANTS

Contact your Region Office no later than 9/23/2024 to confirm the time and place you will pick up birds. Birds must be transported on a trailer or in the bed of a pick-up truck. If the truck has a cap, it **MUST** have side-window ventilation. Please do not transport birds in a closed vehicle. They may sustain heat exhaustion and die.

To prevent injuries and death of birds, handle and transport crates level and always have two people move them. Be careful not to drop crates or turn them on their side.

Please do not mix any other birds or crates you obtain with the Game Commission crates. The Game Commission promotes and conducts biosecurity safeguards to prevent poultry diseases. Poultry diseases can be spread by direct contact with dust, dirt, and feather particles.

STOCKING PHEASANTS

Pheasants are being provided for you to stock preceding the hunt to ensure the best opportunity of locating birds in the field. All Game Commission-provided pheasants must be stocked prior to the event. To increase the chance of youth flushing pheasants, it is recommended that birds be held overnight and stocked at first daylight before youth arrive. To provide a good hunt experience for participants, stock pheasant in a manner consistent with a natural hunting situation. Stocking pheasants before the youth go afield provides a fair chase and simulates the natural hunting situation they would encounter during the regular pheasant season. We recommend identifying several locations throughout your hunt site location to stock a minimum of 10 birds at each location.

To prevent birds from wildly flushing out of crates which often results in birds flying out of the designated hunt area, consider using a soft release method. Place the crate in dense vegetation and allow birds to calm down. Then slide the door open moving away from the crate allowing the birds to walk out on their own.

If you need to store birds overnight, please store create with live birds in a cool, dry, and safe environment. To avoid predation of birds, place the crates off the ground in an open vehicle, trailer, or vented storage building. To prevent the birds from overheating or dying, avoid stacking crates beside each other and allow air to flow between the crates. It is important birds are stored in a dry space, wet feathers pull out easily and can cause birds to overheat when drying off.

Crates shall be returned to a predetermined location the first business day following the event.



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2024 JUNIOR PHEASANT HUNT APPLICATION

****Please complete the form below and return along with your request for live birds to: 2001 Elmerton Ave Harrisburg, PA 17110 or mentoredhunting@pa.gov ****

NOTE: ALL REGISTRATION WILL CLOSE 8/1/2024 TO ALLOW FOR PROPER BIRD DELIVERY

Club or Organization (All information is required)

Name: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ State: PA Zip: _____
Phone: _____ *Pick one:* Home Cell Work Other
E-mail: _____
Website: (if applicable) _____

Contact Person

Name: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ State: PA Zip: _____
Preferred communication method: Phone Email Other: _____
E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Event Details

Registration start date and time: _____ Maximum number of participants: _____
Date of event: _____ Start time: _____ End time: _____ Rain date: _____
Address of the event location: _____
WMU: _____

Describe the event including any pre- and post-hunt activities you plan to offer participants.

Are you applying for a grant for live birds?

Yes (Please continue with the **Request for Live Birds**)

No (Thanks, please email your application to: mentoredhunting@pa.gov)



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Request For Live Birds

****If you are requesting a grant of live birds to be used for your event, this form must be submitted to The PA Game Commission Head Quarters at 2001 Elmerton Ave Harrisburg, PA 17110 or mentoredhunting@pa.gov by 8/1/2024 as a continuation of the Junior Pheasant Hunt Notification form****

Upon whose property will the hunt be held? The Game Commission can only provide live pheasants for events that are open to the public AND are held on public lands or private lands enrolled in one of the Game Commission's Cooperative public access programs.

Landowner Name: _____ Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Landowner's Signature: _____ Date: _____

SGW Use Only: Please verify that the location meets criteria, and that the habitat is in accordance with Section A of SOP 40.2. Note: the 50-acre requirement has been waived.

SGW Signature: _____ Date: _____

Describe any bird delivery accommodations you may have:

The Pennsylvania Game Commission must receive this application by August 1, 2024.. We do our best to accommodate all appropriate requests but cannot guarantee every organization will receive birds. Birds will be distributed on a first come, first served basis at a rate of two legal birds per registered youth participant. The number of birds assigned to the hunt will be determined by the number of youths registered for the hunt event on the deadline of September 22, 2023.

Organizations receiving birds are REQUIRED to:

1. Follow the Game Commission's recommended guidelines for releasing birds (Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in disqualification from future grant opportunities.)
2. Register participants through the Event Manager System.
3. Confirm with the Game Commission the number of youths who will be participating in the event by no later than September 9/23/2024. This is required to plan the distribution of birds.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



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Emergency Medical Authorization Form

Please complete this form to facilitate prompt authorization of medical treatment in the case of a medical emergency.

Participants Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: PA Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Second Phone: (____) _____

Parent or Guardian: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Parent or Guardian: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Known allergies: _____

Additional Information / Special Instructions:

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____



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Junior Pheasant Hunt Consent Release

I, _____ (Participant) desire to participate in a special junior hunt sponsored by _____ (Organization). I have the permission and consent of my parent(s) or legal guardians(s), _____ (Parents) as is reflected by their signature(s) on this form. We, Participant and Parents, understand that hunting is a sport involving firearms.

Firearms, when mishandled, can be dangerous. I, Participant, understand that I must use utmost care during the special junior hunt and agree to live up to the highest standards of hunting and firearms safety. I agree to follow all instructions given by the organization, its members, agents, employees, licensees, volunteers, and associates (Representatives) assisting with the hunt. I (We), Parents, hereby consent to Participant's participation in the hunt and authorize representatives of Organization to exercise control over Participant during the hunt. We, Participant and Parents, also hereby grant the organization the unconditional right to use the participant's, name, voice and photographic likeness in connection with articles, press releases and audio/video productions that are a result of this event. We, Participant and Parents, for and in consideration of Participant being allowed to engage in these activities, hereby release and forever discharge Organization and its Representatives from any and all claims, damages, demands, actions, or causes of action of every name and nature arising out of these activities and do by these presents covenant and agree that we will indemnify and save Organization harmless against loss or damage which may result from Participant's participation in the special junior hunt. We acknowledge that we are executing this Consent and Release of our own free will, mindful of possible hazards of such activities

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals, intending to be legally bound hereby, this _____ day of __, 20__.

Witness Signature

Participant Signature (SEAL)

Witness Signature

Participant Signature (SEAL)



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Volunteer Agreement Waiver

We appreciate your willingness to assist in our event. In order to maintain a high-quality event for the benefit of all volunteers and sponsors, every volunteer is asked to follow these guidelines.

Mentoring someone whether it's their first hunt or 100th hunt is a very unique experience for both the mentor and the mentee. As a mentor, the way you portray hunting is crucial to the overall experience for the mentee and can be the difference between them wanting to hunt more and never wanting to do it again. Having a mentor who is compassionate, knowledgeable, and experienced will allow for a positive environment for the mentee to grow and learn. Also, it is crucial to remember that being a mentor is different than being a guide. A mentor is someone who allows the mentee to be independent while allowing them to fail in a safe setting. A good mentor also ensures to correct the mentees' mistakes after the event in an educational manner to further their hands on knowledge of hunting. A guide is someone who does not allow the hunter/mentee to experience the hunt on their own and does not let them make mistakes in efforts to maximize their chances of a successful harvest.

As a volunteer for this event it is expected that you will conduct yourself in a positive and professional manner. Creating a positive experience for all attendees will allow for greater success, and higher participation in the future not only for your events but the sport of hunting.

The following will NOT be tolerated:

- Use of alcohol at any time before or during the event.
- Wear clothing that displays inappropriate sayings or graphics.
- Use profane or degrading language.
- Lobby for or promote private, political or religious causes, or distribute material that does not meet the approval of the sponsoring organization.
- Deliberately take actions that place a participant or volunteer in an unsafe situation, regardless of whether the activity results in harm or injury.

Volunteer signature: _____

Date: _____



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2001 Elmerton Avenue Harrisburg, PA 17710 | 717-787-7015

PARTICIPANTS
MUST BE 16
YEARS OLD OR
YOUNGER



Junior Pheasant Hunt

Every year, the Pennsylvania Game Commission works with sportsmen's groups across the state to sponsor and organize instructional pheasant hunts for youth.

Day/Date:

Time:

Location:

Register online at:

<https://bit.ly/3UGBTrv>

or scan QR code:



For additional information,
contact:

(Lead Instructor)

(Phone Number)