

STEP 1

Determine Hunter Ed Requirement

- Check birth year vs. your state's cutoff (see table below)
- Verify military/veteran exemption if applicable
- If exempt — skip to Step 3
- If required — proceed to Step 2

■ ■ Use the free tool at hunteredguide.pages.dev/tool/requirement-finder.html

STEP 2

Choose & Complete Hunter Ed

- Select course format: Online-Only / Hybrid / Classroom
- Register at your state's official vendor portal
- Complete all online modules (4–8 hours)
- Attend field day if required (4–6 hours)
- Pass final exam — receive certificate number
- Save certificate digitally AND note the number

■ ■ Course is one-time only. Certificate never expires. Valid in all 50 states.

STEP 3

Choose the Right License

- Identify: Resident or Non-Resident status
- Select base license type (annual / combo / youth)
- Confirm your target species is covered
- Add species tag(s) if required (deer, turkey, elk...)
- Add Federal Duck Stamp if hunting waterfowl (age 16+)
- Check zone/unit codes match your hunting location

STEP 4

Purchase Your License

- Go to your state's OFFICIAL portal (see table below)
- Create account or log in
- Enter hunter ed certificate number when prompted
- Complete purchase — save confirmation
- Download/print license — also save to phone
- Confirm expiration date is correct

■ ■ Online purchase = license valid immediately. Most states accept digital.

STEP 5

Field Carry Requirements

- ✓ Valid hunting license (digital or printed)
- ✓ All applicable tags (attached BEFORE moving game)
- ✓ Federal Duck Stamp (waterfowl hunters 16+ only)
- ✓ Photo ID (driver's license)
- ✓ Hunter ed certificate number (some states require)
- ✓ Blaze orange vest/hat (required for deer & turkey in most states)
- ✓ Harvest reporting info (if your state requires)

■ ■ Attaching tags: immediately at point of harvest — before moving animal.

STEP 6 — EXEMPTIONS

Check If You Qualify

- Born before state cutoff year → no course required
- Active duty military / honorably discharged veteran
- Apprentice/deferral license (hunt first, course later)
- Landowner exemption (narrow — verify with state)
- Prior license in state with "prior license" exemption

■ ■ Full exemption details: hunteredguide.pages.dev/guide/

Quick Reference

Birth Year Exemption Cutoffs — Key States

If you were born BEFORE the cutoff year shown, hunter education is NOT required in that state (as of 2025–2026 season). "All First-Timers" means no birth-year exemption — course required regardless of age.

State	Born Before	Exemption?	State	Born Before	Exemption?
Texas	1971	✓ Exempt	Missouri	1967	✓ Exempt
Florida	1975	✓ Exempt	Kansas	1957	✓ Exempt
Georgia	1961	✓ Exempt	Oklahoma	1972	✓ Exempt
Michigan	1960	✓ Exempt	Wisconsin	1973	✓ Exempt
Alabama	1977	✓ Exempt	Washington	1972	✓ Exempt
Tennessee	1969	✓ Exempt	Nevada	1960	✓ Exempt
Colorado	1949	✓ Exempt	Illinois	1980	✓ Exempt
S. Carolina	1979	✓ Exempt	Indiana	1986	✓ Exempt
Mississippi	1972	✓ Exempt	Nebraska	1977	✓ Exempt
North Dakota	1961	✓ Exempt	Delaware	1967	✓ Exempt
Oregon	Adults 18+	Always Exempt	New Mexico	Adults 18+	Always Exempt
California	All First-Timers	✗ Required	New York	All First-Timers	Adults OK online
Pennsylvania	All First-Timers	✗ Required	Virginia	All First-Timers	✗ Required
Utah	All First-Timers	✗ Required	Wyoming	All First-Timers	✗ Required

Official Purchase Links

Where to Buy — State License Portals

State	Portal	Resident From	State	Portal	Resident From
Texas	tpwd.texas.gov	\$25	Ohio	ohiodnr.gov	\$19
Florida	myfwc.com	\$17	New York	dec.ny.gov	\$22
Colorado	cpw.state.co.us	\$30	Montana	fwp.mt.gov	\$24
Michigan	michigan.gov/dnr	\$15	Tennessee	tn.gov/twra	\$34
Pennsylvania	huntfish.pa.gov	\$21	Alabama	outdooralabama.com	\$16
California	wildlife.ca.gov	\$52	Wisconsin	gowild.wi.gov	\$20
Georgia	georgiawildlife.com	\$15	Kansas	ksoutdoors.com	\$28

Cut Out & Laminate

Field Carry Card

What to Carry	Required In
✓ Valid hunting license	All 50 states
✓ Species tag(s) — attached to animal at harvest	All 50 states
✓ Photo ID (driver's license)	Most states
✓ Hunter Ed certificate # (or card)	Some states
✓ Federal Duck Stamp (waterfowl, age 16+)	All — federal law
✓ Blaze orange (deer/turkey season)	Most states

