

Hunter Education

Licenses, applications, harvest reporting and general information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Hunter Education Program

SUBJECT TO CHANGE JANUARY 2024: Before purchasing a game-hunting license, all hunters 17 years of age and younger must obtain a hunter education number issued by New Mexico or another state or possess a New Mexico mentor-youth number.

PLEASE SEE THE ONLINE VERSION OF THE 2024-2025 HUNTING RULES AND INFORMATION BOOKLET FOR THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION AFTER JANUARY 2024. The Hunter Education number is valid for hunting all game species. The mentor-youth number is valid only for deer, pronghorn, turkey, javelina and small-game hunting (page 20).

Online Hunter Education Course: Hunters 10 or older can obtain a New Mexico hunter education number by completing an online hunter education course. Online course options can be found at: www.wildlife.state.nm.us/education/hunter-education/. A service fee may apply.

Instructor-Led Hunter Education Courses: New Mexico Hunter Education numbers can also be obtained by completing a NMDGF, instructor-led Hunter Education course. NMDGF offers two types of in-person courses, a traditional course for students of all ages or a five-day course for students 10 years of age and over. Please note that students 10 years of age and younger must be accompanied by an adult to attend an in-person course. Before the first class session for all instructor-led courses, students are required to complete a homework assignment. Homework may be completed online through a downloadable PDF file or a hardcopy manual. Hardcopy manuals are available at local NMDGF locations, after registration. Students must attend all class sessions and pass both a written exam and a firearm proficiency evaluation to be issued a New Mexico Hunter Education number. Courses are offered year-round and statewide. Early registration is encouraged to avoid missing a deadline to apply for a hunt. For complete information on course types, dates, locations, and requirements, as well as course content and homework, visit NMDGF at: www.wildlife.state.nm.us/education/hunter-education.

Registration for Hunter and/or Bowhunter Education Courses

All students wishing to register for a hunter and/or bowhunter education course must have their own NMDGF account with a customer identification number (CIN). If you require assistance obtaining class information or a hunter education number please contact the New Mexico Hunter Education Program: **505-222-4731** or dgf-he@dgf.nm.gov. Bowhunter education is not mandatory for bowhunters in New Mexico, but is highly recommended.

Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range

All hunters, regardless of age, on White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) and Fort Bliss – including all of GMUs 19 and 28 and portions of GMU 34 – are required to have proof of passing a state-certified Hunter Education course. Mentor-youth hunters are not eligible.