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## **Pennsylvania DCNR to offer two-day hunt for antlered and antlerless deer at Presque Isle**

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will offer a two-day hunt for both antlered and antlerless deer on Dec. 9-10. The hunt will take place at Presque Isle State Park.

Each day, as many as 85 hunters will be permitted to use shotguns that are not semi-automatic loaded with slug ammunition, black-powder muzzleloaders or archery equipment for both antlered and antlerless deer.

The hunt is intended to assist the Park with maintaining a healthy deer population within the Park's ecosystem. When deer populations exceed an ideal capacity, degradation of the park may begin to occur.

Beginning Tuesday, Nov. 10, hunters wishing to participate must apply by calling the Park office at 814-833-7424 during office hours, 8 p.m. through 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The cut-off date and time is Friday, Dec. 4, at 2 p.m. Due to COVID-19, phone calls will replace in-person signups.

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## **Pennsylvania Hunters Top All States**

According to a pretty recent Quality Deer Management Association survey, Pennsylvania tops the list of US states for hunter density, with 20.5 hunters per square mile. With so many hunters it can only mean two things: terrific game and awesome hunting lands. To be more specific, there are 4.5 million acres of public hunting land. And when it comes to game, be aware that each year hunters in Pennsylvania bag more than 300,000 animals. These include some of the world's largest black bears, great whitetails and world-class elk, not to mention wild turkeys, grouse, pheasant and squirrels aplenty. And to make life easier, don't forget to pack a trail camera with you on your next hunt in Pennsylvania.

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## **Pennsylvania Private Land Access Program**

More than 13,000 separate parcels of private lands are currently enrolled in the agency's Hunter Access Program. These properties, located in most of the state's 67 counties, cover more than 2.18 million acres. In exchange for the incentives and benefits provided by the Game Commission, landowners have the following responsibilities:

- Provide reasonable access for hunting and trapping. Reasonable access is defined as allowing access for at least two of the following categories: Deer and Bear, Turkey, Small Game, and/or Trapping. Limitations may be implemented on these categories, however, the Game Commission will determine if limitations allow for reasonable access.
  - If restrictions or limitations are implemented, it is the responsibility of the landowner to enforce these on their property. Cooperating landowners must allow the enrolled property to be identified on the Game Commission's Mapping Center. Identification is done by a dot on the map, no landowner names, addresses, or phone numbers are provided on the website or Mapping Center.
  - Allow for free Hunter Access signage to be placed on the enrolled property at logical access points so hunters can identify the property
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Dues payments for 2021 are accepted through end of January. If you are paying via mail, please remember to enclose a Stamped Self-Addressed Envelope if you want your membership card mailed to you. Otherwise, you will have to pick up your new card at a regular meeting.

As voted upon by the club, work parties are worth \$20 each. In 2020, due to the virus, we have credited everyone with one work party. So, if you have two or more work party credits, you will owe \$30 for dues only. If you have one work party credit, you will owe \$30+\$20=\$50. If you do not have any work party credits, you will owe \$30+\$20+\$20=\$70.

Due to the Christmas Holiday, both December meetings are rescheduled for December 10th, Officers meeting at 6:30 PM and Membership meeting at 7:30 PM.

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neck and hands warm. Get yourself a comfortable pair of hunting boots. In the case of rain or snow, take waterproof clothes as well as a waterproof backpack to keep your clothes.

Your clothes can be the difference between you catching a deer or returning home empty handed. Choose the right camouflage pattern so that you can easily blend in the surrounding. Deer can't see orange, so wearing oranges is highly recommended. On the other hand, do not wear blue as deer's eyes are more sensitive to them. Similarly, wash your clothes in scent free soap to remove odor that the deer might smell.

The aforementioned pointers are essential if you are serious about hunting. However, they will not bring you overnight success. In order to be a successful hunter, you will need a lot of practice, patience, intelligence and on-field experience. (END)

Hunting on ISA club grounds is permitted, following all rules as to distance from housing, etc. Traditionally, the first day of regular deer season, November 27th, the ranges at ISA are closed for safety to hunters.

**Did you change your phone number, email account, or address? Please tell us so that we can communicate with you.**

## Musings from Our President

Hunting season is upon us and statistics show that there are more hunters than ever before. Because our ranges remain open, except for the first day of deer hunting season; and hunting on the grounds is permissible, it is very critical that you are aware of your surroundings and make safety your number one concern. Make sure you are aware of where your muzzle is pointed and that movement in the brush may just be an orange clad hunter. It's just a few days until Thanksgiving and I wonder where the year went. It seems as though someone just flipped the switch and it just disappeared. Unfortunately, this Thanksgiving dinner will bring new challenges to celebrate family traditions. One thing that remains, is celebrating what we are truly thankful for – family, friends, etc. A Thanksgiving Poem:

May your stuffing be tasty  
May your turkey be plump  
May your potatoes and gravy  
Have not even one lump  
May your yams be delicious  
May your pies take the prize  
But most of all....  
May your Thanksgiving dinner  
Stay Off Your Thighs!!!!

Have a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving! Joyce

## ISA Info

- All Times, No Dumping on Property
- Gate open whenever anyone is on property  
Gate closed if you are the last one to leave
- Go to our webpage for a calendar and more information on events.
  - If you unlock the Clubhouse door, please lock it.

“The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.” And, for those that carry or have a defense weapon available, practice at the club makes for that perfect shot when required.

## 5 Things To Do Before Going On A Deer Hunt

People do not need to hunt for food anymore but there is a certain charm to eating fresh deer meat that you worked so hard to kill. It must be this charm that many enthusiastic hunters gather their hunting gear every year and walk into the wood looking for action despite all the hardship awaiting them. If you are one of those people interested in hunting your own fresh deer meat, here are 5 things you must do before going on a hunt.

### 1. Get your license and tag.

First thing first: Get yourself a hunting license. If you want to hunt, you are legally obliged to obtain a hunting license. Forget hunting, even if you are not hunting, you will need a license to be armed in the field during the season.

The paperwork and requirements to get a license differ depending on where you plan to hunt. State hunting regulations specify the area, time periods, and the weapons you may use to hunt among other things. In addition to the license, you may also need to purchase a tag to hunt a deer. Most states will make you take a course on safety. The purpose of the course is to make hunters safe and responsible as well as to educate them about wildlife conservation.

### 2. Get familiar with your tools.

This one is pretty obvious. In order to hunt, you need to have a weapon. Whether you hunt using a rifle, shotgun or a bow, be comfortable with the weapon of your choice. In addition, make sure they are in accordance with state deer hunting regulations and are in excellent condition. Get your gun checked for any faults and ensure they are operating properly and shooting straight.

In order to improve your shooting ability, confidence, and familiarity with your weapon, practice a lot. Get into a firing range and shoot from a range of distances regularly. Know your shortcomings and try to improve on them. Find out the limitation of your gun so you can know exactly when you can rely on your gun and when you cannot. Finally, but on a very important note, always practice gun safety. You should always be sincere while handling guns.

### 3. Scout the area.

Knowledge about the area you will spend your time hunting will give you a considerable advantage in landing a deer. You will know what to expect from your surrounding which itself is a big advantage. Furthermore, you can make an educated guess about the whereabouts of deer.

You can start your research of the hunting region with a look at satellite and topographic maps which are just a click away. However, you will need to scout the area in person or with trail cameras days before the opening day if you're serious about hunting. When you're scouting, look for signs like tracks and deer droppings that indicate whether deer are present in the area. Place trail cameras in the woods to spy on deer and find out places where they are most likely to wander.

Also, check the weather forecast of the area before you make your trip. Weather will determine the dress you need to wear and things you'll need to pack for your hunt.

### 4. Pack other hunting essentials.

Aside from the obvious arms and ammunition, there is an array of other hunting equipment that you need to carry in your backpack. For example, after you hunt a deer, you'll need tools for field dressing and carrying your prize home for which you will need a sharp knife.

Likewise, your hunt will most likely take a few days which means you will need to set up a camp. Tarps or tents and sleeping bag are necessary for you to get proper sleep. Your hunting checklist must include items like binoculars to spot deer, ropes, flashlights with extra batteries, maps and compasses, matches/lighters, camouflage smear, first aid kit and toiletries like oil, toothbrush, wet wipes and toilet papers among others.

### 5. Wear proper clothes.

You will have to pay sincere attention to two things when you go on a hunt. First, make sure your clothes are in accordance with the weather. Second, do not wear something that will scare away your prey. Once you scout the area and figure out the surrounding and weather, you can choose your clothes appropriately. The nights and mornings are colder, but days can get hot. So take warm clothes and make sure to wear clothes in layers.

You can always remove a clothing if it's hot. Wear caps, neck warmers and gloves with yourself to keep your head,

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- David L. Holloman Tree Service, Dave Holloman 724-863-9082
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ISA Officers and Council members hope you had a delightful Thanksgiving and wish each of you a Merry Christmas. Also we hope you have hunted safe and return to us with a trophy.

#### \*\*\*\*\* 2020 ISA OFFICERS \*\*\*\*\*

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#### \*\*\*\*\* 2020 ISA COUNCIL \*\*\*\*\*

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