

Hotline Recording Special Junior Waterfowl Hunt Opportunities

There are many opportunities for youngsters to get out and waterfowl hunt this season. In order to participate in these special hunts, youths must be 15 or under, have completed a hunter education course, have a valid California junior hunting license, and be accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age. The adult may supervise a maximum of two junior hunters. Licensed youths age 15 and under are not required to have state or federal duck stamps, but when they turn 16, even with a junior license, they must then have a federal duck stamp.

During the regular waterfowl season there are areas that are set aside for junior hunters.

At the Los Banos Wildlife Area the Mud Slough Unit is reserved for junior hunters. There are ten 2-person blinds in the Mud Slough junior area. In addition, Zone 6 includes three tank blinds reserved every shoot day for junior hunters and their escorts. Only one junior and one adult may hunt from a blind.

At the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge there is one spaced blind and one over-water blind reserved for parties with juniors. These blinds are two person blinds, so a junior and adult may hunt them.

At Grizzly Island the West Family Unit is reserved for junior hunters only. There are four two-person blinds. An adult must accompany juniors, and if the adult is hunting, he or she must possess either a type A area or type B area season pass. These are managed on a first-come first-served basis.

At Colusa National Wildlife Refuge pond P2 is reserved for 3 parties, of which 2 parties must consist of at least one disabled hunter, and the other party must consist of at least one junior hunter.

At Howard Slough Wildlife Area in the Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area, special junior waterfowl

hunts will be conducted on Wednesdays and Saturdays of the waterfowl season in zone 7 of the Howard Slough Unit starting on the first Saturday after December 15th. These hunts begin at legal shooting time and close at 12:00 noon and juniors must be accompanied by no more than one adult.

During the regular waterfowl season there are special youth hunts for junior hunters.

At Sacramento & Delevan National Wildlife Refuges the Sacramento refuge complex will host a hunt at the Sacramento refuge on December 8th and at the Delevan refuge on December 15th. To be considered, juniors must apply via standard reservation application. Those youth hunters without reservations can show up for a lottery draw for remaining openings on a first-come, first-served basis. Adult chaperones are not permitted to hunt during these special hunts.

At Grizzly Island Wildlife Area the Department of Fish and Game will hold two special junior duck hunts at Grizzly Island Wildlife Area. On Saturday, December 8th and Wednesday, December 26th spaced blinds on Pond 11 and Crescent Unit at Grizzly Island will be available only for junior hunt participants. For further information call Grizzly Island Wildlife Area at 707-425-3828.

After the regular waterfowl season closes there is a special youth hunt weekend for junior hunters.

On February 2nd and 3rd, juniors can hunt public and private lands in all zones except the Northeastern zone is closed. For these post-season hunts, youths must be age 15 or under, and adult chaperones are not permitted to hunt. The regular season daily bag limits apply. Make reservations through the regular reservation system or show up for first-come, first-served access. You can learn more at www.dfg.ca.gov or by calling the Department of Fish and Game at 916-227-2245.

Visit www.calwaterfowl.org for information on post season junior hunts on private clubs.