

Cornell University Deer Hunting Program

Rules and Regulations



Cornell University

All hunters are expected to follow all Cornell University Lands Hunting Program Rules and Regulations, and to conduct themselves in a safe and ethical manner. Hunters that meet these criteria will remain eligible for annual renewals.

In addition to these general Cornell University Deer Hunting Program Rules and Regulations, all hunting activities must be conducted in accordance with the conditions stated on the approved permit and for program and hunting zone specific rules and regulations.

Permits & Licenses

- A Cornell University issued permit is required to legally hunt on University-owned lands. Hunters must possess a valid NYSDEC big game license before applying for a Cornell University Hunting Permit.
- The Cornell University Hunting Permit is specific to the hunter, and may not be used by or assigned to any other individual. The permit must be presented upon demand to any Cornell official or Law Enforcement officer. The University reserves the right to revoke this permit at any time.
- Online permit applications will be accepted in mid to late August through October 15. Applications will not be accepted after this date. To apply, hunters must agree to a Cornell University Police criminal background check.
- Hunters shall comply with all state and local laws and ordinances governing hunting activities.

Access

- Note that many archery sites remain open to the public during hunting season, but firearm sites are closed to the public during respective firearm seasons. Please be aware of hiking trails, do not hunt within 30 yards of trails, and be courteous to other users.
- Hunters must visibly wear their Cornell hunting program identification tag (supplied with permit) on their person, and display their parking permit in their vehicle dashboard at all times while hunting.
- Use of vehicles on University owned lands is prohibited. Hunters must hike into and out of all hunting areas from designated parking areas. Hunters who possess a NYSDEC Non-Ambulatory Hunter Permit should refer to program websites for exceptions.
- To keep on good terms with our neighbors, do not enter a neighbor's property to track deer without their permission.
- Hunters are required to wear 250 square inches of solid or patterned blaze orange or fluorescent pink hat and/or vest at all times while deer hunting during firearms seasons in areas where firearms are permitted. Archery only areas are exempt from this rule.

Hunting Activities

- Only white-tailed deer may be hunted.
- It is the hunter's responsibility to know the hunting seasons and legal hunting implements for New York State and for each Cornell Deer Management Program site. Firearm use is prohibited in bow and crossbow management zones.
- A hunter may be accompanied by no more than one non-hunter (e.g., spouse, child, friend, etc.). The non-hunter 1) must stay with the hunter at all times, 2) may not carry a weapon, and 3) may not trade roles with the hunter while in the field. The hunter agrees to take full responsibility for a child, to keep the child within sight and reach, and to directly supervise the child at all times.
- Tree stands and ground blinds are allowed. All tree stands and ground blinds must be legibly marked with owner's first and last name and phone number. Any tree stand or ground blind that pierces the bark on a tree is PROHIBITED. No permanent tree stands or screw-in tree steps may be used. Cornell is not responsible for stolen tree stands or ground blinds. Small tree limbs (< 1 inch diameter) may be trimmed to set up the tree stand or ground blind, but not for clearing shooting lanes. Only commercial ground blinds may be used. To preserve Cornell lands, hunters may not collect and use surrounding wood, brush, or vegetation to further blend in their commercial blind. Hunters may install temporary tree stands and ground blinds two weeks before archery season and must remove them no later than one week following the conclusion of the hunting season. To cover the cost of removing stands that do not comply with these regulations, hunters will reimburse Cornell Botanic Gardens \$75.
- Hunters must make reservations through the deer hunting reservation system to hunt. Reservations must be removed if hunters are not able to hunt on the reserved day. Repeated failure to remove unused reservations will result in the hunting permit being revoked.
- Hunting and harvest activity must be reported within 3 days of hunting.
- All participants are expected to initiate proactive communications with the University deer management program administrator should problems arise in the course of their activities at cudeerhunting@cornell.edu.
- Rifle hunting is prohibited.
- If you harvest an antlered deer, you will be required to harvest an antlerless deer within two years to maintain eligibility in the program for future years.
- No fires, camping, or littering.
- Use of drugs and alcohol will not be tolerated.

Failure to comply with any of the above rules will result in a warning or immediate termination of hunting privileges. Blatant disregard for Deer Hunting Rules and Regulations will result in permanent loss of hunting privileges on Cornell University lands. Permitted hunters release, indemnify, and hold harmless Cornell University, its trustees, officers, agents, and employees from any and all liabilities, personal injuries (including death), property damage, claims, costs or expenses of any nature whatsoever (including reasonable attorney's fees) arising out of or in any way related to my use (or my minor child's use) of University lands. It is also agreed to, that the hunter will reimburse the University for any costs, including attorney fees, which it may incur in connection with any action arising from his hunting activities on the university property.