

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

Waterfowl Hunting

Welcome to Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service established the refuge in 1958 primarily for nesting, resting, staging and feeding waterfowl. The varied habitat of Iroquois Refuge supports many other wildlife species such as resident and migratory birds, mammals, reptiles, fish and amphibians as well as diverse plant life. Public hunting is a tool used to manage wildlife populations competing for limited habitat. Hunting can also provide a quality recreational experience when pursued responsibly. While visiting the refuge please observe the following:

We allow hunting of geese, ducks and coots in accordance with state laws and the following additional regulations.

Tentative State seasons are set by New York State in July and waterfowl hunting regulations are generally in print by September or early October.

We allow waterfowl hunting from designated stand markers in Cayuga, Mohawk and Oneida Pools on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. All other areas are closed.

We issue a maximum of 35 permits each hunt day. The number of permits available depends on water conditions. Permits are \$10 on Saturday and \$5 on Tuesday and Thursday. Up to three hunters can share each permit.

We hold a mail-in drawing in September to select hunters for opening day. If opening day is on Tuesday or Thursday we will draw for opening day and the first Saturday. A news release and our website will have instructions and dates.

On all other hunt days we hold a daily drawing at the Waterfowl Permit Station on Route 77 at 5 am.

Hunt times - ½ hour before sunrise until noon. Check out by returning your Harvest Report to the Permit Station no later than 1 pm.

You must have in your possession a valid New York state hunting license, valid Federal Duck Stamp or E-stamp, Waterfowl Education Certificate of Qualification and Harvest Information Program number.

You may possess only 20 approved nontoxic shot shells in the field.

Decoys reduce the chance of crippled birds. You must provide and use at least six decoys.

You must stay within 100 feet of your designated stand marker unless you are dispatching a crippled bird.

Do not remove or alter vegetation around your hunt stand marker. No permanent structures are allowed.

Waterfowl hunting ends at the conclusion of the first split of the State's waterfowl season or when regular deer season begins, whichever comes first.

Vehicles

Stay on public roads. Off road travel, ATV's and snowmobiles are not allowed. Please, park in designated parking areas. Please, do not block gates, dikes or roads.

Hunters with Disabilities

A hunt stand is available for hunters with permanent physical challenges possessing a Golden Access Passport or America the Beautiful Access Pass. We allocate the use of the hunt stand in a separate drawing for opening day and by first-come first served basis for other hunt days. The permit allows one hunter and one helper who may also hunt.

Youth Hunt

We hold a youth only hunt on the first Sunday of the regular waterfowl season for junior hunters between 12-17 years of age.

The program is free but space is limited to 25 with preference given to first timers. You must pre-register and attend an orientation program which is held in late September/early October.

Part one is a Waterfowl Identification class (optional if you already have a Waterfowl Education Certificate of Qualification). Part two covers regulations, safety, equipment, a retriever demonstration and a trap shoot. Attendance is mandatory unless you have been through the program at least twice.

We issue permits through a drawing on hunt day at 5 am at the Waterfowl Permit Station. There is no fee.

You can register by mail or by phone.

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge
1101 Casey Road
Basom, NY 14013-9730
(585) 948-5445
Iroquois@fws.gov

New York Relay Center
1 800/662 1220 TDD
1 800/421 1220 voice

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov>

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