

HCB Youth Hunt Rules

Purpose:

The HCB Youth Hunt program is designed to serve three main purposes.

1. First, it is designed to enable participating youth to earn a hunt by working and thereby show the value of work.
2. Second, it is designed to encourage the continuation of hunting by introducing young people to the process.
3. Third, it is designed to teach hunting skills, woodcraft and perhaps most important, respect for both the process and the game being hunted.

Eligibility:

Any child of an HCB Member family can earn a hunt as an HCB youth hunter at time during the period between reaching age 7 and reaching age 18. Eligibility ends upon attaining 18 years of age, provided that a youth hunter can earn a hunt in the calendar year in which that youth hunter attains age 18 **if the youth hunter reaches age 18 on or after October 1.**

Earning a Hunt:

To earn a hunt, a youth hunter must accumulate 10 points between January 1 and September 30 of the relevant year.

Points are earned by working at HCB, helping to set up 3D shoots, take down after 3D shoots, helping in the concession area and/or helping with the general maintenance of the property, primarily mowing shooting lanes and roads, helping to clear brush, and similar tasks.

Points are awarded as follows:

1. 3D shoot set up or take down = 1 point. There are normally 8 3D shoots each year, so a total of 16 points are available for set up and take down.
2. Concession stand help = 1 point for every two hours worked at the concession area.
3. General Maintenance = 1 point for every two hours worked. These points can be earned in conjunction with shoots or on HCB workdays.

HCB maintains a list of points earned by each participating youth. However, it is the responsibility of both the youth and their parents to make sure that the proper points for work performed are recorded.

Hunt Defined:

A hunt is the right, earned by a youth, to hunt one game animal on a hunting ranch selected by HCB on one weekend. The type of animal to be taken will be designated by HCB, in consultation with the ranch owner.

At the hunting ranch owner's discretion, youth who earn a hunt may also be allowed to harvest one or more feral hogs.

What is provided as part of an earned hunt:

The value of a hunt earned through this program is \$500. HCB will pay that amount to the ranch owner to ensure that each youth who has accumulated at least 10 points will have the opportunity to harvest one game animal and, if possible, at the ranch owner's discretion, one or more feral hogs.

HCB will provide lodging and food at the game ranch for one weekend as part of the hunt for the youth hunter and one parent. If a youth hunter is unsuccessful during the first hunt attempt, HCB will arrange for up to two additional opportunities for the youth hunter to succeed. Any lodging and food costs for these follow up hunts, however, must be covered by the youth hunter's family. The cost of the harvested animal will still be paid by HCB.

This is a hunting program. Killing an animal is not guaranteed. HCB and the ranch owner with which HCB is working will put forth their best efforts to help the youth hunters succeed, but it remains true that "there's a reason we call it hunting."

Hunt Conduct:

HCB will work with the youth hunter's family to schedule an opportunity for the earned hunt.

One parent whose food and lodging will be covered by HCB as provided above **must** accompany each youth hunter.

While hunting:

1. each youth hunter will be supervised by an HCB Officer or a hunting ranch guide. **No animal may be shot, or shot at, without clearance from the Officer or Guide. The youth hunter's family must pay any expense incurred because of a violation of this rule (e.g. shooting the wrong species or gender of animal) ;**
2. **Standard hunting safety rules must be followed at all times. No weapons are to be loaded except as directed by the HCB Officer or hunting ranch guide. The HCB Officer or hunting ranch guide may terminate a hunt for egregious or persistent violations of hunting safety rules. Pointing any weapon, loaded or not, at another human being is grounds for immediate termination and forfeiture of a hunt.**

A hunt is completed when a youth hunter shoots the game animal designated by HCB or the hunting ranch as applicable.

HCB and the ranch owner will use their best efforts to recover any animal shot by a youth hunter, but as with all hunting situations there is no guarantee that a wounded animal can be recovered. A clean miss does not complete a hunt; a wound that leaves a blood trail does complete a hunt, even if the animal is not retrieved.

Goal: Finally, HCB's goal is to help teach youth members the value of work, the value of the outdoors, and to begin the process of teaching them hunting skills in the hope that they will enjoy hunting for a lifetime the way many of our members do. Perhaps most important, we hope to instill respect for the game they hunt, the land they hunt on and the people, ranch owners, guides and HCB Officers, who make these hunts possible.