Youth Spring Turkey Hunt Weekend

The Youth Spring Turkey Hunt Weekend in Florida is Feb. 23-24, 2019 south of State Road 70, and March 9-10, 2019 in the rest of the state. This Saturday-Sunday hunt occurs the weekend prior to the opening of spring turkey season on private property and on many wildlife management areas (WMAs). There are more than 80 WMAs that have this youth spring turkey hunt weekend.

During the hunts, only youths 15-years-old and younger are allowed to harvest a gobbler or bearded turkey while supervised by an adult, 18 years or older. No license or permit is required of the youth or supervising adult, unless the adult plans to help “call-in” the bird or otherwise participate in the hunt. In that case, the supervisor will need a hunting license and turkey permit. And, if the youth will be hunting on a WMA, the participating adult supervisor also will need a management area permit.

To prevent overcrowding, most of the participating WMAs require a youth spring turkey quota permit. These may be applied for at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com or at a license agent.

There also are some WMAs that do not require a quota permit. Those areas are

Apalachicola, Aucilla, Big Bend – Snipe Island Unit, Big Bend – Spring Creek Unit, Big Bend – Tide Swamp Unit, Blackwater, Choctawhatchee River (only the south portion of the area), Escambia River, Herky Huffman/Bull Creek, J.W. Corbett, Joe Budd, Jumper Creek, Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Monroe, Lochloosa, Log Landing, Lower Econfina River, Middle Aucilla, Osceola, Richloam, Steinhatchee
Springs, St. Marks NWR (Newport Hunt Area only), Three Lakes, Upper St. Johns River Marsh and Yellow River.

For all of these hunts, it is important to note that adults are not allowed to do the shooting; only the kids may harvest a bird, which counts towards their spring season bag limit of two. And on WMAs, the only firearms that are allowed to be used during spring turkey season are shotguns and muzzleloading shotguns, using shot no larger than No. 2.