

DISABLED HUNTS IN THE USA

NOTE: It takes a long time for applications to hunt to be approved. For hunts in 2018, many deadlines have already passed. For an “Adventure Hunt of a Lifetime” planning should be part of the enjoyable journey. While you can still gain entry to some 2018 hunts many will be filled up, but now is the time to start planning a 2019 hunt. This is just a short list of what is available in many of the 50 states and other countries. Just do an online search for “disabled hunting opportunities” to start your adventure!

Jeff Pagels

Buckmasters An estimated 1.7 million people with severe physical handicaps enjoy hunting and shooting sports in the U.S. Some of the things that can be taken for granted by the able bodied sportsman are life-changing events for this segment of the population: learning to shoot again, being in the wilderness, or just witnessing animals in the wild. Buckmasters Disabled Services knows the importance of outdoor recreation and how it can have a tremendous impact on the quality of life for people with disabilities. We have developed a wide range of programs and resources for helping challenged individuals with their outdoor adventure ambitions.

Disabled Hunters Services uses its combined resources to locate, organize and cooperate in opportunities for people with disabilities. As many hunts as possible are organized on public and private lands, as well as commercial outfitters. We also offer support at state and local levels through established Buckmasters chapters. These chapters raise funds and work together to meet the needs of challenged sportsmen in their communities.

Buckmasters Life Hunts

Life Hunts grants hunting trips to critically ill and extremely disabled children and young adults up to age twenty one. Life Hunts was created in 1998 after mainstream foundations stopped granting hunting wishes or requests that involved hunting, firearms or archery equipment. The Life Hunt program gives children with questionable futures a glimmer of hope, and something to look forward to through their medical trials. These hunts are also offered to severely disabled children who have diseases known to shorten their life span. For more information contact:

www.buckmasters.com/resources/badf.aspx Phone: (205) 366-8415
dsullivan@buckmasters.com

Colorado Outdoor Buddies: This organization, (with a no dues membership) is open to most disabilities including youth. Besides fishing, they offer hunts for Antelope, Elk and Pheasant. Subscribe to their free newsletter for all sorts of details about upcoming hunts and other outdoor activities. Actual hunts are usually at no cost to the disabled hunter but transportation to Colorado...probably not. Contact:

www.OutdoorBuddies.org Mailing address is: Outdoor Buddies, 555 Highlands Rd. Westcliffe, CO 81252 or contact Executive Director, Dwaine Robey 303-877-8584 or dwain.robey@outdoorbuddies.org

Florida/Texas Sportsman's Foundation for Military Families (SFMF) This organization was established to honor the sacrifice that Military Families have made. Eligible Military Families are given the opportunity to participate in a professionally guided outdoor adventure. Phone: 863-655-2454 Email: info@huntforvets.com Mail: Sportsmen's Foundation for Military Families, 5229 Bluff Hammock Rd., Lorida, FL 33857

Wisconsin Wheelchair Whitetails This organization holds long weekend bow/crossbow hunts for whitetail deer on 500 acres of prime hunting land in Florence County, Wisconsin. All costs, including food and lodging are covered except your travel to and from home. Do a search on Facebook or contact Steve Nooyen, (920) 621-2827 or stevennooyen@gmail.com or wheelchairwhitetails@gmail.com

Wisconsin Challenge the Outdoors Disabled Deer Hunt, (CTO) This organization offers support in the form of hunting lands, blinds, helper/volunteers to its disabled members during the Wisconsin 10 day Fall Disabled Gun Hunt. You must be a member of CTO. Learn more about all the outdoor opportunities offered by CTO on their WEB site; <http://www.ctoforme.org> or for specific details regarding the Fall Whitetail Deer Gun Hunt, contact Pat Nieuwenhuis at (920)687-8707 or email; nubby009@aol.com

Wisconsin WEPCO Necedah Whitetail Deer Hunt Every year during the Fall Wisconsin Disabled Deer Hunt, (only the first Saturday & Sunday) 775 acres of private land not open for any other hunting. Cost is free except your travel to and from home.

Contact; jmsukana@wisconsinpublicservice.com or call (608)565-2500. A Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resource Class "A", "B", "C" or "D" disabled permit is required.

Wisconsin DNR Fall Disabled Gun Hunt for Whitetail Deer. Hunters must have either a "A", "B", "C" or "D" Class Disabled Permit to hunt during the 9 day usually in October season. (October 6-16, 2018) The DNR maintains a WEB site Spreadsheet of all available opportunities. In 2017, more than 81,000 acres of land in 45 of 72 counties was available. A similar availability is expected for 2018. You can check it out at https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/documents/Disabled_Sponsors.pdf or <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/diddeer.html>

Wisconsin. Rutting Ridge Foundation Inc. is a 501 c3 non-profit company (EIN #81-0756532) that was created to help physically challenged youth and veterans enjoy a hunting/fishing trip of a lifetime that they would not normally be able to experience. From hunting giant whitetails & turkeys in Buffalo County, Wisconsin, to fishing for 10 pound walleyes in the Mississippi River, it's an outdoor adventure they will never forget! We also provide our wheelchair bound outdoorsmen & women the means to be able to continue enjoying the outdoors long after their trip with us is over. Through the generous donations received from our friends, supporters & sponsors we are able to provide them with their very own Action Chair. The chairs become theirs to keep. 1246 Riverview Dr. Alma, Wisconsin 54610 (715)495-0534 or, google Rutting Ridge Foundation for more information.

Wyoming Disabled Hunters, INC. This organization seems to give priority to wheelchair users, especially disabled veterans. But other disabilities like blindness are also accepted. The hunts are free including processing of meat, meals and lodging. Transportation to western Wyoming is not. Hunts are offered for Elk, Antelope and Mule Deer. Contact them via: Wyoming Disabled Hunters. P.O. Box 2232, Cody, WY 82414 www.wyomingdisabledhunters.org You can also contact them via Facebook at @WyomingDisabledHunters or Phone (307) 899-0790

Wyoming Outdoor Adventures for the Physically Challenged While this is a Wisconsin based organization the hunts for Antelope, Mule Deer and some Elk are held Eastern Wyoming. Hunts are free and can include coverage of costs to travel to and from your home. Most awarded hunts are for Antelope and large (4x4 western count) Mule Deer. There are a few hunts offered for trophy bull elk. Qualifications include hunters with physical disabilities, war vets and terminally ill. Contact them through their Facebook page: @outdooradventurespc or Brad Hammermeister, (608) 963-7173

