

# ODFW program allows youngsters to hunt before hunter classes

The Fish and Wildlife Commission, on August 3, adopted administrative rules for Oregon's first Mentored Youth Hunter Program, after the state

legislature passed a bill earlier this year creating the program.

Programs that eliminate or reduce age restrictions have been approved in 12 other

states and are pending in five others.

Research demonstrates that early exposure is critical to people taking up hunting or other

forms of outdoor recreation. But children and their families are very busy today, and taking a hunter education class is a significant time commitment of 18-20 hours that some may perceive as a barrier to hunting. The Mentored Youth Hunter Program offers a "try before you buy" approach to hunting.

The program does not remove the hunter education requirement; it defers it. Under the program, youth without hunter education certification are allowed to hunt only under the close supervision of an adult and on the adult's tags.

Several safety precautions are built into the program:

Youth and supervisor must review, and youth must sign, safe hunting information prior to hunting. Youth must keep a signed copy of the safe hunting section on their person during the hunt.

The supervising hunter is also accountable for all the actions of the youth hunter. It is the supervisor's responsibility to follow all hunting regulations

and ensure that each mentored youth is trained in firearm and hunter safety before engaging in hunting or related activities.

A supervising hunter can hunt with only one youth at a time.

Only one legal hunting weapon between the supervisor and youth is allowed while hunting.

The supervisor must remain in immediate control of the youth, meaning the two must stay in close proximity at all times while the youth is in possession of a legal hunting weapon.

It is strongly recommended that the supervising hunter and mentored youth wear blaze orange during hunting or related activities.

Other states that have similar programs have seen an increase in youth participation without a single hunting-related shooting incident.

To take part in the program, youth and supervising hunter need to complete a registration form available on either the ODFW web site, or in the game bird and big game hunting regulations to be published later this year. The form includes a section where youth and supervisor review safe hunting information. Part of the form should be kept by the youth and part should be returned to ODFW, Information and Education, 3406 Cherry Ave. NE, Salem, OR 97302. More details about the program are available by contacting ODFW's Information and Education Division at 503-947-6002 or visiting ODFW's website, <http://www.dfw.state.or.us>.

## Food recall due to botulism

**From page 9**  
opened. Symptoms of botulism include double or blurred vision, drooping eyelids, slurred speech, difficulty swallowing, and muscle weakness. If untreated, the illness may progress to include paralysis of the face, arms, breathing muscles, trunk and legs. Symptoms usually begin within one to three days of consuming contaminated food, although the effect is sometimes delayed. People who develop any of these symptoms should contact a physician immediately.

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## WEATHER REPORT

JULY 2007

DATE	TEMPERATURE		PRECIP. AMT.
	HI	LO	
1	72	42	--
2	78	45	--
3	80	47	--
4	85	47	--
5	83	42	--
6	77	42	--
7	75	43	--
8	77	42	--
9	83	47	--
10	96	50	--
11	94	56	--
12	83	52	T
13	84	52	--
14	87	53	--
15	78	52	--
16	76	57	.02
17	71	56	.10
18	69	51	.67
19	74	51	.30
20	65	59	.08
21	70	63	T
22	73	62	T
23	70	43	.02
24	71	43	--
25	78	50	--
26	73	45	--
27	81	57	--
28	77	56	T
29	69	39	T
30	74	39	--
31	81	42	--

Temperature and precipitation amounts are from the official U.S. weather station at the Vernonia water plant. Measurable precipitation in July totalled 1.19 inches.