



# LIFETIME LICENSE INFORMATION SHEET

**Congratulations!** You are now the proud owner of a lifetime license. The following information explains how the lifetime license process works.

## General Information

As announced in February 2024 all New York sporting licenses, tags, and other printable items are formatted to fit on 8.5 x 11 plain paper. This allows for quick and easy access to licenses and tags and includes the option for at-home license and tag printing.

**Credit Card Style Lifetime Licenses are not issued until the license holder is at least 16 years old.**

All lifetime licenses are valid for the holder's lifetime no matter where you may move. However, it is **your responsibility** to notify us of any address changes. Address updates and profile changes can be done by signing into or creating a username and password for your online account at <https://decals.east.licensing.app/>, via email at [fw.information@dec.ny.gov](mailto:fw.information@dec.ny.gov) or at by calling License Sales at (518) 402-8843 (M-F, 8am-4pm). Failure to do so can result in you not receiving your license and tags.

If you change your name, it is **your responsibility** to notify us. Please send proof of name change, such as an updated driver's license or non-driver's ID, via email at [fw.information@dec.ny.gov](mailto:fw.information@dec.ny.gov). Please include your former name, date of birth and DEC ID number in the email.

## Fulfillment

### ***First-time Hunters***

**First-time hunters must complete a hunter education course. After completing your course(s), you will need to have your Hunter Education Certificate added to your license profile.** You can add your hunter education certificate through your online account, by emailing [fw.information@dec.ny.gov](mailto:fw.information@dec.ny.gov), calling the Call Center at 1-866-933-2257 (Monday-Friday 8 am-5 pm), or by mailing a **copy** (front and back) of your Hunter Education certificate(s) to the License Sales Unit at 625 Broadway, Albany NY 12233-4790. Be sure to include a daytime phone number in case we have questions. **Do not wait until the day you need your license and tags. The lifetime tag generation process takes approximately 24 hours to complete.** After the 24 hours, the license and tags will be available to print from your online account. **If you choose to have your license and tags mailed to you, please allow for up to fourteen-business days to receive your tags.** If you go to a local agent to replace the tags during that fourteen-business day period, you will be charged the appropriate replacement fees.

## Annual Delivery of Lifetime Licenses and Tags

You will automatically receive all licenses and tags you qualify for by September 1<sup>st</sup> each year. If you do not receive your licenses and tags by September 1st, contact the License Sales Unit or go to your local License Issuing Agent for assistance.

### ***Sign Up for Email Delivery***

Want to avoid the having your license and tags lost in the mail? Would you like to receive them early? Sign up for email delivery of your license each year instead of mail delivery. To sign up, call 1-(866)-933-2257 or sign into your DECALS account online at <https://decals.east.licensing.app/>. If you prefer physical mail delivery, no action is required, we will automatically mail your items until you request to change delivery method.

### ***Electronic Tags (e-tags)***

You now also have the option to use the HuntFishNY mobile app as electronic proof of licensure and possession of tags for deer, bear, or turkey (does not apply to transferred/consigned DMP tags of Bonus Youth tags). **Users of (e-tags) must report their harvest immediately with the mobile app.** The report will save whether you have cell service or not, as long as you are signed into the app before leaving cell service. Once you are back in service, the app will sync and document your harvest report. Please see the DEC website for tagging requirements.

## Paper Tags

You still have the option to use paper licenses and tags. Paper tag users need to **immediately fill out the paper tag**. Please see the DEC website for tagging requirements. **Paper tag users need to report their harvest within 48 hours of harvest**. You can report your harvest online at [https://decals.east.licensing.app/standalone\\_surveys](https://decals.east.licensing.app/standalone_surveys) (no online account needed), by calling the toll-free automated reporting system at 1-866-426-3778, or by using the HuntFishNY app.

## Other Information

### Adult and Junior hunters 12 & older

Once you have purchased your lifetime license, all future licenses and tags (where applicable) will automatically be sent to you annually and should be received no later than September 1st provided you have the appropriate sportsman education in your file. You do not need to wait for your lifetime license to come in the mail in order to apply for your Deer Management Permits in August of each year. You may apply for a first round Deer Management Permits online at <https://decals.east.licensing.app/>, by phone (1-866-933-2257) or at any agent location.

### Children under 12

After the initial purchase of a lifetime license for a child, there will be no fulfillment of any license or tags (where applicable) until they reach the appropriate age of eligibility, have taken the required hunter education and have it added to their license profile. You may take hunter education course(s) starting at age 11. Children under the age of 16 do not need a fishing license. Credit card style lifetime licenses are not sent until the license holder is at least 16 years old.

*Thank you for investing in New York's fish and wildlife resources. We hope you enjoy your lifetime license for many years to come.*

## Hunting, Trapping and Fishing guide information:

Fishing Guide	Available online at: <a href="http://dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7917.html">dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7917.html</a>	Updated guide available mid-March each year
Hunting & Trapping Guide	Available online at: <a href="http://dec.ny.gov/outdoor/37136.html">dec.ny.gov/outdoor/37136.html</a>	Updated guide available in August each year
Guides are available at all license issuing outlets throughout NYS or by calling 1-866-472-4332 (Monday-Friday 8am-4pm)		

### HUNTERS: REPORT YOUR GAME HARVESTS!

Successful hunters are required by law to report the harvest of deer, bear, or turkey. E-tag users must report immediately upon harvest through the HuntFishNY mobile app, paper tag users must report within 48 hours.

See [dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html](http://dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html) for information on how to report the harvest of deer, bear, and turkey via the HuntFishNY mobile app, online or by phone.

**REMEMBER: Reporting is not just the law; it's good wildlife management!**

### DOWNLOAD THE HUNTFISHNY MOBILE APP



The **HuntFishNY** mobile app provides instant access to electronic versions of your licenses, privileges and carcass tags from your smartphone, as well as the ability to report the harvest of deer, bear, and turkey immediately while afield. The HuntFishNY mobile app is required if you wish to use e-tags.

Visit [dec.ny.gov/outdoor/96470.html](http://dec.ny.gov/outdoor/96470.html) for more information.

### BE A HABITAT HERO • PURCHASE A HABITAT & ACCESS STAMP

The purchase of a \$5 **Habitat & Access Stamp** is the perfect way to preserve New York's efforts in improving and conserving fish and wildlife habitat, as well as increasing access to public and private lands for fish and wildlife recreation.

Habitat & Access Stamps can be purchased at any license issuing location, online or over the phone.

For more information, please visit [dec.ny.gov/permits/47452.html](http://dec.ny.gov/permits/47452.html).