



Thanks so much for your interest in the accessible deer hunt for people with disabilities being held on October 12th-14th, 2017 at the Rydell National Wildlife Refuge.

Options is a consumer controlled and managed Center for Independent Living. This means that the majority of staff and board are people with disabilities, people with disabilities helping other people with disabilities to live as independently as possible.

Enclosed is an application questionnaire, which will be used as the basis for choosing hunt participants. Please fill it out and get it back to us by the deadline. In the event that there are greater than 20 applicants, hunters will be chosen based on severity of their disability, ability to hunt in other specialized hunts other than the Rydell Hunt, and past participation at the Rydell Hunt. If all things are equal a random drawing will take place to select final participants.

All participants chosen are responsible to purchase their own valid 2017 deer-hunting license. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' web site reports that an out of state tag for either firearm or bow is \$165.00. Hunt organizers will provide the location, some meals and assistance while hunting but hunters are responsible for all other costs and their personal needs. Options has listings of area campgrounds and motels. Camping is located from 2 miles and out dependent on location and for motels anywhere from 18 miles to 55 miles dependent on accommodations, costs for camping vary from around \$10.00 to \$30.00 per night. Historically the weather has been the deciding factor on whether a particular campground has full hook ups available or if pipes have been winterized. Motel accommodations range from \$45.00 per night to \$120.00 dependent on location and amenities wanted there are motels, casinos, and bed and breakfasts available. The hunt runs from noon to end of legal hunting time Thursday and Friday and the full day on Saturday. We will provide meals every noon and in the evening on the hunt days, the hunters are on their own for breakfast. When a hunter wants to get out to the stand location volunteers will take them out to their site. Hunters and if there is a volunteer present are required to stay on stand, if a deer is shot at or downed they will be

asked to contact the headquarters so hunt volunteers can assist in collecting the shot animal or assist in recovering a wounded animal. We do this, to insure to the greatest degree possible, that there are no people coming in close proximity to other active hunters.

The hunt is designed to enable the hunter with a disability to have as much personal freedom as possible so each hunter will be asked what he or she would like assistance with. We have had hunters complete all aspects of their hunt independently and others who have chosen to have a volunteer with them while hunting. The hunt managers do have the discretion of assigning a volunteer with a hunter if they are inexperienced or have a disability where memory or judgment may be affected.

If you have questions regarding adaptive equipment, please feel free to contact Options for ideas on how adaptations can be made or where specialized equipment can be purchased.

Thanks for taking the time to fill out the application/questionnaire. **Please have it postmarked by Sept 09, 2017.**

Sincerely yours,
Randy Sorensen, Executive Director

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