

IRAP Participant Frequently Asked Questions:

Do I need a special license to hunt through IRAP? No. If awarded a site, hunters must acquire an Illinois hunting license and a valid IDNR permit in their awarded county, before the first day of their assigned IRAP hunting period. All hunters will receive a site-specific IRAP permit granting them access to their assigned hunting area.

Can non-residents of Illinois apply to hunt through IRAP? Yes. IRAP hunters may be a resident or non-resident of Illinois.

Can I have someone else accompany me on my IRAP hunt? – Yes. IRAP hunters may bring a NON-HUNTING mentor or observer with them. Youth hunters must additionally be accompanied by a non-hunting supervisor. All individuals who access IRAP-leased, private land need to have agreed to and signed IRAP's Release of Liability Waiver, which is included in IRAP's application. *Please determine in advance if you want someone to accompany you, as site permits cannot be altered once they have been issued.*

I plan on taking my child hunting or mentoring a youth hunter on IRAP leased property; am I allowed to harvest game also? No. All youth hunters (under the age of 18) must be accompanied by a non-hunting, adult supervisor while accessing IRAP-leased property. Only the youth hunter assigned to an IRAP site may harvest game. We encourage parents/mentors to focus on teaching their youth hunter safe and ethical hunting, and not to focus on hunting themselves.

How does IRAP give preference? IRAP may give preference to youth hunters, first-time hunters, and veterans, and utilize a lottery process if needed. *Preference will be given only once per season; applicants are no longer eligible for site preference after they are awarded a site.*

How many times can I apply to hunt through IRAP? You may submit 1 application for each season/period per season that IRAP offers, each year. If more than one application is submitted for the same season/period, only the application with the most current date will be considered.

Can I make changes to my IRAP site permit after I am successfully assigned? No. Once the application deadline has passed and permits have been issued, no changes/additions to IRAP site permits are allowed.

How and when will I know if I or my child was successfully assigned to an IRAP site? Only successful applicants will be notified by mail at least 3 weeks prior to the start of their assigned hunting period. *Please understand that IRAP staff will not respond to inquiries about site assignments until after all permit packets have been mailed for each IRAP hunting period.*

Can I scout before my assigned IRAP hunting period? Scouting is ONLY allowed during Youth Firearm Season and Youth Turkey Season, up to 7 days prior to start of the assigned hunting period. NO scouting is allowed before the start of any other assigned hunting period during any other seasons at any other time, no exceptions.

How do I know that there is game present on my assigned site? All IRAP sites have been vetted by staff to ensure there is suitable habitat and signs of the species of game being hunted. Please understand that IRAP staff cannot guarantee that game is present on site at the time of your assigned hunt.

How will I know where my assigned IRAP site is located, where to park my vehicle, etc.? IRAP hunters will receive a map with coordinates, driving directions and a description of the property with site-specific information AFTER they are successfully assigned to a site. IRAP does not provide the location of sites until after applicants are awarded their site in order to protect the privacy of enrolled landowners.

Could there be other assigned IRAP hunters at my site? IRAP sites can be accessed ONLY by assigned hunters who have filled out an application and signed the accompanying liability waiver. Some IRAP sites are large enough to accommodate multiple hunters. These sites are broken into specific hunt areas. Each assigned hunter shall stay within the boundaries of their specific hunt area, which is indicated on the map they receive in their IRAP site permit packet.

Can I camp or stay overnight on my assigned IRAP site? No. Camping and staying on IRAP-leased private property overnight is not allowed.

Can I use permanent tree stands or blinds on my assigned IRAP site? No. No tree pegs or other damage to trees is allowed on IRAP-leased sites. Temporary blinds and removable tree stands are permitted as long as no limbs or trees are removed, and no damage occurs while placing a blind. Participants are liable for everything associated with equipment they bring with them.

What if I am unable to hunt? If you are awarded an IRAP site and are unable to hunt, please notify IRAP staff at your earliest convenience so that another hunter can be assigned to your site.

Can I contact the landowner of my assigned IRAP site? No. IRAP acts as the “middle-person” between the hunter and the landowner. Please do not contact the landowner of the property you are assigned to unless there is an emergency or permission to do so is stated in your site-specific permit packet.

What if I encounter trespassers or someone else on my assigned IRAP site who is not another IRAP hunter or the landowner? Assigned IRAP hunters are encouraged to report anyone they suspect may be trespassing on IRAP-leased property to the local Conservation Police Officer (CPO). We encourage all participants to look up the contact information for the local CPO prior to hunting. You can find the statewide CPO contact information at [Law Enforcement \(illinois.gov\)](http://www.illinois.gov)

What else do I need to do to be eligible to hunt through IRAP? All hunters who are successfully assigned to an IRAP site, and who do not indicate to IRAP staff that they did not hunt, are required to complete an online survey after their hunt. You can access the survey at the bottom of the website where you accessed the application. Failure to return a survey could cause you to lose your hunting privileges for that game species the following year.