

ARIZONA DEER ASSOCIATION YOUTH DEER & COW ELK UNIT 23 HUNT CAMP OCT. 8-11, 2026



2025
YOUTH
HUNTERS

Attention Unit 23 Youth Deer and Cow Elk Hunters!

The Arizona Deer Association and Arizona Game and Fish would like to invite you and your hunting party to attend the Annual Arizona Deer Association Youth Deer & Cow Elk Hunt Camp in Unit 23. Camp begins at 6:00 pm on Thursday, October 8, and ends after breakfast on Sunday, October 11, 2026.

The camp is intended to serve as a social gathering site that will provide a safe, positive, and educational experience for youth hunters and their companions.

FREE MEALS for tag holders and hunting parties including breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

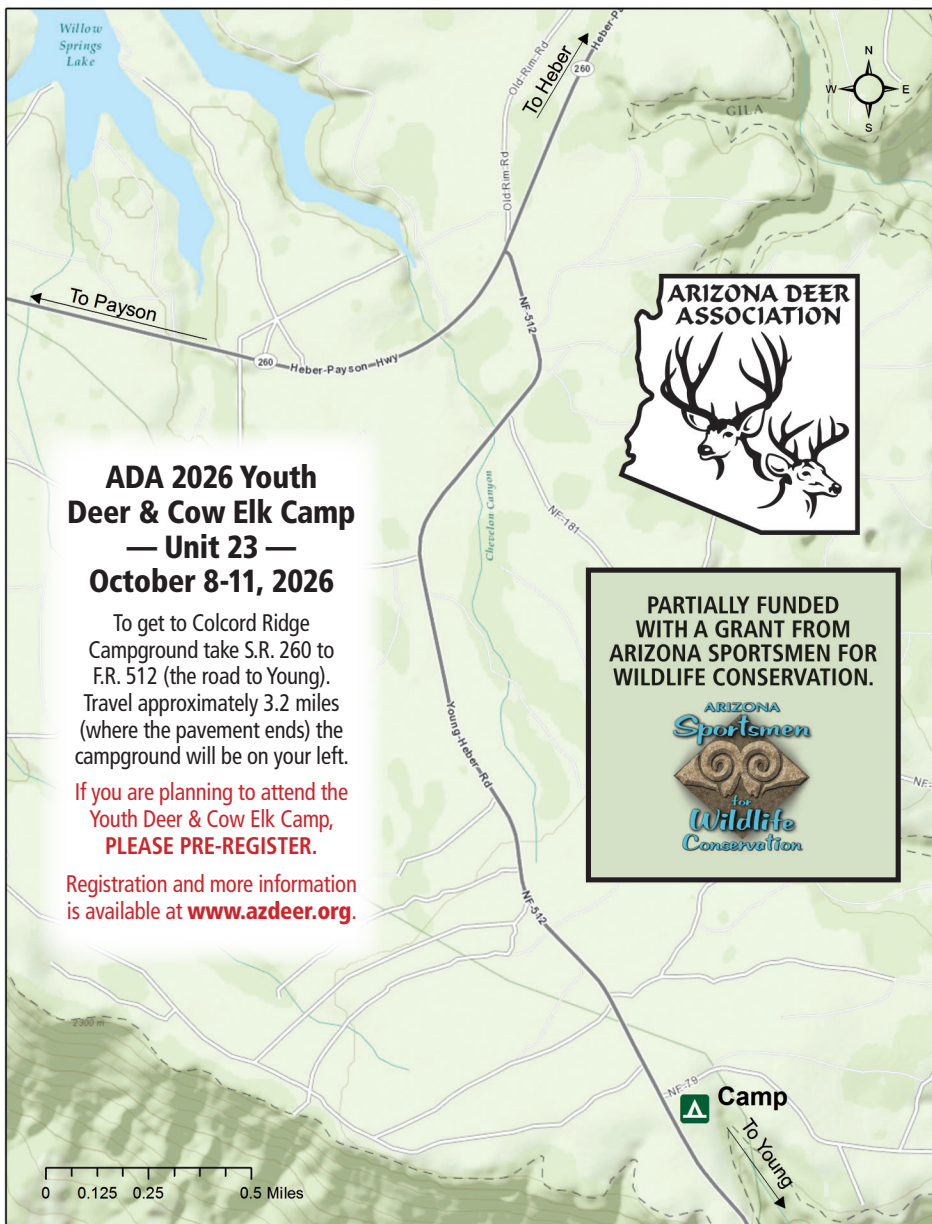
We will be at camp to help anybody with maps, getting pointed in the right direction, answer questions, etc.

Attendees must register for this camp.

Please visit our website at www.azdeer.org/youth-camps and click on the "REGISTER HERE" button.

IF YOU REQUIRE A MENTOR IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU PREARRANGE THAT VIA YOUR REGISTRATION! WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO ACCOMMODATE AS MANY YOUTH AS POSSIBLE.

Specific questions about hunting or camping in this area can be found on the AZGFD website at azgfd.gov or by contacting the ADA by email at treasurer@azdeer.org.



ADA 2026 Youth Deer & Cow Elk Camp — Unit 23 — October 8-11, 2026

To get to Colcord Ridge Campground take S.R. 260 to F.R. 512 (the road to Young). Travel approximately 3.2 miles (where the pavement ends) the campground will be on your left.

If you are planning to attend the Youth Deer & Cow Elk Camp, **PLEASE PRE-REGISTER.**

Registration and more information is available at www.azdeer.org.

PARTIALLY FUNDED
WITH A GRANT FROM
ARIZONA SPORTSMEN FOR
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION.



— ARIZONA DEER ASSOCIATION —

YOUTH DEER AND ELK CAMP FAQ'S

Who may attend camp?

The camp is for hunters who drew Cow Elk and/or Antlered Deer tags from the Arizona Game and Fish Department for the Youth Hunts in Unit 23*. Tags are not available over the counter; they are only available through the Arizona Game and Fish draw system.

The tag holder, their family and friends are welcome to participate in the camp.

So that we can provide enough food and help for everyone, please register your hunter and all other members of your party by using this Register-Ed link provided by the Arizona Game and Fish Department:

<https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/244047>

**Parts of Unit 3C are fairly close to camp and we have hosted 3A/3C tag holders in camp before.*

Where is the camp located?

The Arizona Deer Association camp is located at the Colcord Ridge Campground in the northern portion of Arizona Game and Fish Unit 23.

The campground is located about 3 miles south of Highway 260 at the intersection of Forest Road 512 (also known as Young Road) and Forest Road 33.

If coming from Payson, you will turn south onto Forest Road 512/Young Road about 30 miles east of Payson.

If you are coming from Heber, you will turn south onto Forest Road 512/Young Road about 20 miles west of Heber.

Camp spots are numbered and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Camp sites are large enough for tents, camp trailers and RV's.

Our family doesn't have a lot of hunting experience, or much experience in this unit. What kind of help can we get?

The Arizona Deer Association can provide an experienced mentor to help you in the field. We do our best to match everyone that needs a mentor, but we may not have one available every time the hunters go out in the field.

We can show you productive areas on the map.

Tip: Get a hunting map app like OnX installed on your smart phone.

What meals will the Arizona Deer Association provide?

You will be able to sign in at the Arizona Deer Association trailer beginning on the afternoon of Thursday, October 8th. We will provide dinner that evening.

We provide breakfast, lunch and dinner on Friday and Saturday.

We provide breakfast on Sunday. After breakfast on Sunday, our volunteers begin breaking down camp.

Breakfast is usually breakfast burritos so that you have the option of eating in camp or taking them "to go" and eat in the field. We will have plenty of hot chocolate and coffee, too.

Also available in the morning will be a variety of snacks for hunters and helpers to put in their packs.

TIP: For many young hunters, snacks are the highlight of the day and can keep them in the field a little longer.

Lunches served at camp are typically things like sandwiches and hot dogs.

Dinners served at camp are usually chili, hot dogs, and burgers.

We will have soft drinks and bottled water available throughout the day.

What should we bring?

Camping Gear: Your shelter, sleeping bags, etc.

Tip: Camp is located at over 7,000 feet in elevation. It will be colder than most of the hunters are used to at night and in the mornings.

Clothing: Check the weather forecast (Forest Lakes is usually a reliable location on weather websites and apps) but be prepared for cool to cold mornings and precipitation. Dressing in layers is a good strategy. Gloves and a warm cap are usually needed.

Backpack: Hunters and their helpers will need a backpack for storing those layers that get shed as the weather warms up during the day, and also to hold water bottles and snacks.

Other Gear: Binoculars help find game and keep hunters involved during the day. Walking sticks come in handy for much of the terrain around camp. Should your hunter get a deer or elk on the ground, you should be prepared with items like a good knife, rope and game bags.

Rifle and Ammunition: Please make the time to ensure that your rifle is sighted in and that the hunter is comfortable shooting it.

Firearm safety is a must; follow TAB+1.

Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.

Always keep the muzzle in a safe direction.

Be sure of your target and beyond.

+1 Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.

