

Recreation

Many Indiana youth like to boat, hunt, and fish. You'll have more fun participating in these activities if you follow the law. Yes, that's right. Indiana even has laws that apply to boating, hunting, and fishing.



Water Sports

Many Indiana families spend the summer boating on Indiana lakes and rivers. In order to have a fun and safe summer, read the following rules about boats and jet skis.

1. When can I drive a boat or jet ski?

You cannot operate a motorboat or jet ski on public waters unless you have a valid driver's license. However, if you are at least age fifteen and do not hold a valid driver's license, you can operate a motorboat on public waters if you have been issued an identification card by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and have successfully completed a boating education course.

2. Do I have to wear a life jacket while in a motorboat or while riding a jet ski?

The law requires that all boats be equipped with life jackets or personal flotation devices for each person on board. The law does not require that you wear the life jacket on a boat. However, for jet skis, the law requires you to wear a life jacket or personal flotation device while operating, riding on, or being towed by a jet ski.

3. What is the speed limit for a boat or jet ski?

There is no set speed limit to drive a boat during the day on most large lakes and rivers. Some lakes have speed restrictions or zones that limit speed. However, you can't drive a boat so fast that you wouldn't be able to stop the boat to avoid danger or to drive safely in bad weather or heavy boat traffic. At night, you cannot drive a boat between sunset and sunrise at a speed greater than ten miles per hour.

4. Where can I take a boater education course?

You can take a boater education course online at www.boat-ed.com/in/.

Hunting and Fishing

Over a hundred years ago, Indiana youth had to hunt and fish to help their family survive. Today, Indiana youth hunt and fish for fun.

1. Can I go hunting?

You can go hunting in Indiana if you have a hunting license. However, there are some exceptions to the rule.

You don't need a hunting license if the parent or guardian you live with owns or leases the farmland where you will be hunting. You also don't need a hunting license if you are under age thirteen, do not possess a bow or firearm, and are accompanied by someone over age eighteen who has a valid hunting license. If you are required to have a license, you must keep your hunting license with you while you hunt.

2. How can I get a hunting license?

You can get a youth hunting license from most sporting goods stores and/or your local Department of Natural Resources property. Remember that you

must first successfully complete a hunter education course. The websites www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild and www.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/ have more information.

3. How do I find the public lands where I can hunt?

You can find the public lands where you can hunt if you go to the website www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild and click on the link "Where to Hunt."

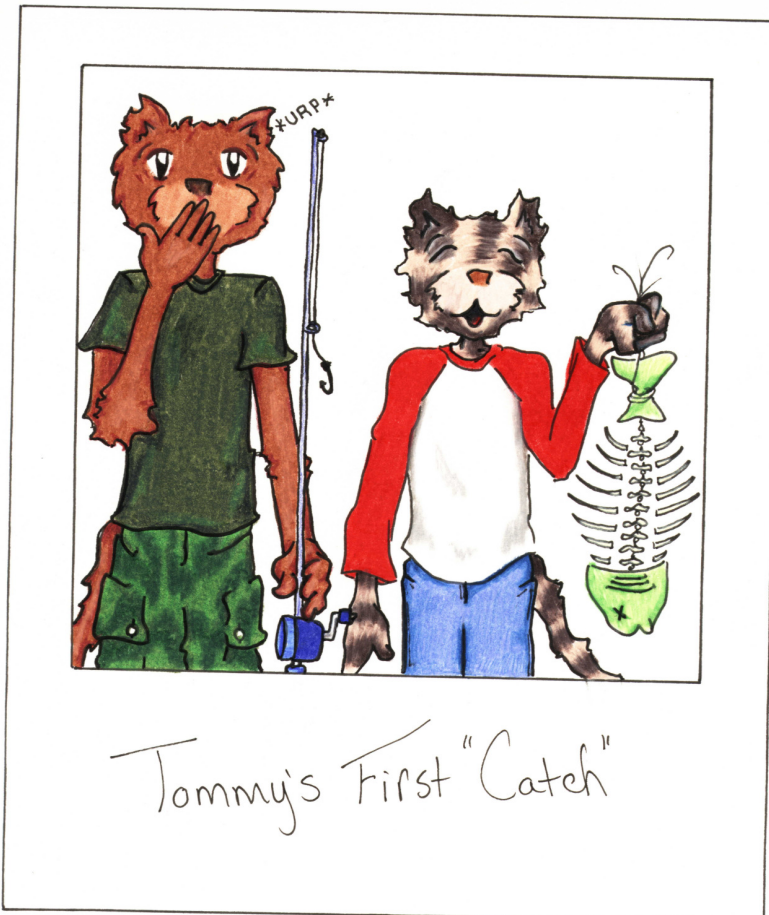
4. Can I use a gun when I hunt?

Yes. Normally, it is a delinquent act for anyone under age eighteen to knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly possess a firearm. However, there are exceptions.

You can possess a firearm if you are engaging in practice in using a firearm for target shooting at an established range where you are supervised by an adult or qualified firearms instructor, hunting or trapping under a valid license, or traveling with an unloaded firearm to or from an activity described above.

5. Do I have to get a fishing license?

If you are age eighteen or older, you need to have a fishing license in your possession when fishing in waters containing state owned fish, waters of the state, or boundary waters of the state. If you are under age eighteen, you do not need a fishing license.



Chapter 13 Sources

Water Sports

1. When can I drive a boat or jet ski?
I.C. 14-15-11-6; I.C. 14-15-11-9
2. Do I have to wear a life jacket while in a motorboat or while riding a jet ski?
I.C. 14-15-2-6; I.C. 14-15-12-8
3. What is the speed limit for a boat or jet ski?
I.C. 14-15-3-7; I.C. 14-15-3-8;
312 I.A.C. 5-6
4. Where can I take a boater education course?
www.boat-ed.com/in/

Hunting and Fishing

1. Can I go hunting?
I.C. 14-22-11-1; I.C. 14-22-11-6
2. How can I get a hunting license?
I.C. 14-22-11-5;
www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild
3. How do I find the public lands where I can hunt?
www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild
4. Can I use a gun when I hunt?
I.C. 35-47-10-5; I.C. 35-47-10-1
5. Do I have to get a fishing license?
I.C. 14-22-11-8





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