IRON COUNTY—Wildlife Unlimited of Iron County is gearing up for this year's youth deer hunting season.

Coordinator Scott Westphal wants to get the word out that WU is signing up youths who would like the opportunity to get out and hunt. This hunting experience is only offered to 25 youths each year. Those interested should get in touch with the WU committee soon.

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The Wildlife Unlimited Youth Hunt will take place Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 22-23, during the Michigan Youth Firearm deer hunting season.

The program is offered to youths 12- to 16-years old, even if they haven't completed a hunter safety class or have access to a firearm. An adult accompanies the young hunter at all times as a guide, mentor and coach.

WU encourages youths who have not been out in the woods hunting to take advantage of this program.

The organization purchases their hunting licenses, supplies them with a rifle and ammunition if they don't have it, and provides the youth up with a guide and a place to hunt.

They also meet at the Alpha Rifle Club's gun range for sighting-in and an orientation before the day of the hunt on Sept. 15 at 10 a.m. or Sept. 16 at 2 p.m.

If the youth hunters are successful, WU processes the deer for them at Sommers Sausage Shop in Crystal Falls.

To help optimize success, WU has the kids hunt over the food plots.

Some of the food plots are made available through Wildlife Unlimited. Others are owned by private landowners who have offered their use during the youth hunt.

The club is always looking for addition private property with food plots on it that could be used during the youth hunt. With landowners offering use of their property, it becomes not only a WU program but a community-wide endeavor.

The group is also working on a trailer that can be utilized for handicapped hunters. It is in the construction phase at the moment, and they hope to have it finished for use during the youth hunt.

WU has had great response in the past years taking first time and repeat participants hunting.

With a goal to encourage and inspire future generations of hunters to get out this season they ask that you contact one of the following Wildlife Unlimited members: Scott Westphal, (906) 282-6261; Rick Commenator, 265-2531; Ted Sammond, 875-3535; Larry Pifke, 265-3878, or Dave Grondin at 875-3014.