

2026 FORT KNOX QUOTA GUN DEER HUNTING GUIDELINES

Note: Changes from 2025 are in italics.

ALL access to and from the Hunting Areas inside the Access Control Points will be through the Chaffee Gate ONLY. Individuals without a valid DoD ID, Common Access Card (CAC), or an Automated Installation Entry (AIE) Pass must first stop at the Visitor's Center located at the Chaffee Gate and register.

1. Quota Gun Deer Hunting Dates: *21-22 November, 28-29 November, and 12-13 December*

There will be mandatory check-in of ALL harvested animals on 21-22 and 28-29 November at the Hunt Control Check Station, Building 9297, 4916 Wilson Road. All firearms brought onto Fort Knox must be registered with the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) prior to purchasing a hunting permit. All hunters 18 and over must present a current Weapon Permit and a photo ID at Installation Access Control Points and when requested by law enforcement. For more information, contact the [Weapons Registration Office](#) at (502) 624-7011 or 7019.

2. The following valid documents must be in your possession at all times while in the hunting areas:

- 2026 Kentucky Annual Hunting License, Sportsman's License, or Senior/Disabled License (out-of-state hunters need an annual non-resident license)
- 2026 Kentucky Statewide Deer Permit (out-of-state hunters need a non-resident deer permit)
- 2026 Fort Knox Gun Deer Hunt Permit (paper or electronic copy acceptable) AND Fort Knox Harvest Log
- State-issued Hunter Education Certificate required for hunters born on or after January 1, 1975. Those younger than 12 years of age may hunt without a course completion card, but must be accompanied by an adult at least 21 years of age with a valid hunter education certificate. The one-time Kentucky hunter education exemption is acceptable but the hunter must be accompanied by an adult (21 and over) that meets the hunter education requirements above.
- 2026 Quota Gun Hunting Area map printed (or downloaded to a mobile device and carried at all times) from iSportsman website for the area they are hunting.

3. Hunting Area reservations will be conducted by Tier through the [iSportsman](#) website (See Hunting and Fishing Information tab on website for Tier definitions). Each hunter will use their iSportsman account to make hunting area reservations & check-in/out of hunting areas. Hunters under 18 must have an iSportsman account & the appropriate permits, but should NOT be reserved or checked-in through iSportsman & must stay with sponsoring checked-in adult at all times. A printed iSportsman hunting permit for each individual in vehicle must be displayed in the driver's side windshield. Hunters found out of their assigned hunting area will be cited & suspended.

4. Hunting Area reservations for Tier 1 hunters can be made Friday for Saturday beginning at 0800, Tier 2 at 0900, and Tier 3 at 1300 (Eastern Time). Reservations can be made until 2359. A reservation will assure you a spot in a hunting area for the following day. If a reservation is not made, check-in the following morning beginning at 0400 is permitted if space is available. **ALL hunters checked into an area on Saturday may reserve the same area they are checked into for Sunday from 0800 to 1300 on Saturday. If you want a different hunting area for Sunday, or you ARE NOT checked in, you may reserve it on Saturday beginning NO earlier than 1300.** Attempting to reserve an area prior to assigned time will result in reservation cancellation and an administrative hold immediately being placed on the account and a suspension of privileges. Reservations must be checked into on the day of the hunt by 0759 or they expire. A hunter may still check into hunt later than 0759 if space is available.

5. Hunters MUST check into their hunting area through iSportsman each day, prior to entering the hunting areas. Check-in will begin at 0400 and no more than two (2) check-ins per day are permitted; hence, you may only change areas no more than once per day (original check in plus one change equals 2 check-ins). Legal shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise until 20 minutes after sunset. All hunters must be checked out of their hunting area through iSportsman AND BE PHYSICALLY OUT OF THEIR AREA by 6:30 P.M. without exception and regardless of shooting hours. If additional time is needed to retrieve an animal, please follow the directions on the iSportsman home page for retrieving an animal after check out time to allow another 2 hours max of time. Failure to check out on time will result in immediate suspension. Hunters in Hunting Areas 48, 95, 96, 97, 100, 103, 112, 113, 114, and 117 must physically check IN and OUT with the area guide by 6:30 pm at the location identified on the quota gun hunt map to verify they are out of the area so that gates can be secured. These gates will be open in the mornings by 0530.

6. Bag Limits: 1 antlerless deer and 1 deer of either sex per hunter (quota and extended gun seasons combined). A hunter shall not take or attempt to take an antlered deer with an outside antler spread of less than 12 inches at any time. An antlered deer is a deer with at least one antler 4 inches long, or longer, as measured from the skin at the base of the antler to the furthestmost tip. Bucks with only 1 antler are NOT legal 12-inch wide bucks. **There is a mandatory antlerless deer harvest for Tier 3 Civilians ONLY on the 21-22 November Quota Gun Hunt weekend. This means that Tier 3 Civilian hunters must harvest one antlerless deer before they are legal to harvest a buck. This is an effort to promote herd health and balance harvest sex ratios. Hunters can remain in the field and continue to hunt after satisfying antlerless harvest requirements. Reporting the antlerless harvest to the mandatory check station may be completed at the conclusion of the hunt. Failure to comply will result in suspension of hunting privileges and prosecution. There will be no mandatory antlerless deer harvest restrictions on 28-29 Nov & 12-13 Dec Quota Gun Deer Hunts.** One additional antlerless permit per hunter may be purchased for use with archery

equipment or gun, not both. Harvesting or attempting to harvest a deer for another hunter is prohibited. Deer harvested on Fort Knox are bonus animals and are in addition to the Kentucky statewide deer bag limits. Deer hunters may also harvest 1 bobcat at Fort Knox during the Kentucky bobcat season. Bobcats harvested at Fort Knox must be telechecked and are NOT in addition to the statewide bobcat limit. There is no limit on the number of coyotes that may be taken.

7. All deer harvested at Fort Knox must be checked-in through the KDFWR's Telecheck System (www.fw.ky.gov or 1-800-245-4263) by midnight on the day it is harvested. Harvest must also be reported at check-out in the iSportsman system. All blanks on the Fort Knox Harvest Log must be completely filled in immediately after harvest and before the animal is moved, with the exception of the confirmation number which must be obtained before midnight, then added to the Harvest Log. A carcass tag is required if a harvested deer leaves the hunter's possession for any reason. A carcass tag can be handwritten and must include the hunter's name and iSportsman permit number at a minimum. Failing to check your deer at the check station on 21, 22, 28, & 29 November will be grounds for suspension of hunting privileges and prosecution.

8. ALL persons must wear a solid, unbroken blaze orange hat and vest, jacket, or coveralls at all times while in the hunting areas, including hunters choosing to use archery equipment. Ground blinds may be used, but must have a blaze orange patch, a minimum of 12 inches by 12 inches (144 square inches), affixed to all sides of the blind.

9. Legal Hunting Equipment: 12, 16, or 20 gauge shotguns (**slugs only**), muzzleloading rifles (.38 caliber minimum and .58 caliber maximum), muzzleloading shotguns with a single projectile slug, and archery equipment. Muzzleloader powder charges are limited to a maximum of 100 grains, no restriction on priming method. Smokeless powder is prohibited for use in muzzleloaders. Bows must have a minimum 40-pound draw weight; longbows, recurves, or compounds only. Crossbows are prohibited except for hunters that have a valid crossbow Method Exemption Permit printed from the KDFWR website and signed by a physician, are under 16 years of age, or are 65 years of age or older. Razor sharp mechanical or fixed blade broadheads not less than 7/8 inch cutting width are permitted. **Rifles, handguns, and over and under shotgun/rifle combinations are prohibited in the hunting areas. No more than one weapon system is allowed in your possession while in the Hunting Areas (including your vehicle).**

10. You may have no more than 10 slugs or 10 balls and equivalent black powder in your possession, including your vehicle, per hunting day. Magazined shotguns will be plugged to hold a maximum of three slugs. Failure to have shotguns plugged will be grounds for suspension.

11. Only portable tree stands that do not injure trees are permitted. All equipment left unattended in the hunting areas must be clearly marked with hunter's name and iSportsman permit number. Portable stands/blinds may be placed no more than two (2) weeks before deer season, and shall be removed from the hunting areas by the end of the archery deer season. All hunters are required to use a safety harness when utilizing a tree stand at Fort Knox.

12. All guns will be separate from ammunition, unloaded (muzzleloaders deprimed), & fully encased while being transported (including off-road vehicles). Guns, bows, & crossbows will be unloaded and firearm actions will be open when not in use, when in/at a vehicle, when carried in a non-hunting area, during non-hunting hours, or after a hunter has taken the legal bag limit. There will be no hunting within 100 yards of an improved road (asphalt or rock based), structure, checkpoint, or airstrip (HAs 6, 13, 35, and 89). No person shall discharge any firearm, bow, or crossbow upon, over, or across any improved roadway or airstrip. Muzzleloaders that are loaded with powder and ball, but not primed, are considered unloaded. Deer driving and stalking deer in hunter groups is prohibited.

13. Privately-owned vehicles are not authorized on unimproved roads, trails, firebreaks, or airstrips in the hunting areas. Do not park in front of gates or block access to buildings, leave gates as you found them, and do not drive around locked gates. Hunters must park in or adjacent to their hunting area, accessing hunting area through a non-hunting area or off-limits area is prohibited (e.g., on-post housing). No parking beyond the baseline on Ashley Range (HA 52), Kennedy and Scott Mountain Ranges (HA 54), or McKie Range (HA 59). All rivers within Fort Knox are off limits. All vehicles will be driven by the most direct, authorized route to and from the hunting area; cruising the training complex is not permitted.

14. Consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages or any intoxicant in the hunting areas or hunting under the influence of any intoxicant is strictly prohibited. Glass containers of any type are prohibited in the hunting areas.

15. Baiting wildlife, such as placing grains, minerals, salt, fruits, vegetables, hay, or any other food materials, whether natural or manufactured, that may lure, entice, or attract wildlife, or the possession of such items in the hunting areas or your vehicle is prohibited.

16. Do not tamper with duds or any other objects and report duds to the Hunt Control Office. Watch for open wells and don't cross any streams during high water periods. Open fires are not allowed except for an emergency. All hunters are required to possess a flashlight while hunting. A compass and/or GPS are highly recommended.

17. Hunters under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult 21 years of age or older. Adults must be in a position to take immediate control of a youth's firearm at all times.

18. Hunters with a Vehicle Methods Exemption Permit may utilize an off-road vehicle to participate in the Fort Knox Quota Gun Deer Hunt (must be added to your account by the Hunt Control Office). However, the ONLY person authorized on the vehicle is the person named on the Vehicle Method Exemption Permit. Helmets are required for vehicles not equipped with seat belts and rollcages.