

2026 FORT KNOX ARCHERY DEER HUNTING GUIDELINES

Note: Changes from 2025 are in italics.

1. Archery seasons are **12 September – 16 November (Phase 1), 2-7 December (Phase 2), and 16 December - 11 January (Phase 3)**. Legal hunting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 20 minutes after sunset, or as indicated on iSportsman. **There will be no hunting or scouting on Tuesdays or specified holidays the Hunt Control Office is closed.** 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 on Bullion Blvd. and register.
2. **The following completed documents must be in your possession at all times while in the hunting areas:**
 - a. 2026 Kentucky Annual Hunting License (out-of-state hunters need an annual non-resident license) or Sportsman's License or Senior/Disabled License
 - b. 2026 Kentucky Statewide Deer Permit (out-of-state hunters need a non-resident deer permit)
 - c. 2026 Fort Knox Archery Deer Permit (paper or electronic copy acceptable)
 - d. Fort Knox Harvest Log
 - e. 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.
 - f. Hunters 18 years of age and older must have photo ID.
3. **Hunting Area reservations will be conducted by Tier through the [iSportsman](https://ftknox.isportsman.net) website (<https://ftknox.isportsman.net>).** See Hunting and Fishing Information tab on website for Tier definitions. **Utilizing any other accounts other than your own in any capacity is strictly prohibited.**
4. **Tier 1-2 hunters are permitted to hunt every legal day during the archery season until the season bag limit is reached. Tier 3 hunters are eligible to hunt Phase 1 during weekends and legal weekdays from 12 Sept – 30 Oct, in addition to legal weekdays from 2 Nov – 16 Nov. Tier 3 hunters must apply and be selected for only ONE of the following Phase 1 lottery weekends to be eligible to hunt said weekend: 31 Oct-1 Nov, 7-8 Nov, and 14-15 Nov. Tier 3 hunters are also eligible to hunt the entire Phase 2 and Phase 3 seasons unless a hunter has filled their season bag limit.**
5. Each hunter will use their iSportsman account to make hunting area reservations and check-in/out of hunting areas. Hunters under 18 must have an iSportsman account and the appropriate permits, but should NOT be reserved or checked-in through iSportsman and 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.
6. Hunting Area reservations can be made Sunday and Tuesday thru Friday for the following day beginning at 0800 for Tier 1, 0900 for Tier 2, and 1300 for Tier 3 (Eastern Time) until 2359. Reservations and check-ins MUST NOT be attempted from 2400 thru 0400. **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, you may reserve it on Saturday beginning NO earlier than 1300.** This is to provide the opportunity for hunters to hunt the same area for both days of the weekend if it is released for hunting. 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. Hunters must check into their hunting area reservation on the day of the hunt by 0759 or the reservation will expire. Reservations are not required but recommended. If a reservation is not made, check-in on the day of the hunt can be done beginning at 0400 for any available spaces.
7. Hunters MUST check into their hunting area through iSportsman each day no earlier than 0400, **prior to entering the hunting areas.** Hunters must be checked out of their hunting area by the time indicated on iSportsman at check in. Check out MUST be completed even if the hunter did not actually go into the area. Failure to check out on time is grounds for immediate suspension of hunting privileges and hunters found out of their hunting area will be cited and suspended. Refer to the Fort Knox iSportsman page for procedures to pursue a wounded animal after hunting check-out time.
8. **Bag Limits:** 1 antlerless deer and 1 deer of either sex per hunter. **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.** One additional antlerless permit per hunter may be purchased for use with archery equipment or gun, not both. Deer and turkey harvested on Fort Knox are bonus animals

and are in addition to the Kentucky statewide bag limits. Archery deer hunters may also harvest 3 turkeys (fall archery and gun seasons combined, one bird per day, and no more than one bird may have a beard length of 3 inches or longer), provided they have a Kentucky State Fall Turkey Permit and a Fort Knox Fall Turkey Permit. Turkeys must be checked-in the same manner as deer. Archery deer hunters may also harvest 1 bobcat at Fort Knox during the state bobcat season and must also Telecheck the animal. Bobcats harvested at Fort Knox are NOT in addition to the statewide bobcat limit. Archery hunters may take an unlimited number of coyotes.

9. 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 KDFWR 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. *All hunter must abide by the [Fort Knox CWD Guidelines](#).*

10. Legal Hunting Equipment: Bows **must** have a minimum 40-pound draw weight; longbows, recurves, or compounds only. Bows may not have any device that holds an arrow at full or partial draw without the aid of the archer. 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. Chemically treated arrows or broadheads are prohibited. Firearms or ammunition are not allowed in your possession or in your vehicle while archery deer hunting on Fort Knox. ***Trail cameras and any other devices that capture video or images within the training complex are strictly prohibited.***

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 archery hunters are **required** to possess a current Fort Knox Hunting and Fishing **map** (paper or electronic) and a **flashlight** while hunting; maps can be purchased at the Hunt Control Office or downloaded from iSportsman. A compass and/or GPS are highly recommended, and it is recommended you carry matches/lighter to start a fire in case of an emergency.

13. 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 streams during high water periods. Be **ABSOLUTELY** sure of your target before you draw your bow. No open fires allowed except for an emergency.

14. Junior hunters under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult (21 and over).

15. No hunting within 100 yards of an improved road (asphalt or rock based), structure, checkpoint, or airstrip (HAs 6, 13, 35, and 89). Bows and crossbows will be unloaded 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. No person shall discharge any firearm, bow and arrow, crossbow, or other similar device upon, over, or across any improved roadway or airstrip.

16. 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.

17. 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 assigned hunting area, accessing assigned 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 assigned hunting area; cruising the training complex is not permitted.

18. 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.

19. Hunters with a Vehicle Methods Exemption Permit may utilize an off-road vehicle to participate in the Archery 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 Methods Exemption Permit. **A copy of the Vehicle Methods Exemption Permit must be displayed in the driver's side windshield of the vehicle.** Helmets are required for vehicles not equipped with seat belts and roll cages. There will be no riding around the hunting area; violators will be removed from the installation.