

## 2026-27 FORT KNOX SMALL GAME GUIDELINES

\* *Changes from 2025 are in italics.*

**All firearms brought onto Fort Knox must be registered with the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) and be on file with the Hunt Control Office prior to purchasing a firearm hunting permit (Weapon Permit may be emailed to [usarmy.knox.id-t2.mbx.dpw-hunt-control@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.knox.id-t2.mbx.dpw-hunt-control@army.mil). Please cover up your personal information, leave only your name and the to and from dates at the top of the page visible). All hunters 18 and over must present their Weapon Permit and a photo ID at Installation Access Control Points and when requested by law enforcement.** All individuals under 18 years of age may only possess firearms when supervised by an adult (21 and over) with a current Fort Knox Weapon Permit. For more information contact the Weapons Registration Office at (502) 624-7011 or 7019 or at the [Weapons Registration webpage](#).

1. The Fort Knox Small Game seasons and bag limits generally coincide with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's seasons and bag limits. Small game hunting is available based on military training and archery/gun deer hunting when those seasons are ongoing. Waterfowl hunting is permitted in any area released for small game hunting, during the appropriate waterfowl season. More waterfowl information is available at <https://fw.ky.gov/Hunt/Pages/Waterfowl-Hunting.aspx>

The 2026-27 Fort Knox Fall Archery Turkey Season will be held *12 September - 31 January*. Firearms season will be *24 October - 31 January*, except as described above. The Fort Knox fall turkey bag limit is 3 turkeys per hunter (fall archery and gun seasons combined, 1 bird per day, and no more than 1 bird may have a beard length of 3 inches or longer). **All turkeys, bobcats, and otters harvested at Fort Knox must be checked-in through the KDFWR's Telecheck System ([www.fw.ky.gov](http://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 turkey 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 hunters must possess the appropriate Kentucky state hunting licenses, tags, and stamps and a valid Fort Knox Small Game Permit and/or Fall Turkey Permit, if turkey hunting. 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. Hunters eligible for free Fort Knox Permits are youth hunters under the age of 16, regardless of tier status.

2. Due to the daily use of the reservation for military training, a strictly controlled and rigidly enforced system of access to the hunting areas will be maintained. Availability of all hunting areas will be contingent upon the training mission. There will be no hunting on Tuesdays or specified holidays the Hunt Control Office is closed. Individuals without a valid military 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.

a. All hunters are **required** to possess a current Fort Knox Hunting and Fishing map, **or an individual Hunting Area map (paper or electronic) from the iSportsman website** and a **flashlight** while hunting; maps can be purchased at the Hunt Control Office or downloaded from the iSportsman website. 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.

### Check-in/check-out procedures:

(1) Each hunter will use their iSportsman account to check-in/out of hunting areas. **Utilizing any other accounts other than your own in any capacity is strictly prohibited.** Hunters under 18 years of age must have an iSportsman account and the appropriate licenses and permits but should **NOT** be checked-in through iSportsman and must stay with accompanying checked-in adult at all times. A printed iSportsman hunting permit for each individual in a vehicle must be displayed in the driver's side windshield (address and phone number can be obscured).

(2) **Hunters must check-in through iSportsman each day no earlier than 0400 prior to entering the hunting area. Hunters must be checked out of their assigned hunting area by the time indicated on iSportsman. 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.**

**3. Authorized Small Game Hunting Equipment:** Archery equipment and shotguns no larger than 10 gauge or smaller than .410 with pelleted ammunition no larger than shot size T. Repeating shotguns will be plugged to hold a maximum of 3 shells. **For upland game, pellets from shoulder-fired air guns .177 thru .25 caliber, for furbearers .22-.25 caliber pellets fired from shoulder-fired air guns.** Steel shotshells are the only ammunition permitted in possession while hunting waterfowl. **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).**

**4. Authorized Turkey Hunting Equipment:** Turkeys may be taken with archery equipment or .410 – 10 gauge shotguns with #4 shot or smaller. Repeating shotguns will be plugged to hold a maximum of 3 shells. **Ten shells maximum in possession per day.** Crossbows are prohibited except for hunters that have a valid crossbow Methods Exemption Permit printed from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife website and signed by a physician, are under 16 years of age, or are 65 years of age or older. **No more than one weapon system is allowed in your possession while in the Hunting Areas (including your vehicle).**

**5.** All guns will be separate from ammunition and fully encased while being transported **(including off-road vehicles)**. Guns, bows, and 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).

**6.** 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 and leave gates as you found them, and **do not drive around locked gates.** 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 your hunting area; cruising the complex is not permitted. Hunters must park in or adjacent to their hunting area; accessing a hunting area through a non-hunting area or off-limits area is prohibited (e.g., on-post housing).

**7.** Hunters shall not hunt or shoot from any type of vehicle or boat, or discharge any firearm, bow and arrow, crossbow, or other similar device upon, over, or across any improved roadway (one that has a gravel or paved surface) or airstrip. Discharge of firearms from boats while hunting migratory waterfowl is permissible provided the motor has been completely shut off, and its progress therefrom has ceased.

**8.** The harvesting of ginseng and yellow root is prohibited and will result in the suspension of hunting and fishing privileges for 3 years and a citation.

**9.** 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 is prohibited (including your vehicle).

**10.** Hunters with a Vehicle Methods Exemption Permit may utilize an off-road vehicle. However, the **ONLY** person authorized on the vehicle is the person named on the Vehicle Methods Exemption Permit, others are **NOT** allowed on the vehicle. **A copy of the permit must also be sent to the Hunt Control Office to be added to your account.** 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.

**11.** 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.

**12.** *In compliance with The Army Physical Security Program, the use of image and video capturing devices, including trail cameras, is prohibited in all hunting and training areas on Fort Knox. Any unauthorized cameras discovered after **April 1** will be confiscated and disposed of.*