

2026 FORT KNOX SPRING TURKEY HUNTING GUIDELINES

* *Changes from 2025 are in italics.*

1. **The 2026 General Spring Turkey Season will be held 15 April - 10 May.** A special youth-only turkey hunt will be held on **11 - 12 April**; youths 15 years of age and under are eligible to participate (see 2026 Youth Turkey Hunting Guidelines). Availability of all hunting areas will be contingent upon the training mission. There will be no hunting on Tuesdays. 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.

2. **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. 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 declare firearms, present their Weapon Permit and a photo ID at Installation Access Control Points. 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](#).

The following items **must** be in your possession while in the hunting areas:

- a. 2026 Kentucky State Hunting License, Sportsman's License, or Senior/Disabled License (out-of-state hunters need an annual non-resident license)
- b. 2026 Kentucky State Spring Turkey Permit (out-of-state hunters need a non-resident spring turkey permit)
- c. 2026 Fort Knox Spring Turkey Permit/Super Combo Permit (paper or electronic copy acceptable)
- d. Fort Knox Spring Turkey Harvest Log
- e. State-issued Hunter Education Certificate required for hunters born on or after January 1, 1975. 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. Map of hunting area (paper or electronic).

3. **A printed iSportsman hunting permit for each individual in vehicle must be displayed in the driver's side of windshield (address and phone number can be obscured). Scouting permit required to be displayed for non-hunters and callers.**

4. **Hunting Area reservations can be made the day prior to the hunt. For Tier 1 hunters reservations will begin at 1300, Tier 2 at 1400, and Tier 3 at 1500.**

5. **You may reserve an area or check-in for yourself only through your iSportsman account. Utilizing any other accounts other than your own in any capacity is strictly prohibited, and grounds for suspension of fishing and hunting privileges. 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 accompanying checked-in adult at all times. A non-hunting person, or caller, that wishes to accompany a checked-in hunter may do so. The non-hunter must have an iSportsman account and must place a scouting permit in the windshield next to the checked-in hunter's permit and must stay with that hunter at all times, but should NOT be reserved or checked-in through iSportsman. Non-hunters, or callers, do not occupy a hunting slot.**

6. **Check-in/out on day of hunt: 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 1400 (2:00 pm). Failure to check out daily will result in suspension of hunting privileges at Fort Knox. Hunting Area reservations will expire at 0800 the day of the hunt to make these areas available for others.**

7. **The spring bag limit on Fort Knox is two (2) male turkeys or turkeys with visible beards. Hunters that harvest a turkey may purchase a second spring turkey hunting permit. A hunter will not take, or attempt to take, more than 1 legal turkey per hunting day. Hunting hours are from 30 minutes before sunrise until 1300 (1:00 pm).**

8. **All turkeys 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 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.

9. Turkeys may be taken with shotguns .410 – 10 gauge (#4 shot or smaller) and archery equipment. Repeating shotguns will be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells. **Rifles, handguns, and over and under shotgun/rifle combinations are prohibited in the hunting areas.** Ten shells maximum in possession per day. 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. Broadheads must be barbless with at least 7/8" cutting diameter. **No more than one weapon system is allowed in your possession while in the Hunting Areas (including your vehicle).**

10. All guns will be separate from ammunition, unloaded, 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 or 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. Hunters shall not hunt 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). Firearms will not be loaded within 100 yards of an improved road, building, structure, or airstrip (HAs 6, 13, 35, and 89). Be aware that military helicopters may be operating throughout the training complex and may temporarily land in the hunting area at least 500 ft. from hunters or vehicles, if necessary.

11. Privately-owned vehicles are not authorized on unimproved roads, trails, or firebreaks 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).

12. Hunters with a Vehicle Methods Exemption Permit may utilize an off-road vehicle during turkey season. 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 Vehicle Methods Exemption Permit must be displayed in the driver's side windshield of the vehicle, along with hunting permit (address and phone number can be obscured).** **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.

13. Turkeys may be taken by the use of hand or mouth operated calls only; electronic calls are prohibited. Calling or attempting to call wild turkeys using any call to mimic the sounds made by a wild turkey is permitted only during legal Fort Knox turkey hunting hours and dates. The use of blinds is permitted. **Blinds must be removed from the hunting area by 1400 (2:00 pm) each day.** Turkey decoys without electronic devices are permitted.

14. Baiting turkeys, such as placing grains, minerals, salt, fruits, vegetables, hay, or any other food materials, whether natural or manufactured, or the possession of such items in the hunting areas is prohibited (including your vehicle). Shooting turkeys while they are roosting is prohibited; a roost is defined as the place where a turkey spends the night.

15. Hunters **must** have in their possession a paper or electronic version of the Fort Knox Hunting and Fishing map. Hunters found out of their assigned hunting area will be cited and suspended. A compass and/or GPS are highly recommended.

16. Adults (21 and over) **must** be in a position to take immediate control of a youth's firearm at all times.

17. Be courteous of other hunters!! Don't cut-off a person working a bird, it is very unsafe and unsportsmanlike. Hunter orange garments are recommended when changing locations or carrying a harvested bird.

18. *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 will be confiscated and disposed of.*