

Tennessee

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 2017-2018



The Refuge

The Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 568 national wildlife refuges across the country. A primary objective of a national wildlife refuge is to provide habitat for the management and protection of all species of wildlife. Hunting is one tool used to manage wildlife populations.

General Hunting Regulations

The refuge is open to hunting during specific refuge seasons for the following species only: squirrel, raccoon, white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and Canada goose. Hunters may only take coyote and beaver incidental to a scheduled refuge hunt for the species listed in this brochure with any weapon legal for that particular hunt. No taking of turtles, crawfish or bullfrogs on refuge. Hunting is permitted on various portions of Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge with the exception of those areas marked "Closed" on the map or by "Closed Area" signs on refuge lands or waters. Applicable Federal and State law and regulations apply. Mobility impaired hunters can contact the refuge office for accessible areas.

- Only legally licensed vehicles are allowed on the Refuge. Vehicles must remain on Refuge roads that are shown on map and designated as open. Parking must not impede the flow of traffic or block gates. ATV and golf cart use on the Refuge is prohibited.
- It is unlawful to hunt within 100 yards of a private dwelling, and to access the refuge across private land without permission from the private landowner. Shooting from or across any road is prohibited.
- Except for raccoon hunting, hunters may access the Refuge two hours before sunrise to two hours after legal sunset.
- Carrying, possessing, or discharging fireworks, or explosives on a national wildlife refuge is prohibited. Firearms are permitted in accordance with state law. Weapons legally possessed for hunting are the same as those prescribed by the state of Tennessee.
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
- Camping and campfires on the refuge are prohibited.
- Horses and mules are prohibited on all refuge hunts.
- Bicycles can be used on refuge hunts but must remain on refuge paved or graveled roads.
- Dogs are allowed for small game hunting and retrieval of geese during the early goose season. All dogs must be restrained by chain or leash if not being legally used for

hunting. Dog owners/handlers must have a collar on each dog with the owners name, and address/or telephone number.

- Temporary blinds or stands permitted on the day of the hunt only. All blinds and stands must be removed at the end of each day's hunt.
- It is unlawful to mark any tree or other feature with paint or similar substance. Please remove all flagging tape and other marking material upon leaving the Refuge.
- All hunters born after January 1, 1969, must have completed a hunter safety course as demonstrated by card or certificate.
- Hunters must wear on the upper portion of their body and head a minimum of 500 square inches of fluorescent orange during all refuge quota, youth hunts, primitive weapons hunt, and muzzleloader hunt.
- Field dressing deer within 50 yards of a public road or trail is prohibited.
- Boats cannot be left on the refuge overnight.
- It is illegal to cut corn stalks, trees or other vegetation on the refuge.

Permits

Each quota or non-quota hunter, age 17 and older, must have on his person a valid State hunting license AND a Refuge Annual Hunting Permit. There is a \$15.00 fee for this permit which is valid for all quota and non-quota hunting. If you have been drawn for a quota hunt and already have your Refuge Annual Hunting Permit, there is no additional permit fee.

The permit fee is non-refundable and the permit is non-transferable. The permit is valid on both Cross Creeks and Tennessee National Wildlife Refuges. **Refuge Annual Hunting Permits may now be obtained from licensing agents through TWRA, online at gooutdoortennessee.com, or on the TWRA mobile app. Please use code 064 when purchasing a refuge permit through a TWRA licensing agent.**

Youth Hunters

Hunters age of 6 through 16 must be accompanied by an adult 21 years old or older who has a refuge hunting permit on his person. The adult must remain in sight and normal voice contact with the youth supervised. For small game hunts, the adult may supervise no more than two youths. For big game hunts, the adult may supervise no more than one youth.

Please respect the following signs

Millions of people visit national wildlife refuges each year. The impact of human activity, if not regulated, can degrade these wild lands. Signs help control recreational activities and respect private property while protecting natural resources on the refuge.



This sign and yellow paint clearly marks all refuge property. **It is your responsibility to know where the property lines are and hunt within the boundaries.**

This area is closed to all entry. No entering, hunting or sightseeing is permitted. No roads or trails beyond this sign are open to the public. Some of these signs may have dates indicating the length of time the area is closed.

This area is closed to all vehicles, and horseback riding. Entry is only permitted by foot or bicycle.

This sign marks areas closed to all hunting.

Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge
1371 Wildlife Drive
Springville, TN 38256
731/642/2091
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/tennessee>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
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- The Refuge Annual Hunt Permit may be purchased only through TWRA licensing agents using code 064.
- There is a new online quota hunt application process that requires hunters to create an account with RecAccess to apply.
- Earn-a-buck antlerless deer can now be taken on any refuge hunt prior to the quota hunt including archery, primitive weapons, muzzleloader and youth hunts. Antlerless deer must be taken on Tennessee refuge hunts.
- Refuge now open for state deer muzzleloader hunt November 4-9, 13-14, 2017
- Quota hunt application deadline is August 7th.

Quota Hunts - Deer

All refuge quota hunts require an online application. See section "How to Apply." All deer killed on the refuge must be checked at the nearest check station or online, or by using TWRA mobile app. Make sure Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge is noted as "location of kill or kill code 152."

Deer taken during refuge youth hunt, primitive weapons hunt, and quota hunts **are not counted** in regular season bag and possession limits.

Scouting during quota hunts, youth hunts and primitive weapons hunt is prohibited.

If drawn, hunters must have on their person a quota hunt permit in addition to the Annual Hunt Permit and a valid State license.

Earn-a-Buck

This requirement is only applicable to hunters selected for the two firearms quota hunts. One antlerless deer must be taken before harvesting an antlered deer. The antlerless deer can be taken on any hunt, including archery, youth, primitive weapons or muzzleloader hunts prior to the refuge quota hunt. The earn-a-buck antlerless deer must be taken on Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge. How to Apply for Quota Hunts:

How to Apply for Quota Hunts

Online Applications

You can apply for quota hunts online at <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/tennessee>. Each hunter will be required to create an account with RecAccess. You will only be required to do this once, this will make it easier to apply in future years. Each hunter will be assigned a RecAccess Identification (RAID) number that will be an individual hunter's identification number that will remain consistent from year to year. Deadline to apply is midnight on August 7th.

New Application Fee

There will be a \$5.00 application fee per hunter charged with each online quota hunt application. There are no refunds for application fees.

Please note, submissions of any person's name more than once for the same hunt type will result in disqualification.

Group Applications

Up to five hunters may apply as a hunt party. One hunter will need to apply for the entire hunt party during the online application process. You will need each hunter's RAID number in that hunt party to apply. **All application fees for that hunt party will be charged at one time to the individual applying for the party.** There are no refunds for application fees.

Preference Points

Due to the change in vendors for the quota hunt, applicants will not have preference points for the 2017 quota hunts. All applicants will start with zero preference points this year. Hunters will have the opportunity to gain preference points in the draw. Each time you apply and are not drawn for a permit you will receive one preference point. Groups or individuals with the highest average preference points will be drawn first, groups and individuals with the next highest will be drawn second, etc. until all permits are filled. After you are drawn for a quota hunt permit, your preference points equal zero. The preference points for a hunt party will be determined by taking an average of all the hunters in the party.

Drawing Notification

The drawing will be held after August 7th and notifications will be sent out on August 14th by email. If you do not receive your notification email, be sure to check your spam folder. You can also check your status and download your permit on the refuge website at www.fws.gov/refuge/tennessee. You will need your RAID number and your email address submitted for the application.

Hunt area location	Hunt area number	Permits available (per quota hunt)
Sulphur Wells/ Britton Ford	1	25
Big Sandy Peninsula	2	100
Duck River Bottoms	3	75
Duck River Remainder	4	100
Busseltown	5	35

September Resident Canada Goose

See separate hunt regulations handout available at refuge headquarters and information kiosks on the refuge.

2017-2018 Season Dates and Regulations for Refuge Hunts

Hunters may only take coyote and beaver incidental to scheduled refuge hunts listed below. The hunting of any other species not listed below is not permitted. This includes but is not limited to bobcat, river otter and fox. All state bag limits, season lengths and weapon regulations apply unless otherwise specified.

Type	Season dates	Bag limit	Refuge specific regulations
Squirrel	Fall Statewide Season - November 14. Spring squirrel open with statewide season. Season closed during the weekend quota hunts, refuge youth, statewide youth, and primitive weapons hunts.	State bag limits apply.	Dogs are permitted.
Resident Canada goose	September 1; coincides with state season. Closed the day before the start of early wood duck/teal season.	State bag limits apply.	Resident Canada Goose hunt is non-quota. See separate hunt regulations handout available at the refuge headquarters.
Deer (archery only) Fall Turkey (shotgun/archery)	Statewide Season - November 14. Season closed during the weekend quota deer hunts, refuge youth hunt, primitive weapons, and statewide youth hunts.	Three deer, only one can be antlered. Turkey and deer taken are counted as part of the statewide bag limit. Any antlerless deer harvested prior to refuge quota hunts can count as an earn-a-buck deer.	State tagging requirements apply. Make sure that Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge is noted as "location of kill or kill code 152." Scouting during quota hunts, primitive weapons, refuge and statewide youth hunt is prohibited.
Primitive Weapons	October 7-8, 2017	Three deer, only one can be antlered. Deer taken are bonus deer. Any antlerless deer harvested prior to refuge quota hunts can count as an earn-a-buck deer. Deer must be taken on Tennessee refuge hunts.	Hunt limited to Long Bow, Recurve Bow and Side-hammered muzzleloader with iron sites only. State tagging requirements apply. Make sure that Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge is noted as "location of kill or kill code 152."
Deer - Quota Hunt (gun/archery/muzzleloader)	October 13-15, 2017 November 10-12, 2017	Three deer, only one can be antlered. One antlerless deer must be taken before harvesting an antlered deer. Any antlerless deer harvested prior to refuge quota hunts can count as an earn-a-buck deer. Deer must be taken on Tennessee refuge hunts. Deer taken are bonus deer.	Quota hunt permit required. State tagging requirements apply. Make sure that Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge is noted as "location of kill or kill code 152."
Youth Deer (gun/archery/muzzleloader)	September 30-October 1, 2017 Also open during statewide youth hunt, October 28-29, 2017	Three deer, only one can be antlered. Deer taken are bonus deer during refuge youth hunt September 30-October 1. Deer taken during statewide youth hunt October 28-29 will be counted as part of the statewide bag limit. Any antlerless deer harvested on the Refuge prior to refuge quota hunts can count as an earn-a-buck deer. Deer must be taken on Tennessee NWR refuge hunts.	A Refuge Annual Hunt Permit is not required for a youth hunter, but it is required for the supervising adult. Make sure that Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge is noted as "location of kill or kill code 152."
Deer (muzzleloader)	November 4-9, 13-14, 2017	State bag limits apply. Any antlerless deer harvested prior to refuge quota hunts can count as an earn-a-buck deer. Deer must be taken on Tennessee refuge hunts.	State tagging requirements apply. Make sure that Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge is noted as "location of kill or kill code 152."
Raccoon	September 15-29, 2017 October 2-6, 9-12, 16-19, 23-27, 2017 October 30-November 3, 2017	State bag limits apply.	Dogs are permitted. Hunting begins at sunset on first day of each hunt and ends at sunrise on last day of each hunt.
Spring Turkey	Spring turkey season open during statewide season, including youth hunt.	State bag limits apply. Turkeys taken are counted as part of the statewide bag limit.	Calling or attempting to call turkeys on the refuge is prohibited from March 1 until opening of spring turkey season.

Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge

