

Deer Hunting Regulations

National Conservation Training Center

1. NCTC reserves the right cancel any hunt at anytime due to NCTC mission obligations or severe weather conditions. Every effort will be made to post cancellations in advance; however, this may not always be possible due to the potential for unexpected situations.
2. All hunters must have completed the online NCTC deer hunt orientation (website link) by 30 September. Failure to complete the orientation by the deadline will result in a hunter not being allowed to enter NCTC.
3. Hunters who have completed the online deer hunting orientation must present a Real ID compliant identification to enter NCTC. For a list of acceptable Real ID compliant identification, visit <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification>.
4. Hunters must comply with all NCTC and West Virginia state hunting laws and regulations. WV hunting regulations can be obtained from local license agents or online at http://www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/hunting_regs.shtm.
5. All hunters, including adults accompanying youth hunters, are required to have completed an approved hunter education course. Information about WV DNR sponsored courses can be found online at <https://register-ed.com/programs/westvirginia/189-hunter-education-program>.
6. All persons hunting on NCTC must obtain the appropriate WV deer hunting license, stamps, and hunters education certificate, and present them at check-in. For information on WV hunting licenses and stamps go to <http://www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/licensing.shtm>.
7. Children must be at least 10 years of age to hunt at NCTC. Youth hunters 10 to 14 years of age must possess a hunter education certificate and be accompanied by a licensed adult that also has successfully completed a hunter education course. Refer to WV DNR hunting regulations for appropriate license requirements for youth hunters and hunters age 65 or older.
8. All persons using elevated stands must use a commercially made safety harness. Home-made harnesses are not permitted.
9. All archery weapons, including crossbows, legal for hunting deer in West Virginia are allowed on NCTC and may be used during all NCTC deer hunts.
10. All archery equipment must be unloaded while traveling to and from designated hunting locations. Traditional and compound bows are considered loaded when an arrow is knocked. Crossbows are considered loaded when a bolt is in the flight groove. Crossbow strings may not be cocked until a hunter is in place in a tree stand or blind.
11. Hunters may not wire, screw, bolt, or nail steps, stands or other objects to trees. Pruning and cutting brush or limbs is not permitted.

12. Archery hunters within designated archery only zones may hunt from a pre-existing ladder stand or blind, or a personal stand or blind erected by the hunter within 50 yards around the pre-existing ladder stand. Only portable climbing equipment and ground blinds are permitted within 50 yards of a pre-existing ladder stand or blind and must be removed at the end of the hunt. Hunter erected free-standing or ladder stands are not permitted. The placing of personal hunting stands the day before a hunt is not permitted.
13. Archery hunters are allowed a full 360-degree zone of fire.
14. All hunters during the NCTC firearms hunts must wear a minimum of 400 sq. inches of blaze orange, including archery hunters.
15. Shotgun and muzzleloader hunters must hunt from an NCTC provided ladder stand or blind and must limit shooting to within the zone marked by white and orange painted posts. No firearms hunter will be allowed to use a personal stand or blind. Hunters not comfortable hunting from a ladder stand may hunt from the base of the tree containing an NCTC provided ladder stand, facing the same direction as the ladder stand.
16. Modern shotguns of 20 gauge or larger and muzzleloaders meeting WV requirements are permitted during the NCTC firearms seasons.
17. Non-toxic ammunition must be used in all firearms, including muzzleloaders. Non-toxic ammunition is also known as lead-free or non-lead. See the USFWS Lead Free website for more information at <https://www.fws.gov/initiative/lead-free>.
18. Only muzzleloaders and archery equipment may be used during the December NCTC muzzleloader deer hunt. Refer to WV deer regulations for archery equipment regulations during the WV muzzleloader season.
19. Possession of handguns on NCTC is prohibited by federal law. Handguns may not be used for deer hunting on NCTC.
20. Firearms must be unloaded with the action open while traveling to and from designated hunting locations. Muzzleloaders are considered unloaded when uncapped, when the priming charge is removed from the pan, or when the primer is removed from an inline muzzleloader.
21. All hunters participating in regular NCTC deer hunts must harvest an antlerless deer (doe, or male deer with no antler longer than 3-inches) on NCTC before being eligible to harvest an antlered deer on NCTC. An antlerless deer taken anytime during the current year's season on NCTC qualifies a hunter to take an antlered deer during that same season on NCTC in accordance with their appropriate WV deer hunting license and stamps. A hunter can only be eligible for one antlered deer on NCTC at a time. Harvesting two antlerless deer back-to-back does not earn eligibility for two back-to-back antlered deer. Once an antlered deer is taken, another antlerless deer must be taken before an additional antlered buck is allowed. Antlered buck eligibility will not carry over to the next year's deer season.
22. Hunters participating in an NCTC designated mentorship hunt may harvest any deer in accordance with their WV deer hunting license and stamps.

23. The use of scents is permitted. However, scent applicators and all litter must be removed at the end of your hunt. Failure to remove litter will result in being ineligible for future NCTC deer hunts.
24. All hunters are required to check in at the NCTC check station prior to hunting and check out at the NCTC check station when they are finished hunting. All harvested deer must be checked in electronically and tagged at the NCTC check station before they are removed from the property. All harvested deer will be weighed and aged at the NCTC check station.
25. Hunters must park in the designated parking spot for their hunt location without blocking trails or roadways. Hunters must use designated trails when walking to and from hunting locations.
26. Tracking wounded deer beyond 100 yards from a hunting stand or blind must be done in the presence of an NCTC hunt staff member.
27. Hunters may not track wounded deer with a firearm or archery equipment beyond 100 yards. Hunting weapons should be unloaded and left at the stand or blind or cased in the hunter's vehicle when tracking beyond 100 yards is necessary.
28. Deer must be field dressed a minimum of 50 yards from any hunting stand, blind, trail, or road or at the designated field dressing area near the NCTC Hunt Check Station if the before mentioned conditions cannot be met. Hunters using locations 24, 25, 26, and 28 must use the designated area for field dressing near the NCTC Hunt Check Station.
29. The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs, drones) is not permitted on NCTC.
30. The Saturday closest to Veterans Day will be a Military Preference Hunt. Hunters showing proof of current or former military service will draw for hunt locations first. All other hunters will be drawn for any remaining hunt locations after the Military Preference draw.
31. Call 911 immediately for any severe or life-threatening injuries before notifying NCTC staff or Security. Report any injury or accident to staff at the NCTC Check Station in person or by phone (304-876-7782), or to NCTC Security (304-876-7911) as soon as possible.

NCTC 2025 Deer Hunt Dates and Times

Morning Hunt Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Registration</u>	<u>Morning Draw</u>	<u>Hunt Starts</u>	<u>Sunrise</u>	<u>Hunt Ends</u>	<u>Check-Out By</u>
10/18	5:15	5:45	6:54	7:24	11:30	Noon
11/15	5:15	5:45	6:25	6:55	11:30	Noon
11/22	5:15	5:45	6:33	7:03	11:30	Noon
11/29	5:15	5:45	6:40	7:10	11:30	Noon
12/06	5:15	5:45	6:47	7:17	11:30	Noon
12/13	5:15	5:45	6:53	7:23	11:30	Noon
12/20	5:15	5:45	6:57	7:27	11:30	Noon

Afternoon Hunt Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Registration</u>	<u>Afternoon Draw</u>	<u>Hunt Starts</u>	<u>Sunset</u>	<u>Hunt Ends</u>	<u>Check-Out By</u>
10/18	12:30	1:00	1:30	6:29	6:59	7:30
11/15	12:30	1:00	1:30	4:57	5:27	6:00
11/22	12:30	1:00	1:30	4:52	5:22	6:00
11/29	12:30	1:00	1:30	4:49	5:19	6:00
12/06	12:30	1:00	1:30	4:47	5:17	6:00
12/13	12:30	1:00	1:30	4:48	5:18	6:00
12/20	12:30	1:00	1:30	4:50	5:20	6:00

All Hunters MUST report to the NCTC Deer Hunt Check Station for check-in and check-out.

NCTC Deer Hunt Website: <https://www.fws.gov/nctc/visit-us/activities/hunting>

NCTC Deer Hunt Email: nctc_deerhunt@fws.gov

NCTC Deer Check Station Phone: **304-876-7782; only answered on hunt days**

Mailing Address: National Conservation Training Center, 698 Conservation Way Shepherdstown, WV 25443

4 October Scouting Day 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

18 October Special Early Hunt – Firearms and Archery Hunt

15 November Military Preference Hunt – Archery Only Hunt (Hunters showing proof of current or former military service will draw for hunt locations first. All other hunters will be drawn for any remaining hunt locations after the Military Preference draw.)

22 November Archery Only Hunt

29 November Firearms & Archery Hunt

6 December Firearms & Archery Hunt

13 December Firearms (Antlerless only) & Archery Hunt

20 December Muzzleloader & Archery Hunt