



United States Department of the Interior  
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge  
1730 Eastern Neck Road  
Rock Hall, MD 21661



Dear Youth Hunter:

Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge (refuge) will host its annual mentored youth turkey hunt in partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation on April 11 and April 18, 2026. To apply please review the instructions and email the completed application by 3pm on March 20<sup>th</sup> to [easternneck@fws.gov](mailto:easternneck@fws.gov). All youth selected must attend a mandatory virtual orientation on April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm and will be assigned one hunt day.

Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge is part of the Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The refuge is one of 573 national wildlife refuges in the United States which primary objective is to provide habitat for the conservation and protection of wildlife. The refuge is an island located at the confluence of the Chester River and the Chesapeake Bay and provides important migration and wintering habitat for migratory birds, namely waterfowl. To learn more visit [https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Eastern\\_Neck/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Eastern_Neck/).

For questions or comments, please email: [easternneck@fws.gov](mailto:easternneck@fws.gov)

Sincerely,

Nicole Hengst

Wildlife Biologist – Chesapeake Marshlands NWR Complex

**2026 YOUTH TURKEY HUNT INSTRUCTIONS**  
**EASTERN NECK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
Department of the Interior - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Application Instructions:**

1. Only youths ages 12 through 16 on the day of the hunt who were not chosen for previous youth turkey hunts are eligible.
2. All interested applicants must complete a Hunt Application form. Under 'Hunt Date Choices', please indicate your first and second choice for your hunt date – April 11 or April 18, 2026. If you are selected and your first date choice is full, you will be offered your second date choice. Both the applicant and the applicant's parent or guardian must sign the form.
3. Fill out and sign the Agreement for Use of Likeness in Audio/Visual Products form.
4. Completed application forms must be received by **3pm on Friday, March 20, 2026** to be entered into the lottery. Email completed forms (scanned or Adobe PDFs preferred) to [easternneck@fws.gov](mailto:easternneck@fws.gov). Illegible applications (i.e. blurry photos) may not be included in the lottery.

**Information/Regulations:**

1. The drawing to select youth hunters will be held on **Monday, March 23, 2026**, and all successful applicants will be notified by email on **March 23, 2026**.
2. Youth hunters must email ([easternneck@fws.gov](mailto:easternneck@fws.gov)) their valid state hunting license **one week prior to the hunt day** and are required to attend a mandatory virtual orientation on **April 8, 2026 at 6pm**. Youth hunters must carry their valid state hunting license with them on the day of the hunt.
3. The morning briefing will be held at 5am the day of the hunt at the Tundra Swan Boardwalk located at the entrance of the refuge.
4. Youth hunters must be accompanied by the assigned licensed, non-hunting adult provided by the National Wild Turkey Federation who will act as a mentor. Youths may also be accompanied by a non-hunting parent or guardian.
5. Legal hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to noon.  
Sunrise April 11, 2026: 6:34am                      Sunrise April 18, 2026: 6:24am
6. Loaded weapons are not permitted in parking areas or on paved or graveled roads.
7. Hunting of turkey is permitted only in designated areas of the refuge. See Youth Turkey Hunt Map.
8. Bag limit is one bearded turkey.
9. All other Maryland State rules and regulations related to the state's spring turkey season are applicable and will be enforced during the special hunt on the refuge.

# 2026 YOUTH TURKEY HUNT INSTRUCTIONS

## EASTERN NECK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Department of the Interior - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge

Youth Turkey Hunt Map



Produced by Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
Cambridge, Maryland  
Produced: February 2026  
Basemap: ESRI World Imagery  
File: ESN\_Hunt\_Map\_2025.aprx



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**HUNT APPLICATION**  
**National Wildlife Refuge System**

**Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge**  
1730 Eastern Neck Road, Rock Hall, MD 21661  
(410) 228-2677  
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/eastern-neck>



Follow instructions in the refuge hunt publication; not all fields may be required. Read and comply with all refuge regulations, including application deadlines.

☐ Lottery Application: Both the applicant and the applicant's parent or guardian must sign this form. Completed application forms must be received by **3 pm on Friday, March 20, 2026** to be entered into the lottery. Email all completed forms to [easternneck@fws.gov](mailto:easternneck@fws.gov).

**Hunt Application**

Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_

Method

☒ Shotgun

Species Permit Type

☒ Youth Turkey Hunt

**Primary Hunter Contact Information**

☐ Check if Youth Hunter (*Aged 12 through 16 years old*)

Full Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age at Time of Hunt (*Youth Hunter Only*) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone (Incl. Area Code) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (Incl. Area Code) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Contact Information** (*Required Only for Youth Hunters*)

Full Legal Name of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Youth \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone (Incl. Area Code) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (Incl. Area Code) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Hunt Date Choices**

Please indicate your first and second choice for your hunt date. If you are selected and your first date choice is full, you will be offered your second date choice.

1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

*I have read and understand the refuge hunt regulations and agree to abide by the regulations governing hunting on the refuge.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hunter Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

(Required for hunters less than 18 years old)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

**FOR USFWS USE ONLY**

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ ☒ Payment Exempt/No Fee ☐ Payment Required Payment Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Type: ☐ Personal Check ☐ Cashier's Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Other:

Notes:

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**NOTICES**

All information you provide will be considered in reviewing this application. False, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations made in the application may be grounds for revocation of the permit and may be punishable by fine or imprisonment (18 U.S.C. 1001).

**PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT**

**Authority:** The information requested is authorized by the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act (16 U.S.C. 668dd-ee) as amended and the Refuge Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. 460k – 460k-4, 640K-3, & 664).

**Purpose:** The collection of personal information is to verify that an individual is eligible to receive a permit to conduct monitored activity on areas within the National Wildlife Refuge System, national fish hatcheries, and other conservation areas administered by the Secretary of the Interior for fish and wildlife purposes.

**Routine Uses:** The individual's information will be used to verify permit status, provide permittees with permit-related information, and monitor activities conducted under a permit. This information may be shared in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and the routine uses listed in the System of Records Notices: FWS-5 National Wildlife Refuge Special Use Permits; FWS-21 Permits System; FWS-10 National Fish Hatchery Special Use Permits.

**Disclosure:** Providing the information is voluntary; however, as a requirement for maintaining a Federal permit under the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, failure to disclose the requested information may be sufficient cause for revocation of the permit.

**PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT**

We are collecting this information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) to provide the refuge managers the information needed to decide whether or not to allow the requested use, and to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act of 1974. The information that you provide is voluntary; however, submission of the requested information is required to evaluate the qualifications, determine eligibility, and document permit applicants. Failure to provide all required information is sufficient cause for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to deny a permit. We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. OMB has approved this collection of information and assigned OMB Control No. 1018-0140.

**ESTIMATED BURDEN STATEMENT**

Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Service Information Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), Falls Church, VA 22041-3803, or via email at [Info\\_Coll@fws.gov](mailto:Info_Coll@fws.gov). Please do not send your completed application to this address.

***APPLICANT DOES NOT NEED TO PRINT OR RETURN THIS PAGE***



**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

# Agreement for Use of Likeness in Audio/Visual Products

## *General Release*

**Event** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby grant permission to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to record my name, likeness, image, voice, and/or sound, at the event specified above, and to place these recordings in the public domain.

As a result of these recordings being voluntarily placed in the public domain, the USFWS, or anyone else, may freely modify, reproduce, display, and/or distribute them in any media without limitation and without my approval or permission, with no monetary compensation to me.

The United States will be held harmless and have no liability for any use by any person or entity of the recordings made subject to this agreement.

### **Adult**

I am at least 18 years of age and am competent to contract in my own name. I have read this release before signing below and fully understand the content, meaning, and impact of this release.

**Printed Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Minor Child (Under the age of 18)**

**Printed Name of Child/Children/Age** \_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Name of Parent/Legal Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_

### **For Internal Use**

**Producer** \_\_\_\_\_ **Production Date(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Production/Shoot Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Production Location(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Information**