

General Provisions

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 573 national wildlife refuges. Its primary objective is to provide vital wintering habitat for migratory birds. The harvest of surplus animals is one tool used to maintain wildlife populations at levels compatible with available habitat.

The regulations below supplement Federal regulations (Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations) governing hunting on national wildlife refuges. Hunting is conducted in accordance with applicable State regulations.

Prohibited Activities

- Target practice is prohibited.
- Driving game is prohibited.
- Wood gathering, camping, littering, and fires are prohibited.
- Leashed dogs may be used for trailing injured game. Other use of dogs prohibited except for Piney Island Waterfowl hunt.
- Unleashed dogs prohibited.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages in Refuge hunting areas is prohibited.
- The placing of or hunting over bait is prohibited.
- It is unlawful to insert a nail, spike or other metal object into any tree or to hunt from any tree in which a nail, spike or other metal object has been inserted.
- Hunting from any paved or unpaved Refuge road is prohibited.
- Vehicle access on numbered roads only.
- Use of flagging tape and reflective tacks prohibited. Painting or defacing plants or trees prohibited.
- ATVs are prohibited on refuge hunts, except during **scheduled** mobility impaired hunt.
- Hunting or cleaning of game within 1000 feet of any residence, information stations or developed public recreation area is prohibited.
- Disposing of carcasses within 50 ft. of numbered or named roads is prohibited.
- The Refuge is open to daylight use only, except for authorized hunting activities.
- Use of artificial light to locate or take wildlife is prohibited.
- Stands and wildlife cameras may only be used during hunts and must be removed after each hunt. The refuge is not responsible for any property left on refuge lands.

Quota Hunts Permits

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will be handling all hunt permits for St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. Applications may be submitted at any license agent or tax collector or on-line at <https://myfwc.com/hunting/> beginning at 10 am (Eastern Time) May 15-June 15, 2026. Spring Turkey application period will begin Nov. 1-30, 2026.

Deer/Hog Quota Hunts Bag Limit

Deer: Two deer per hunt, either two antlerless deer or one antlerless deer and one antlered deer. Antlerless deer are defined per state regulations as deer with no antler or antlers less than 5". Antlered deer must have at least three points (each one inch or greater) or a main beam of at least 10 inches on one antler. Youth hunters 15 years and younger may harvest any deer except spotted fawn, bag limit applies. **White-tailed Deer annual State bag limit is in effect for all Refuge hunts, and State harvest reporting requirements apply.**
Hogs: Unlimited per hunt.

Panacea Unit Fall Archery

200 permits Nov. 3-Nov. 7, 2026 Tuesday - Saturday
Species: white-tailed deer; hogs. Bag limit: See Deer/Hog Quota hunt bag limit section. **Area:** Panacea Unit only.
Weapons: State regulations for archery equipment.

Wakulla Unit Fall Archery

200 permits - Nov. 10-14, 2026 Tuesday - Saturday
Species: white-tailed deer; hogs. Bag limit: See Deer/Hog Quota hunt bag limit section. **Area:** Wakulla Unit only.
Weapons: State regulations for archery equipment.

Wakulla Unit General Gun Hunt

150 permits - Dec. 12-14, 2026 Saturday - Monday
Species: white-tailed deer; hogs. Bag limit: See Deer/Hog Quota hunt bag limit section. **Area:** Wakulla Unit only.
Weapons: State regulations for taking deer.

Panacea Unit General Gun Hunt

80 permits - Dec. 19-21, 2026 Saturday - Monday
Species: white-tailed deer; hogs. Bag limit: See Deer/Hog Quota hunt bag limit section **Area:** Panacea Unit only.
Weapons: State regulations for taking deer.

Mobility-impaired Person Gun Hunt

30 permits Dec. 12-14, 2026 Saturday - Monday
Species: white-tailed deer; hogs. Bag limit: See Deer/Hog Quota hunt bag limit section. **Area:** section of Panacea Unit west

of Highway 372 (Buckhorn Creek area) and east of US 98 to Spring Creek. See map. **Weapons:** State regulations for taking deer under State guidelines, permits are not transferable.

Spring Turkey

75 permits - April 6-10, 2026, hunting hours 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset.

Species: turkeys and hogs. Bag limit: one gobbler or bearded turkey and unlimited hogs per hunt. **Area:** Panacea and Wakulla Units only. **Weapons:** Only bows, crossbows, and shotguns using #2 or smaller shot may be used for hunting turkey. For hogs, all state legal weapons allowed. Turkey annual State bag limit is in effect and State harvest reporting requirements apply.

Port Leon Youth Hunting Area

Applications available online with the Youth Hunting Program of Florida at https://outreach.myfwc.com/events/event_list.asp?show=&group=&start=12/21/2012&end=&view=&cid=4484

Youth Deer Hunt: Dec. 4-6, 2026

Youth Spring Turkey Hunt: March 26-28, 2027

Newport Hunt Area

The Newport Hunt Area requires a hunt permit issued by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). A total of 250 permits will be sold for this unit, and each permit is valid for all hunting opportunities during the Newport hunt season. Driving access is limited to Grade 6, Grade 8, and Grade 10 only. Hunters must possess a valid refuge hunt permit, Florida hunting license, and all required State stamps for the weapon used and game being hunted.

Archery Season Sept. 12 - Oct. 11, 2026

Legal to hunt: Antlered deer must have at least three points (each one inch or greater) or a main beam of at least 10 inches on one antler. State daily harvest and annual bag limits apply. Hogs unlimited. Archery hunters may also take antlerless deer during the archery season, (which includes does, and bucks with less than five inches in length, but not spotted fawn), and turkey of either sex.

Weapons: State legal archery equipment.

Muzzleloading Gun Season Oct. 17 - Oct. 31, 2026

Legal to hunt: Antlered deer must have at least three points (each one inch or greater) or a main beam of at least 10 inches on one antler. State daily harvest and annual bag limits apply. Hogs unlimited. **Weapons:** Muzzleloading gun, bow and crossbow only.

General Gun Season Nov. 7, 2026- Jan. 17, 2027

Legal to hunt: Antlered deer must have at least three points (each one inch or greater) or a main beam of at least 10 inches on one antler. State daily harvest and annual bag limits apply. Hogs unlimited.

Weapons: State regulations for species being hunted.

Small Game Season Nov. 7, 2026 - Feb 28, 2027

Species: gray squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, and hogs.

Weapons: All State legal weapons allowed.

Spring Turkey Season

Hunting allowed 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset.

Youth Turkey: March 12-15, 2027

Spring Turkey: March 20 - April 25, 2027

Legal to Hunt: gobbler or bearded turkeys only, State harvest limits apply. Hogs unlimited. **Weapons:** Only bows, crossbows, and shotguns using #2 or smaller shot may to used for hunting turkey. For hogs, all state legal weapons allowed. Turkey annual state bag limit is in effect for all Refuge hunts, and State harvest reporting requirements apply.

Non-quota Hunt Permits

Small Game and Hogs

Dec. 26, 2026 - Jan. 11, 2027

Species: gray squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, and hogs.

Area: both Panacea and Wakulla Units and Aucilla River Area.

Weapons: All State legal weapons allowed, including buckshot and slugs (Permits: available on website and Refuge office).

Piney Island Waterfowl Hunt

State Season

Species: ducks and coots.

Area: Piney Island only. Hunting from blinds left in area for more than one day prohibited. Remove blinds, trash and spent shells daily. Use of island plants for blinds prohibited.

Weapons: non-toxic shot only.

Permits: No specific Refuge permit required. Must follow all State and federal waterfowl hunting regulations.

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 68

St. Marks, FL 32355

850-925-6121

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/st-marks>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

<http://southeast.fws.gov>

May 2026



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

St. Marks

National Wildlife Refuge
Hunting Regulations 2026-2027



This brochure must be signed to be valid for the small game non-quota hunt and all hunts on the Wakulla and Panacea hunt areas. It must be carried by the hunter while hunting. Gates are not open for pre-hunt scouting by vehicles.

Name *(Please print)*

I have read and understand the refuge hunting regulations.

Signature *(Permits are not transferable)*

Specific Hunting Regulations

Public hunting is permitted on approximately 40,000 acres as shown on this map.

All hunters must have a valid Florida hunting license, a refuge hunt permit, and a signed refuge hunting brochure for small game hunts in the Wakulla and Panacea hunt areas. State Management Area stamps are not required. A State archery stamp will be required for all archery hunts. A turkey stamp is required to hunt turkey. State and Federal waterfowl stamps are required to hunt waterfowl. All refuge deer hunters must possess a valid State deer stamp and all required State permits and stamps.

Foot/vehicle access into the refuge hunt area will be through designated access points (see map). No access along portions of public roads (see map). Vehicular access shown on map may vary according to weather and ground conditions. Vehicles are restricted to established roads. Boat access not permitted except to Piney Island for waterfowl hunting.

Pre-hunt scouting on foot is allowed anytime during daylight hours. The hunt area will be open to vehicles, weather permitting, two days before each quota hunt. Vehicle access in hunt area by permitted hunters only. Stands can not be placed prior to pre-hunt scouting for the hunt drawn. All stands must be removed by midnight on the final day of the hunt. Portions of the hunt area may be temporarily closed due to wildlife management activities, including prescribed burns. The refuge reserves the right to close areas as needed. Stand hours from ½ hour before sunrise to 1 ½ hours after sunrise are observed during big game hunts as a hunter courtesy.

Youth hunters (younger than 16 years) must possess a valid refuge permit and be supervised by a permitted adult 21 years of age or older and must remain within sight or normal voice contact of the adult. For big game hunts, the adult may supervise only one youth. For small game hunts, the adult may supervise no more than two youths.

All State and Federal regulations must be followed at all times.

<https://myfwc.com/hunting/>

850-488-3831

