

News Release



Santee National Wildlife Refuge

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Website: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Santee/Visit/Visitor_Activities/Hunting.html

For Immediate Release: August 6, 2020

Deer Hunting at Santee National Wildlife Refuge

Santee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) announces the following dates for white-tailed deer hunting during the 2020-2021 season:

- Cuddo Unit, Archery Only: September 26 - October 10, 2020
- Cuddo Unit, Primitive Weapons Only: October 16 - 18, 2020 and November 6 - 8, 2020
- Pine Island Unit, Archery Only: September 26 - October 10, 2020
- Pine Island Unit, Primitive Weapons Only: October 16 - 18, 2020 and November 6 - 8, 2020

Hunters should read and be familiar with the 2020-2021 Santee NWR regulations prior to hunting. The hunting regulations brochure can be found on the Refuge website, and will also be available in Refuge kiosks in September. Persons needing reasonable accommodations should contact the Refuge Manager at least two (2) weeks prior to the hunt to allow sufficient time to process requests.

We will continue our “Family, Friends and Kids Hunts” to encourage adults to share an outdoor experience with kids by bringing a youth hunting with them. All interested hunters must complete a Quota Deer Hunt Application to participate in this special hunt at Santee NWR. Applications can be downloaded from the Refuge website, or you may write, email or call to receive an application. Applications must be completed and returned to the refuge by September 12, 2020. Up to 12 applicants will be randomly selected for each of the 4 hunt dates.

- Bluff Unit, Family, Friends and Kids Hunt: October 10 - 11, 2020 and October 24 - 25, 2020

The following rules apply for the “Family, Friends, and Kids Hunts:

- To be eligible, each hunting party must include a youth (17 years of age or younger) and an adult at least 21 years old with a valid hunting license. Anyone born after June 30, 1979 must complete a hunter education course to hunt/discharge a weapon on the Refuge, including youth under the age of 17
- Both the adult and youth may possess a firearm and harvest deer (see more information below); hunters are also permitted to take feral hogs as an incidental take
- For youth to harvest a deer, they must be between 10-17 years of age, have a valid hunter education certificate and be accompanied by an adult. Youth ages 16 or 17 must be properly licensed.
- Youth under 10 years of age, or older youth without a valid hunter education certificate are welcome to participate, but will not be allowed to possess or discharge a firearm.

- Valid hunting license and hunter education card (if required) should be in the hunter's possession while hunting on the Refuge
- Legal weapons for these hunts include muzzleloaders or shotguns with slugs
- Fixed, two-person ladder stands will be provided for hunters with both the youth and accompanying adult hunting from the same stand. Travel to and from the designated deer stands may be provided by refuge staff; all hunters will be required to stay in their respective stands until the end of the hunt period around noon
- Items you will need to bring include: a shotgun with slug ammunition or a muzzleloader, bug spray, flashlight, an orange hat and vest, hunting license if you are age 16 and older, and proof of hunter education. If a hunter does not bring the proper orange required, they will not be permitted to hunt.
- All participants must check in at the Santee NWR Visitor Center no later than 5:30 a.m. on the day of your scheduled hunt. If you are not present and checked in by 5:30 am, your hunting opportunity will be given to standby hunters. The Refuge Visitor Center is located 8 miles south of Summerton on U. S. Hwy. 15/301 (exit 102 off of Interstate 95).

For questions and additional information, please contact: Santee NWR, 2125 Fort Watson Road, Summerton, SC 29148, call 803-478-2217, email monica_williams@fws.gov or visit the Refuge website at: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Santee/Visit/Visitor_Activities/Hunting.html

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National Wildlife Refuges...Where Wildlife Comes Naturally!

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