



2026 Deer Hunting 101 – Mentor/Youth/Apprentice

Application Deadline

Must be received by 4 PM August 14, 2026

Requirements

- South Dakota Resident
- Mentor hunters must be 12+ years old.
- Parent or Guardian present during the education and hunt with youth or mentor hunters.
- Parent or Guardian written permission.
- Accompanied by a GFP employee/volunteer.
- Attend a range day to demonstrate shooting proficiency
- Purchase a \$5 mentor, youth, or apprentice permit.

The Hunt

Will be for antlerless deer only. All the hunts will take place on private land. Will coordinate the hunt according to your availability. We hunt both weekdays and weekends.

Will include time at the gun range, education on safety, deer hunting tactics, how to properly care for and process a deer, and the hunt. We hunt all types of weather conditions. Be sure to dress accordingly.

Selection Process

The selection process will occur following the end of the application deadline. The selection will be a lottery process and those successful in the lottery will be contacted by phone or email. Note: if the season allows, those unsuccessful in the lottery will be added as space opens up.

Other FAQs

- Season Dates: September 12, 2026 – January 1, 2027
- **This unique opportunity is available for both youth and adults.**
- Applicants will have to qualify with a rifle after some lessons and instruction from GFP Staff prior to the hunt.
- After the hunt we will help process your harvest or drop off at a locker at your expense.
- Following the Hunting 101 Experience, participants will be asked to provide a 1 Page Paper about their experience to Game, Fish and Parks.
- Permit can be purchased online once applications are available or at the Sioux Falls Regional office after June 15, 2026.
- **All necessary gear will be provided by SD GFP.**

Application Instructions

1. Fill out the attached Application and Questionnaire
2. Email the application to Derek Klawitter (Derek.Klawitter@state.sd.us)

Or

Return to the Region 3 Game, Fish, and Parks Office addressed as follows:

Game, Fish, and Parks
ATTN: Hunting 101- Deer Hunt
4500 S. Oxbow Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Region 3 Office Hours:

Monday – Friday
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Contact us with questions:

Phone
605-362-2700



Deer Hunting 101 Application

Participant's Full Name: _____

Participant's Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Phone Number: (____) - ____ - ____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Guardian's Full Name (If Youth): _____

Have you completed hunt safe (check one): yes no

Questionnaire for Participant:

1. Why do you want to participate in this hunting opportunity?

2. What are you hoping to gain from this experience?

I affirm that I am eligible for this type of hunt and that the information above is true.

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Guardian's Signature (For Youth Hunt Only): _____ Date: _____