



2026 Deer Hunting 101 – Bow Hunting (Greater Sioux Falls Area)

Application Deadline: Applications must be received by 4 PM on May 1st, 2026

Applicants must:

- Be a South Dakota Resident, 15 years or older, who is a first-time archery hunter.
- Be able to purchase a South Dakota Archery Deer Tag.
- Be accompanied by a South Dakota Bow Hunters Association or other GFP Volunteer during the hunt.
- Be willing and able to commit the necessary time to becoming proficient at archery.
- Be able to pass an archery proficiency test prior to hunting.

The Hunt

Hunts will take place on land where Game, Fish and Parks has been given access. GFP and SD Bow Hunters Association will coordinate the hunts based on hunter and mentor availability. Hunts may take place on weekdays and weekends.

The program includes instructional time at the range, instruction on archery deer hunting tactics, time hunting in the field, and how to properly track, recover, care for and process a harvested deer.

We hunt all types of weather conditions. Be sure to dress accordingly.

It is important to note that this program requires commitment from the participant to spend time at the archery range practicing to become skilled enough to pass the required proficiency test.

Selection Process

The selection process will occur after the application deadline. The participants will be selected at random from the pool of applicants that meet the requirements listed. Those successful in the random selection will be contacted by phone or email. Note: this season is the pilot season of the program and opportunity will be limited.

Other FAQs

- Season Dates: September 1, 2026 – January 1, 2027
- **This unique opportunity is made available to those who can purchase a Resident Archery Deer Tag.**
- Selected applicants will have to meet archery proficiency standards prior to being allowed to hunt. Training and coaching will be provided by volunteers from the SD Bowhunters Association.
- The proficiency test requires the participant to place 2 out of 3 broadhead tipped arrows into an 8" circle at 20 yards.
- If you successfully harvest a deer, we will help you process your harvest or drop it off at a locker at your expense.
- Once the required archery deer license is available, they can be purchased online or at the SF Regional Office.
- **Archery equipment (bow, bow accessories, arrows, and tips) will be provided by SD GFP and SD Bow Hunters Association.**

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: Bow 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
605-362-2777

