



## 2026 Coyote Bounty Program

### Frequently Asked Questions

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) is focused on increasing participation in youth trapping while at the same time assisting with reducing livestock depredation and enhancing deer and antelope fawn survival during peak parturition season. Habitat development remains the top priority for GFP.

**All coyotes submitted for this program must have been harvested (i.e., trapped or shot) in South Dakota during the allotted time period found below. Coyotes removed via aerial hunting are not eligible.**

#### 1. What are the primary goals for the Coyote Bounty Program?

- Assist with reducing livestock depredation by removing additional coyotes across the state during peak calving and lambing season.
- Enhance fawn survival for deer and antelope by reducing coyote numbers during peak parturition season.
- Provide an incentive during a time when coyote fur is not prime to increase coyote harvest participation.

#### 2. What species are eligible?

Coyotes are the eligible species for this program. Roadkill and aerial hunted coyotes are not eligible.

#### 3. Who can participate?

All South Dakota residents are eligible.

#### 4. What is the time period for the program?

Only coyotes taken during April 1-July 1, 2026, from South Dakota residents are eligible. The program will conclude July 1, 2026, or sooner if the \$300,000 maximum is reached.

#### 5. Is a license required?

Landowners harvesting coyotes from their own land and participants under the age of 18 are not required to have a license.

All other participants must have one of the following valid licenses to hunt or trap coyotes: a resident predator/varmint license, a resident small game license, a resident youth small game license, a resident big game license, a license to take fur-bearing animals, or a resident turkey license.



## 6. Are there specific trapping and hunting regulations to follow?

Participants must comply with South Dakota trapping and hunting rules and regulations. Rules and regulations can be found in the current hunting and trapping handbook or online at <https://gfp.sd.gov/pages/regulations/>.

## 7. Can aerial hunters participate?

No, those individuals permitted or contracted with GFP are not eligible to participate with coyotes obtained from aerial hunting. Aerial permits and contracts issued by GFP to remove coyotes prohibit aerial hunting for sport, fur harvest, or collection of furs.

## 8. What is the payment amount for coyotes?

Participants will receive \$30 per tail for coyotes. Participants must submit the tail bone and entire tail of the coyote to receive payment.

## 9. Do the tails have to be a certain length?

No. Tails must have the bone left in the tail to be eligible for payment. Tails with cut marks on both ends are not eligible.

## 10. How and when will I receive payment?

Payment will not be received upon tail submission. GFP will process payments and send a check in the mail approximately every 30 days.

## 11. I have heard that I will have to sign a legal affidavit. What does this mean?

Upon tail submission, participants are required to sign a legal affidavit indicating the tails were obtained according to the Terms and Conditions of the Coyote Bounty Program. **Participants under the age of 18 will need their parent/legal guardian to sign a legal affidavit on their behalf.**

## 12. How many tails can I turn in?

Participants are allowed to submit up to \$570 worth of tails per household.

## 13. Are young-of-the-year animals eligible for the bounty?

Yes, free-ranging young (i.e., those capable of living away from their mother) are eligible.

## 14. Where can I turn in my tails for the coyote bounty program?

Find tail collection times and locations online at: <https://gfp.sd.gov/bounty-program/>.

For tail submissions outside of these office locations and times, please contact your local wildlife conservation officer or wildlife damage specialist. This contact information can be found online at <https://gfp.sd.gov/contactus/>. Phone numbers for local wildlife conservation officers and wildlife damage specialists are also listed in the current version of the hunting and trapping handbook.



**15. How will I know when the maximum of \$300,000 is reached?**

GFP will communicate through a variety of media platforms. Total tails submitted can be viewed on the Tail Tracker at <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/e783dd72a89647f0b281f137d0b88efb>.

**16. How is the program funded?**

Hunting license revenue will be used to pay for the coyote bounty program not to exceed \$300,000; no funds will be used from the Animal Damage Control Program. License dollars used for this program will have no effect on how much the Department receives in Pittman/Robertson excise tax funds.

**17. Will trapping/hunting be allowed on public lands and improved road rights-of-ways during April 1 – July 1?**

Snares are prohibited May 1-November 13 on improved road rights-of-ways and on all public lands statewide. Live traps may be used on improved road rights-of-ways and public lands until August 31.

**18. How long will this program be available?**

On March 6, 2026, the GFP Commission passed a resolution to conduct a Coyote Bounty Program through 2026.

[https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/nav/Youth\\_Trapping\\_Recruitment\\_Program\\_and\\_Coyote\\_Bounty\\_Resolution\\_2026.pdf](https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/nav/Youth_Trapping_Recruitment_Program_and_Coyote_Bounty_Resolution_2026.pdf).

**20. What should participants do with the carcasses of animals?**

Whole carcasses cannot be submitted to GFP offices for payment. Participants must properly dispose of carcasses on their own. Burying is most appropriate method for carcass disposal.

**21. How is GFP dealing with potential fraud?**

Participants must sign a legal affidavit which they attest to how, when and where the animals were harvested.