

2026 APPRENTICE, MENTOR, YOUTH DEER



Over the Counter

APD/MHD/YOD

Purchases Open

07/23/2026

Purchases Close

01/01/2027, 12:00 AM CDT

LICENSE AVAILABILITY

Unit <i>General Area</i>	Type	Resident	Nonresident
Apprentice (APD)	03	Unlimited	
	13	Unlimited	
Mentor (MHD)	03	Unlimited	Unlimited
	13	Unlimited	Unlimited
Youth (YOD)	03	Unlimited	Unlimited
	13	Unlimited	Unlimited

Valid 03 Hunting Area: West River deer units 02A, 15A, 15B, 31A, 35A, 35C, 35L, 49A, 49B, 53A, 53C, 64A

Valid 13 Hunting Area: That portion of the state not included in 03, excluding these East River Deer units: 07A, 07B, 08A, 12A, 12B, 19A, 34A, 37A, 44A, 61A, 62A

IMPORTANT SEASON INFORMATION

- National parks and monuments, Farm Island State Recreation Area, LaFramboise Island State Nature Area, and Custer State Park are closed to hunting.
- Hunters must contact National Wildlife Refuges prior to hunting for regulations and to obtain permission.

Apprentice Deer (APD): Residents only, who are 18 years old or older on June 30, and who have not held a deer hunting license in the last *ten* years. Hunters may have only one apprentice deer license.

Mentor Deer (MHD): The mentor license will be issued to the mentee. Look up mentor eligibility requirements at <https://gfp.sd.gov/youth-mentored>. Mentored deer hunters cannot possess any other deer license.

Youth Deer (YOD): Residents and nonresidents who:

- reached the age of 12 years old by September 1, and
- will not have reached the age of 18 by June 30, and
- successfully completed hunter education certification.

More information at <https://gfp.sd.gov/youth-mentored>.

Successful applicants for youth deer are NOT eligible for a mentored deer license.

Special Requirement: Hunters must wear fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink.

FEE SCHEDULE

License Types	Resident	Nonresident
03 - one any antlerless deer	\$5	\$10
13 - one antlerless whitetail deer	\$5	\$10

SEASON DATES

September 12, 2026 to January 1, 2027

GENERAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

Visit <https://gfp.sd.gov/hunt-fish-license/> to view application information, residency and age requirements, landowner preference, preference points, and license fee explanations.

[Unit Descriptions and Map](#)

[Interactive Hunting Unit Map](#)

CONTACT US

GFP LICENSING OFFICE

20641 SD Hwy 1806

Fort Pierre, SD 57532

605.223.7660 | TTY: 605.223.7684

Monday - Friday | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

gfp.sd.gov

NOTE: All applications must be submitted [online](#).