

2026 IL Resident Muzzleloader-Only Deer Hunting Permit Application

State of Illinois
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Lottery Selection – select only one box. Applications received in our office after a deadline date will be entered into the next lottery.

☐ **First Lottery: 3/3/26 – 4/30/26**

Limit 1 application.
Landowner firearm deer applicants/
permit recipients **may** apply.

☐ **Second Lottery: 5/11/26 – 6/30/26**

Limit 1 application.
Lottery 1 muzzleloader permit
recipients are not eligible to apply.

☐ **Third Lottery: 7/13/26 – 8/21/26**

No group hunts.



R-L-MZ

Permit Type Selection – select only one box. If applying for one of the following counties, you may only select **Option (A)** below.

Antlerless-only permits are not issued for the counties of: Alexander, Champaign, Douglas, Edwards, Ford, Greene, Iroquois, Logan, Macon, Mason, Massac, Morgan, Moultrie, Piatt, Pope, Pulaski, Scott, Tazewell, and Wabash.

☐ **A) One Either-Sex \$29**

☐ **B) Combo (One Either-Sex & One Antlerless-Only) \$46.50**

☐ **C) One SHA Antlerless-Only \$29** (Only for Horseshoe Lake, Lake Shelbyville Projects, and Wards Grove)

☐ **D) One Antlerless-Only \$21.50**
Issued only in Third Lottery

County or Special Hunt Area Choice



First Choice

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Second Choice (Optional)

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Please enter your SSN or your IDNR Customer #. All individuals must have a valid SSN on file with IDNR to be eligible for any type of license purchase.

Social Security Number

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IDNR Customer # (Located above name on IDNR hunting license)

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First Name

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Last Name

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Address

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City

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State

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Zip Code

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County of Residence

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Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

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Daytime Phone Number

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Email

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Applicant's Signature (Required)

I certify to the truth of all, including, but not limited to, state residency. By signing this application, I certify that I am not delinquent on a child support order. I further certify that the privileges applied for have not been suspended in this state, or by any other state or federal agency.

This area for Group Hunt applications only. No Group Hunt applications in Lottery 3.

GROUP LEADER'S LAST NAME

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GROUP LEADER'S FIRST NAME

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MIDDLE INITIAL

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GROUP LEADER'S CUSTOMER ID NUMBER (Required)

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Up to 6 individuals may apply to hunt as a group. All individuals in the group must pre-select a group leader, and each application for the group **MUST** have IDENTICAL choices for the application period, hunt locations & seasons, and group leader information. Illinois residents are given preference for permits allocated in lotteries; therefore, groups containing both resident and non-resident applicants will be treated as non-resident applications. No Group Hunts allowed in Third Lottery.

Make checks payable to IDNR. Mail application and payment to:

ILLINOIS MUZZLELOADER-ONLY DEER PERMIT
One Natural Resources Way
PO Box 19227
Springfield, IL 62794-9227

Save a stamp! APPLY ONLINE at exploreillinois.com



2026 Resident Muzzleloader-Only Deer Hunting Permit Application

Muzzleloader-Only Season Dates: Dec. 11 - 13, 2026

Hunters may also use a muzzleloader permit with a muzzleloading rifle during Second Firearm Deer Season Dec. 3 - 6, 2026.

You may not use this application to apply for a firearm permit.

All counties are open to muzzleloader deer hunting except Cook, DuPage, Lake, and that portion of Kane County east of State Route 47.

- Permits are not transferable.
- **Over-the-Counter Sales:** Muzzleloader permits remaining after the Third Lottery Drawing will be available over the counter from agents designated by the Department (pursuant to 17 Ill. Adm. Code 2520) **beginning October 20th on a first-come, first-served basis.** Permits will be sold until quotas are exhausted, or until the close of the muzzleloader deer season, whichever occurs first. Persons may purchase one or more permits during this period, subject to availability.

MUZZLELOADER: The only legal hunting device is a single- or double-barreled muzzleloading rifle of at least .45 caliber shooting a single projectile through a barrel of at least 16 inches in length; A muzzleloading rifle is defined as a rifle into which the projectile is incapable of being inserted from the breech end. The minimum size of the muzzleloading rifle projectile shall be .44 caliber. A wad or sleeve is not considered a projectile or a part of the projectile. Non-expanding, military-style full metal jacket bullets cannot be used to harvest white-tailed deer; only soft point or expanding bullets (including copper/copper alloy rounds designed for hunting) are legal ammunition. Only black powder or a "black powder substitute" such as Pyrodex may be used. Modern smokeless powders (nitrocellulose-based) are an approved black powder substitute only in muzzleloading rifles that are specifically designed for their use. Only percussion (cap or primer), wheellock, matchlock, flintlock or electronic ignition may be used.

Special Hunt Areas: Special hunts held on federal or state lands are regulated by the agency which manages the property. Some of these areas are included in the lotteries (see list below). If you wish to apply for a permit to hunt one of these areas, enter the acronym of the area on your application. **Special Hunt Area permits are not valid anywhere else in the county. County permits are not valid for the Special Hunt Areas listed on this application.** For more information regarding locations and requirements of Special Hunt Areas only, call the Division of Wildlife Resources at **217-782-6384**.

Special Hunt Area	Hunting Dates	County Located	Acronym
Apple River Canyon SP - Thompson & Salem Units	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Jo Daviess	ARCSP
Argyle Lake SP	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	McDonough	ALSP
Butterfield Trail SRA	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Iroquois	BTSRA
Carlyle Lake SFWA - East Fork Unit	Muzzleloader Season Dates	Clinton	CLSFWA
Castle Rock SP	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Ogle	CRSP
Cedar Glen SNA	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Hancock	CGSNA
Clinton Lake SRA (N Fork Mgmt. Unit, N of County Rd at N Fork boat ramp)	Muzzleloader Season Dates	Dewitt	CLSRA
Delair Division, Great River NWR	Jan. 9 & 10, 2027	Pike	DELAIR
Embarras River Bottoms SHA	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Lawrence	EMBARR
Fort Massac SP	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Massac	FMSP
French Bluff SNA	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Carroll	FBSNA
Goose Lake Prairie SNA/Heidecke SFWA	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Grundy	GLPH
Hanover Bluff SNA	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Jo Daviess	HBSNA
Harry "Babe" Woodyard SNA	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Vermilion	HBWSNA
Hidden Springs SF	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Shelby	HIDDEN
Horseshoe Lake SP – Madison (Antlerless only - select Box C)	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Madison	HLSP
Jim Edgar Panther Creek SFWA – Open Unit	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Cass	JEPC
Jubilee College SP	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Peoria	JCSP
Kickapoo SRA	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Vermilion	KSRA
Lake Shelbyville Project - Moultrie (Antlerless only - select Box C)	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Moultrie	LSPMOU
Lake Shelbyville Project - Shelby (Antlerless only - select Box C)	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Shelby	LSPSHE
Mackinaw River SFWA	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Tazewell	MRFWA
Marseilles SFWA	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	La Salle	MFWAM
Midewin NTP	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Will	MNTP
Middle Fork SFWA	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Vermilion	MFFWA
Prairie Ridge SNA	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Jasper	PRSNA
Rall Woods SNA	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Jo Daviess	RALL
Sahara Woods SRA	Muzzleloader Season Dates	Saline	SWSRA
Sangamon County SCA	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Sangamon	SCCA
Sanganois SFWA	Muzzleloader Season Dates	Cass/Mason	SSFWA
Sangchris Lake SP	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Sangamon/Christian	SLSP
Siloam Springs SP	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Adams/Brown	SSSP
Siloam Springs SP – Buckhorn Unit (IL residents only)	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Brown	SSSPBU
Spoon River SF	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Knox	SRSF
Starved Rock SP – includes Matthiessen SP, Margery C. Carlson SNA, Mitchell's Grove SNA & Sandy Ford SNA	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	La Salle	SRSP
Tapley Woods SNA	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Jo Daviess	TWSNA
Wards Grove SNP (Antlerless only - select Box C)	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Jo Daviess	WGPN
Winston Tunnel SNA	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Jo Daviess	WTSNA
Witkowsky SWA	Dec. 11, 12 & 13 only	Jo Daviess	WSWA