



2026 Spring Youth Wild Turkey Hunting Permit Information

SEASON DATES: March 28 & 29 and April 4 & 5, 2026

The North Zone and South Zone are open concurrently for all four days.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Eligibility: The Spring Youth Turkey Hunt is open only to hunters who have not reached the age of 18 prior to the opening date of the youth season. Hunters must have an apprentice or youth hunting license, or they must have completed a State-approved Hunter Education course and have a hunting license, unless exempt. Hunters under age 18 are exempt from purchasing a Habitat Stamp.

Hunters are eligible to purchase only **one** Youth Turkey Hunt Permit.

A permit issued for the Youth Turkey Hunt will count toward the maximum number of permits an individual can receive for the Spring Wild Turkey Season. It shall be unlawful to apply for or receive more than *three permits* for the spring turkey season. The three-permit total includes lottery drawn, OTC, youth and landowner permits.

The Youth Turkey Hunt Permit shall be valid only for the dates and counties/Special Hunt Area listed on the permit.

It is unlawful to use any weapon except a shotgun (.410 bore to 10 gauge only) or bow and arrow. #4 shot is the largest size shot that may be legally used or possessed while turkey hunting.

Each hunter participating in the Illinois Youth Turkey Hunt while using an Apprentice Hunter License or Youth Hunting License must be accompanied by a non-hunting, validly licensed (Illinois hunting license) adult who is 21 years of age or older.

All other hunters (using other types of hunting licenses or license-exempt) participating in the Youth Turkey Hunt must each be accompanied by a non-hunting supervisor (parent, guardian or responsible adult). If the youth is hunting with a firearm, a nonresident supervisor must have a valid Illinois hunting license.

The non-hunting supervisor must remain with the hunting youth so as to have the youth under immediate control. Each supervisor may only accompany a single youth at any given time during the hunt. The supervising adult shall be criminally liable for the actions of the youth in the hunting party and shall be subject to the criminal penalties provided by law.

For questions, please call **217-782-7305** or email DNR.Permits1@illinois.gov.

For IDNR site-specific information (Hunter Fact Sheets): [Hunt Illinois](#)



Hunting on Private Land
County-Specific Permit Required

- Type of Permit: Spring Youth Wild Turkey OTC County-Specific Permit
- Dates Available for Purchase: March 3, 2026, through April 5, 2026
- Permit Fee: \$10.50 plus any associated fees
- Sold over the counter by License Vendors
- Season Dates: March 28 & 29 and April 4 & 5, 2026

Northern Zone Open Counties

Adams, Boone, Brown, Bureau, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Champaign, Christian, Clark, Coles, Cumberland, DeKalb, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Fulton, Greene, Grundy, Hancock, Henderson, Henry, Iroquois, Jersey, Jo Daviess, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Knox, Lake, La Salle, Lee, Livingston, Logan, Macon, Macoupin, Marshall-Putnam, Mason, McDonough, McHenry, McLean, Menard, Mercer, Montgomery, Morgan, Moultrie, Ogle, Peoria, Piatt, Pike, Rock Island, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott, Shelby, Stark, Stephenson, Tazewell, Vermilion, Warren, Whiteside, Will, Winnebago and Woodford

Southern Zone Open Counties

Alexander, Bond, Clay, Clinton, Crawford, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Franklin, Gallatin-Hardin, Hamilton, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence, Madison, Marion, Massac, Monroe, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Randolph, Richland, Saline, St. Clair, Union, Wabash, Washington, Wayne, White and Williamson



Hunting on Public Land
Site-Specific Permit Required (Lottery Application)

- Application Dates: January 20, 2026, through February 16, 2026
- Apply online only: <https://www.exploremoreil.com>
- Application Fee: \$10 plus associated fees (paid at time of application)
- Season Dates: March 28 & 29 and April 4 & 5, 2026

Northern Zone

SITE NAME

Butterfield Trail SRA
Castle Rock SP
Chain O'Lakes SP
Clinton Lake SRA
Coffeen Lake SFWA
Edward Madigan SP - James Helfrich Propagation Center (designated areas only)
Harry "Babe" Woodyard SNA
Heidecke SFWA (Jugtown Unit)
Hidden Springs SF
Iroquois Co SFWA
Jim Edgar Panther Creek SFWA
Kankakee River SP
Kickapoo SRA
Middle Fork SFWA
Momence Wetlands
Moraine View SP
Sand Ridge SF
Sangchris Lake SP
Weldon Springs - Piatt Co. Unit

County Located

Iroquois
Ogle
Lake/McHenry
DeWitt
Montgomery
Logan
Vermilion
Grundy
Shelby
Iroquois
Cass
Kankakee/Will
Vermilion
Vermilion
Kankakee
McLean
Mason
Sangamon/Christian
Piatt

Southern Zone

Site Name

Burning Star SFWA
Crab Orchard NWR (closed portion)
Dixon Springs SP
Eldon Hazlet SP
Embarras River Bottoms SHA
Ferne Clyffe SP - Ferne Clyffe Hunting Area
Fort Massac SP
Ramsey Lake SP
Sam Dale Lake SFWA
Stephen A Forbes SP
Wayne Fitzgerrell SRA

County Located

Jackson
Williamson
Pope
Clinton
Lawrence
Johnson
Massac
Fayette
Wayne
Marion
Franklin/Jefferson



Hunting on Public Land
County-Specific Permit Required

The following sites will be open to holders of a valid **Youth Spring Turkey Hunt County Permit for the county in which the site is located**. Persons wishing to hunt one of the listed sites should contact that site prior to hunting for information about site regulations and restrictions.

- Type of Permit: Spring Youth Wild Turkey OTC County-Specific Permit
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Site Name

Anderson Lake SFWA
Apple River Canyon SP - Thompson & Salem Units
Argyle Lake SP
Big Bend SFWA
Big Grand Pierre Glade SNA
Big River SF
Cache River SNA
Cape Bend SFWA
Carlyle Lake SFWA
Carlyle Lake SFWA - East Fork Management Unit
Cave-In-Rock SP - Kaegi Tract
Copperhead Hollow SWA
Crab Orchard NWR - Public Hunting Area
Crawford County SFWA
Cretaceous Hills SNA
Cypress Pond SNA
Deer Pond SNA
Devil's Island SFWA
Dog Island SWMA
Ferne Clyffe SP - Cedar Draper SHA
Fox Creek SFWA
Fox Ridge SP
Giant City SP
Green River SWA
Hamilton County SFWA
Hanover Bluff SNA
Horseshoe Lake SFWA - Alexander County (Controlled Hunting Area and Public Hunting Area Only)
Kaskaskia River SFWA
Kinkaid Lake SFWA

County Located

Fulton
Jo Daviess
McDonough
Whiteside
Pope
Henderson
Johnson/Pulaski/Massac
Alexander
Fayette
Clinton
Hardin
Jersey
Williamson/Jackson/Union
Crawford
Pope
Union/Johnson
Johnson
Union/Alexander
Pope
Johnson
Richland/Wayne
Coles
Jackson/Union
Lee
Hamilton
JoDaviess

Alexander
Monroe/Randolph/St. Clair
Jackson



Lake Shelbyville Project Land - Moultrie County	Moultrie
Lake Shelbyville Project Land - Shelby County	Shelby
Mackinaw River SFWA	Tazewell
Marshall SFWA	Marshall
Mermet Lake SFWA	Massac
Mississippi River Area Pools 21,22,24,25 & 26	Adams/Calhoun/Jersey/Pike
Mt. Vernon Game Propagation Center	Jefferson
Nauvoo SP (Max Rowe Unit Only)	Hancock
Newton Lake SFWA	Jasper
Paul C. Burrus Habitat Area	Coles
Pere Marquette SP	Jersey
Pyramid SP - East Conant and Park Units	Perry
Rall Woods SNA	JoDaviess
Rauchfuss Hill SRA	Pope
Ray Norbut SFWA	Pike
Rend Lake SFWA	Jefferson/Franklin
Rend Lake COE (managed land in Jefferson and Franklin counties)	Jefferson/Franklin
Sahara Woods SFWA	Saline
Saline County SFWA	Saline
Sam Parr SFWA	Jasper
Shelbyville SFWA	Moultrie
Sielbeck Forest SNA	Massac
Siloam Springs SP	Adams/Brown
Siloam Springs SP (Buckhorn Unit)	Brown
Skinner Farm SHA	Johnson
Spoon River SF	Knox
Tapley Woods SNA	JoDaviess
Ten Mile Creek SFWA	Hamilton/Jefferson
Trail of Tears SF	Union
Turkey Bluffs SFWA	Randolph
Union County SFWA (Firing Line and Controlled Hunting Area only)	Union
Weinberg-King SP	Schuyler
Weinberg-King SP - Cecil White Unit	Hancock
Weinberg-King SP - Scripps Unit	Schuyler
Weinberg-King SP - Spunky Bottoms Unit	Brown
Winston Tunnel SNA	JoDaviess
Wise Ridge SNA	Johnson
Witkowski SWA	JoDaviess