



## 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](mailto: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**

<b>SITE NAME</b>	<b>County Located</b>
Butterfield Trail SRA	Iroquois
Castle Rock SP	Ogle
Chain O'Lakes SP	Lake/McHenry
Clinton Lake SRA	DeWitt
Coffeen Lake SFWA	Montgomery
Edward Madigan SP - James Helfrich Propagation Center (designated areas only)	Logan
Harry "Babe" Woodyard SNA	Vermilion
Heidecke SFWA (Jugtown Unit)	Grundy
Hidden Springs SF	Shelby
Iroquois Co SFWA	Iroquois
Jim Edgar Panther Creek SFWA	Cass
Kankakee River SP	Kankakee/Will
Kickapoo SRA	Vermilion
Middle Fork SFWA	Vermilion
Momence Wetlands	Kankakee
Moraine View SP	McLean
Sand Ridge SF	Mason
Sangchris Lake SP	Sangamon/Christian
Weldon Springs - Piatt Co. Unit	Piatt

**Southern Zone**

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>County Located</b>
Burning Star SFWA	Jackson
Crab Orchard NWR (closed portion)	Williamson
Dixon Springs SP	Pope
Eldon Hazlet SP	Clinton
Embarрас River Bottoms SHA	Lawrence
Ferne Clyffe SP - Ferne Clyffe Hunting Area	Johnson
Fort Massac SP	Massac
Ramsey Lake SP	Fayette
Sam Dale Lake SFWA	Wayne
Stephen A Forbes SP	Marion
Wayne Fitzgerrell SRA	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
- 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

Site Name	County Located
Anderson Lake SFWA	Fulton
Apple River Canyon SP - Thompson & Salem Units	Jo Daviess
Argyle Lake SP	McDonough
Big Bend SFWA	Whiteside
Big Grand Pierre Glade SNA	Pope
Big River SF	Henderson
Cache River SNA	Johnson/Pulaski/Massac
Cape Bend SFWA	Alexander
Carlyle Lake SFWA	Fayette
Carlyle Lake SFWA - East Fork Management Unit	Clinton
Cave-In-Rock SP - Kaegi Tract	Hardin
Copperhead Hollow SWA	Jersey
Crab Orchard NWR - Public Hunting Area	Williamson/Jackson/Union
Crawford County SFWA	Crawford
Cretaceous Hills SNA	Pope
Cypress Pond SNA	Union/Johnson
Deer Pond SNA	Johnson
Devil's Island SFWA	Union/Alexander
Dog Island SWMA	Pope
Ferne Clyffe SP - Cedar Draper SHA	Johnson
Fox Creek SFWA	Richland/Wayne
Fox Ridge SP	Coles
Giant City SP	Jackson/Union
Green River SWA	Lee
Hamilton County SFWA	Hamilton
Hanover Bluff SNA	JoDaviess
Horseshoe Lake SFWA - Alexander County (Controlled Hunting Area and Public Hunting Area Only)	Alexander
Kaskaskia River SFWA	Monroe/Randolph/St. Clair
Kinkaid Lake SFWA	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
Witkowsky SWA	JoDaviess