

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Santee National Wildlife Refuge

2125 Fort Watson Road, Summerton, SC 29148 Phone: (803) 478-2217

Refuge Manager: Monica Williams, monica_williams@fws.gov

Website: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/santee/visit-us/activities/hunting>

We are continuing the Bluff Unit “Family, Friends and Kids Hunt” to encourage adults to bring a kid hunting. A Quota Deer Hunt Application must be submitted during August 1 – September 2 to participate in this special hunt. You may stop by, call, or email to get an application. Completed applications must be returned to the Refuge by September 2, 2024. Up to 12 applicants will be randomly selected for each of the 4 hunt dates: October 5 - 6, 2024 (mornings) and October 18 - 19, 2024 (evenings)

PLEASE NOTE: THE REFUGE IS NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE DEER QUOTA PROGRAM AND WILL NO LONGER PROVIDE DEER TAGS TO HUNTERS. ALL DEER HARVESTED ON THE REFUGE MUST BE TAGGED WITH SCDNR PERSONALLY- ISSUED TAGS AT THE POINT OF KILL.

The following rules apply for the “Family, Friends, and Kids Hunt:

- Each hunting party must include a youth (age 17 or younger) and an adult at least 21 years old with a valid hunting license. Anyone born after June 30, 1979, must complete a hunter education course to hunt/discharge a weapon on the Refuge, including youth under the age of 17
- Both the adult and youth may possess a firearm and harvest deer if: youth are between 10-17 years of age, have a valid hunter education certificate and is accompanied by an adult. Youth ages 16 and 17 must be properly licensed
- Youth under 10 years of age, or older youth without a valid hunter education certificate are welcome to participate, but will not be allowed to discharge a firearm
- Valid hunting license and hunter education card should be in the hunter’s possession while hunting, and may be checked while on the Refuge
- A Hunter Education Class will be held at the Refuge Visitor Center on Sept. 21, 2024, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Students under age 12 must be accompanied by a parent/legal guardian. Register at: <https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/214845>
- Legal weapons for these hunts include muzzleloaders or shotguns with slugs
- The bag limit for each family is 1 antlered and 1 antlerless deer per day. Hunters may also harvest feral hogs as incidental take
- Fixed, two-person ladder stands will be provided for hunters with the youth and adult hunting from the same stand. Travel to/from the designated deer stands will be provided by Refuge staff
- Remember to bring an orange hat and orange vest
- **All participants must arrive at the Refuge by 5:30 a.m. on October 5/6 and by 2:30 p.m. on October 18/19. The new Check-in Location will be at the end of Fort Watson Road, pass the rotary, keep right, to the parking lot near the Wrights Bluff trailhead.** Santee NWR, Bluff Unit, is located at 2125 Fort Watson Rd. Summerton, SC 29148, off Hwy. 15/301 (I-95, exit 102)

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