



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Smith Mountain Lake State Park
1235 State Park Road
Huddleston, VA 24104
Phone: 540-297-6066
Email: smlake@dcr.virginia.gov

Dear Hunter,

Thank you for choosing to participate in the Smith Mountain Lake State Park Deer Hunt. Enclosed in this packet you'll find the following information:

- A non-transferrable reservation confirmation email
- Terms and Conditions
- A required items list
- Hunt map

Please carefully review all the documents in this packet. Each hunter will need to sign the Terms and Conditions sheet to confirm they have read, understood, and will abide by the stated conditions. Hunters under the age of 18 must also have a parent/guardian's signature.

We encourage you to visit the park October 19-25, 2026 (Monday-Sunday) during normal park hours to familiarize yourself with your zone location. Normal parking fees apply. When visiting the park to scout your zone prior to the hunt, you may park in the parking areas or along the park roads. Park on the shoulder of the road only and take care not to destroy any turf when you pull out to leave. You must display this letter in your windshield. Hunters for Zones 1 and 11 may park in the designated parking areas just off Route 626. Parking along Route 626 is prohibited. During the pre-hunt scouting trips, do not add or alter any markings to your assigned zone. No weapons are allowed on scouting trips.

The park will open for hunter check-in at 4:30am. All hunters must check-in at the maintenance shop by 4:55am. Late arrivals will forfeit their reservation to stand-by hunters. A mandatory pre-hunt safety briefing will take place at the check station. Hunters must checkout at the maintenance shop by 6:00pm. There will be stand-by drawings to fill vacant hunter slots at 5:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. each day of the hunt. You are welcome to come any or all days of the hunt, to hunt stand-by. You may return to your vehicle or to the check station for lunch, but you may not leave the park unless you are leaving for the day. Therefore, it is advisable that you bring a lunch with you.

If you have any questions prior to the hunt, please contact the park office at 540-297-2377.

Sincerely,
James Wright
Park Manager

Smith Mountain Lake State Park Managed Deer Hunt Permit

2026 Terms and Conditions

The following information, terms, and conditions apply to the managed deer hunts in Virginia State Parks. Any violation will result in revocation of permit and elimination of your participation in any hunting programs sponsored by the Division of State Parks and possible criminal charges.

1. The special deer hunt will be held on 2 & 3 November and 9 & 10 November.
2. Check-in is between 4:30 am and 4:55 am at the Smith Mountain Lake State Park Shop, see map. All hunters that have been selected and have not checked in by 4:55 am will lose their selected status and join the stand-by hunters. A stand-by drawing will be conducted daily at 5:00 am and 1:30 pm to fill vacant positions. If there are open positions within a zone the morning of the hunt, hunters with reservations have the option of changing zones prior to the standby drawing.
 - There are four physically disabled areas within zones 3, 4, 5, & 10. If one has a physical disability, please notify the hunt manager.
 - Only one hunter per reservation is permitted.
3. Hunter check-out is by 6:00 pm. Hunters MUST check-in and check-out of the park check station (located at the park shop).
4. Participants must be at least 16 years of age, or if 12-15, accompanied by a responsible adult who has a hunter education certificate. The adult will not be allowed to hunt.
5. All hunters will attend a mandatory pre-hunt briefing the morning of each hunt. Hunters who do not attend the briefing will not be allowed to hunt.
 - Hunters must participate in a check-in briefing at 5:00 am. Hunters MUST check-in and check-out of the park check station (located at the park shop). At check-in hunters will be asked to leave a driver's license or other form of identification that may be picked-up when the hunter leaves for the day.
6. Hunters are encouraged to scout their hunting area prior to the hunt from Monday, October 19 to Sunday, October 25 during normal park hours only. Zones will be marked during this period, no additional marks will be allowed.
7. All required Virginia hunting licenses apply and will be checked prior to hunting.
8. Hunters will be required to have taken and passed a hunter safety course. Proof of hunter safety certification must be presented on the day of the hunt. No hunter will be allowed to hunt without proof of having completed a hunter safety course.
9. Every hunter or person accompanying a hunter shall wear either blaze orange or blaze pink hat and upper body clothing visible from 360 degrees.
10. Primitive weapons only will be permitted (archery or muzzleloader); no rifles, handguns or weapons of any other type will be allowed.
11. There will be no shooting from or across roads, across water, or across park boundaries.
12. In accordance with state hunting laws, hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.
13. Weapons must be unloaded at all times when outside of the hunter's assigned hunting area.
14. Only deer may be harvested in accordance with the Code of Virginia. No other game species may be killed during this hunt.
15. Deer of either sex, limit of four, three of which must be antlerless (park has DMAP tags available to allow hunters to take does or antlerless deer). Hunters must take at least one antlerless deer before harvesting a buck. Bedford County is also within the special Earn a Buck area of the State, those restrictions could be applicable for this hunt.

16. Deer will be field dressed no less than 100 feet from hiking trails, structures, and roads. All deer must be checked by park staff at the deer check station. Information will be collected on each deer, including removal of a jawbone.
 - All deer harvested will be tagged immediately. After the first deer is processed, the hunter may continue to hunt for a second deer within the hunter's assigned zone.
17. Hunters may track and recover their deer while they are within their assigned zone. Hunters must request assistance from the hunt manager to track and recover any deer that has traveled into another zone that the hunter has not been assigned.
18. Hunters will be allowed to use portable tree stands at approved locations; however, safety harnesses are required. Screw peg steps will not be allowed. Trimming of trees for shooting lanes or to secure stands is prohibited.
19. If using a ground blind, blaze orange or blaze pink is required to be visible on the blind from 360 degrees, in addition to the blaze orange or blaze pink worn by the hunter.
20. Baiting is prohibited. Artificial deer lure is permissible.
21. Hunting with dogs is prohibited.
22. No drugs or alcoholic beverages.
23. Direct any questions concerning the hunt to:
 James Wright, Park Manager, Smith Mountain Lake State Park, (434) 446-2015
 Reed Stanley, District 5 Resource Specialist, (434) 425-2482
24. The Division of State Parks reserves the right to close the managed hunt or to close any zone in the event that the number of deer taken exceeds that which is needed for herd control.
25. All Federal and Virginia Hunting Laws and Regulations, as well as Virginia State Parks Regulations, are applicable during this hunt. Hunters who violate any of the above regulations will be subject to removal from the park and/or if the hunter is in violation of the Code of Virginia the hunter may be subjected to a Virginia Uniform Summons.

“I have read and understand the above terms and conditions for participating in this controlled deer hunt. I understand that a violation of any of these terms and conditions is a violation of Virginia Administrative Code 4VAC5-30-40 and may result in the revocation of my hunting permit for this hunt, and the elimination of my participation in any hunting program sponsored by Virginia State Parks for the remainder of this season and subsequent years. Any fees paid to date for such programs will be forfeited.”

Signature	Printed Name	Date
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Parent/Guardian Signature (If under 18)	Printed Name	Date
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Required Items Checklist

Please bring the following items with you on the day of the hunt:

- ☐ Reservation confirmation letter.
- ☐ Terms and conditions sheet.
- ☐ A valid hunter safety certificate or legible photocopy.
- ☐ A valid Virginia hunting license and Big Game license.
- ☐ A blaze orange or blaze pink hat and upper body clothing visible from 360 degrees.
- ☐ If using a portable tree stand, a safety harness per manufacturer's guidelines.
- ☐ If using a ground blind, blaze orange or blaze pink that is visible on the blind from 360 degrees.

Field Maps Instructions



To fully utilize the benefits of the digital copy of the map, hunters should download the free app named **'Field Maps'**. This app is available for both Android and iOS. This app will allow you to use the hunt map in a similar manner to Google Maps or other mapping software. You will be able to geo-locate yourself on the hunt map, as well as drop point markers. This will allow you to better locate your stand as well as mark any areas of interest you may want to revisit if you are attending a zone hunt. One of the benefits of this app is you do not need phone service. The map is saved onto your phone and all you need to navigate is a GPS signal.

- 1. Visit your app store (Google Play or Apple's App Store) and search for 'Field Maps'.**
- 2. Download and install the app.**
- 3. Press "Skip sign in".**
- 4. In the search bar, search for the park in which you are hunting. For example, typing in "Lake Anna State Park" in the Field Maps search bar, will bring up the Lake Anna State Park map (the park map) AND the Lake Anna State Park Hunt map. You can then download the map for free within Field Maps.**
 - You may also press the link on our hunt website (<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/hunting>), which will directly link you to the download of that park within Field Maps.
- 5. When you're in the park, open the Field Maps app, and choose the appropriate map. Your location will show up as a small blue dot within the map.**

NOTE: You may need to turn on "allow downloads with cellular data" in your phone's settings if you are not connected to wifi when downloading a map.

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK HUNTING

