

# State Parks

Virginia State Parks offer a wide variety of hunting opportunities as well as countless other outdoor activities for the entire family. Hunting opportunities range from open hunting in designated areas to managed deer hunts where individuals participate through a reservation or lottery system.

Specific sites that offer hunting may change from year to year. Managed deer hunts are

a tool in Virginia State Parks' overall deer management program. Participating hunters are asked to support our management efforts by following harvest guidelines associated with each hunt.

For more information about hunting in a Virginia State Park or to make reservations go on the Web at [www.dcr.virginia.gov/state\\_parks/hunting.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/hunting.shtml) or call (800) 933-PARK (7275).

Overnight accommodations are available at many sites during part of the hunting season; contact the Customer Service Center or visit the website for additional information and to reserve cabins or campsites. Detailed hunting opportunities are listed below.

## Virginia State Parks and Natural Areas Hunting Opportunities 2016–2017 Season

LOCATION	HUNTING DATES	RESERVATION PERIOD BEGINS	NUMBER OF HUNTERS/DAY	WEAPONS ALLOWED	RESERVATION FEE	HUNTER EDUCATION REQUIRED
<b>Belle Isle</b> Lancaster County 804-462-5030	11/7-8	9/23	12	M	\$15	✓
	12/14-15	9/23	12	G	\$15	✓
<b>Caledon</b> King George County 540-663-3861	11/16-17	9/9	10	M	\$15	✓
<b>Claytor Lake</b> Pulaski County 540-643-2500	1/6-7	10/6	20	M,Ss	\$15	✓
<b>Grayson Highlands</b> Grayson County 276-579-7092	11/7-8	9/8	30	M	\$15	✓
	11/21-22	9/8	30	G	\$15	✓
<b>James River</b> Buckingham County 434-933-4355	11/7-8	9/16	15	M	\$15	✓
	11/28-29	9/16	15	M,S	\$15	✓
	12/12-13	9/16	15	M,S	\$15	✓
<b>Kiptopeke</b> Northampton County 757-331-2267	11/9-10	9/28	12+	A, M	\$15	✓
	12/7-8	9/28	12+	A, M, S	\$15	✓
<b>Lake Anna</b> Spotsylvania County 540-854-5503	11/10	9/14	20	M	\$15	✓
	12/7-8	9/14	20	M, S	\$15	✓
<b>Leesylvania</b> Prince William County 703-730-8205	12/8-9	10/7	15	S*	\$15	✓
<b>Natural Tunnel</b> Scott County 276-940-2674	11/14-15	9/29	15	M	\$15	✓
	11/19	9/29	15	YM	\$15	✓
	1/13-14	9/29	15	M, Ss	\$15	✓
<b>Pocahontas</b> Chesterfield County 804-796-4255	11/7-12	9/30	10+	A, M	\$15	✓
	12/5-7	9/30	25+	A, M, S	\$15	✓
	12/13-15	9/30	25+	A, M, S	\$15	✓
<b>Shenandoah River</b> Warren County 540-622-6840	11/14	9/21	7	YM	\$15	✓
	12/12-13	9/21	14	M	\$15	✓
<b>Smith Mountain Lake</b> Bedford County 540-297-6066	11/7-8	9/15	30	A, M	\$15	✓
	11/14-15	9/15	30	A, M	\$15	✓
<b>York River</b> James City County 757-566-3036	11/14-15	9/22	5,37	A, M	\$15	✓
	12/5-6	9/22	37	A, M, S	\$15	✓

**Key:**  
**A** ..... Archery  
**M** ..... Muzzleloading firearms  
**S** ..... Shotgun  
**bs** ..... buckshot only  
**s** ..... slugs only  
**G** ..... General Firearms  
**YM** .. Youth Muzzleloading firearms  
**YG**... Youth General Firearms  
**\*** ..... special qualification required  
**+** ..... some slots allow for hunting buddy

Call the State Parks Customer Service Center at 1-800-933-PARK to participate. All hunts have special regulations. Contact the individual park or the customer service center to obtain the hunt specific rules.

**All of Virginia State Parks' managed hunts will be filled by reservation, except the Cooperative Hunts listed below.**

### Reservation Hunts

Hunters may reserve a preferred day and at some sites, a preferred stand or zone. There is a non-refundable reservation fee of \$15 per day; there may be limits to the number of reservations allowed per call. Proof of hunter education certification and required licenses must be presented at check-in. To make a reservation call the State Parks Customer Service Center at 1-800-933-PARK (7275) to participate.

### Special Youth Hunts

Two special Youth Hunts are planned: Monday, November 14 at Shenandoah River State Park (muzzleloader), and Saturday, November 19 at Natural Tunnel State Park (muzzleloader). To participate, youth ages 12–17 should follow the same process as for our other hunts. Note that youth ages 16–17 may hunt alone, youth ages 12–15 must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult (with valid hunter safety certification).

### Special Southern Heritage Hunt

Chippokes Plantation State Park hosts a traditional hunting experience on Saturday, December 3. This is an old-fashioned hunt featuring three traditional meals, a blessing of the hounds, rides to and from the hunt stands and a butchering service. Reservations may be made up to one year in advance. Fee: \$325/adult or youth 16 and older; \$200/child, ages 12–17, if stand is shared with a paying adult; \$50 per non-hunting companion.

## Cooperative Hunts

### Wheelin' Sportsmen Hunt

There are three special opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in hunts. Special Muzzleloader hunts will be held at Shenandoah River State Park on Monday, Nov. 7, and at Lake Anna State Park on Wednesday, Nov. 9. A special General Firearms hunt will be held on Saturday, Nov. 19 at Staunton River State Park. Contact Robin Clark, 434-249-6154, weeeelz@aol.com. Apply or download the application at [www.vanwtf.com](http://www.vanwtf.com). Application deadline is September 30.

### False Cape State Park Deer and Feral Hog Lottery Hunt

This hunt is run in conjunction with the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Legal harvest is deer and feral hogs using shotguns. Hunt dates are October 24–25. Lottery applications accepted beginning July 1 with a deadline of August 19. There is an application and hunt fee. Application information and lottery information is available online [www.goutdoorsvirginia.com](http://www.goutdoorsvirginia.com). Additional information is available at [www.fws.gov/refuge/Back\\_Bay/visit/hunting.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Back_Bay/visit/hunting.html).

### Mason Neck State Park

This hunt is run in conjunction with the Potomac River National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Hunt dates are November 29 and December 6, with a bonus hunt day for qualified hunters only on December 13. All selected hunters must attend an orientation and show proof of weapons qualification in order to participate. There is an application and hunt fee. Applications will be accepted from August 1 to September 17. Lottery information and applications are available by calling the Refuge office at 703-490-4979 or online at [www.fws.gov/refuge/Mason\\_Neck/visit/deerhunt.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Mason_Neck/visit/deerhunt.html).

### Claytor Lake State Park Youth Deer Hunting Workshop

This workshop and hunt for youth (ages 12–17) is held in conjunction with the VA Department of Game & Inland Fisheries on Dec. 9-10. Workshop includes a Friday evening seminar on deer biology/management, hunting safety/ethics and

muzzleloader safety, and a Saturday guided hunt. Participants must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult, and meet all hunter education and licensing requirements. For more information and to register contact Tracy Howard at (540) 731-3639, [tracy.howard@radfordva.gov](mailto:tracy.howard@radfordva.gov).

### York River State Park Youth Archery Deer Hunt

This hunt is held in conjunction with the VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries on Oct. 29–Nov. 5 (no Sunday hunting). This Archery and Crossbow hunt allows hunters to hunt for 7 days on designated lands at the York River State Park in James City County. All successful adult applicants must bring one YOUTH Licensed Hunter (age 12–15) as their guest to hunt. Youth hunters are also welcome to apply but must bring a Licensed Adult Hunter as a guest. Application information and lottery information is available online. Application deadline is September 30.

# Hunters and Trappers

If you use a boat—remember to boat smart!

## Wear Your Life Jacket

### Safety Tips

- ✓ Check the weather before leaving.
- ✓ Wear a life jacket, vest or float coat.
- ✓ Anchor from the bow, never from the stern.
- ✓ Properly load your boat.
- ✓ Leave the alcohol at home.
- ✓ Stay with your boat if it should capsize.
- ✓ Guard against hypothermia.
- ✓ Remain seated and keep weight evenly distributed.



**Don't forget: Boating Safety Classes are Required**

[www.dgif.virginia.gov/boating/education/requirement/](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/boating/education/requirement/)