Department of Natural Resources **Chapters:**

Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules: **6232**

2026 YOUTH AND ADULT SPECIAL DEER HUNTS AND SEASONS

PUBLISHED **08-10-2026**
EFFECTIVE **08-10-2026**
EXPIRES **12-31-2026**

Please see the attachment for language of this expedited emergency game and fish rules package relating to 2026 Youth and Adult Special Deer Hunts and Seasons.

Department of Natural Resources

Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules: 2026 Youth and Adult Special Deer Hunts and Seasons

6232.2550 YOUTH AND ADULT SPECIAL DEER HUNTS.

[For text of subpart 1, see Minnesota Rules]

Subp. 2. **Application requirements.**

A. Applications for youth special hunts must be made according to this part and according to application instructions provided by the commissioner. Applicants for youth firearms special hunts must be at least 12 years old and under age 16 by the beginning hunt date. Applicants for youth archery special hunts must be at least 12 years old and under age 18 by the beginning hunt date. Each person must apply through the electronic license system, the Department of Natural Resources License Center, or other authorized agents. Group applications are not allowed. If the number of eligible applicants exceeds the quota established by the commissioner, the commissioner shall conduct a drawing to determine eligible participants. Preference for the youth special hunt drawing is given to applicants based on the number of years they have correctly applied for a youth special hunt permit but have been unsuccessful. Upon issuance of a youth special hunt permit, all accumulated preference is lost. The application deadline is the Friday nearest August 17.

B. Adult learn-to-deer-hunt participants are selected on a first-come, first-served basis.

Subp. 3. **Restrictions on taking.**

A. In addition to complying with this part, hunters who are hunting under a special deer hunt permit must meet all requirements of the municipality, park, or area in which the special hunt occurs and those of the sponsoring organization. Hunt participants must stay within any boundaries prescribed by the hunt sponsor, on maps provided during a prehunt orientation session, or by posting.

B. While participating in a special hunt in a state park, individuals may possess only nontoxic ammunition on their person while taking wild animals, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.015, subdivision 47. For purposes of this item, "nontoxic ammunition" means:

(1) steel shot or projectile;

(2) copper-plated, nickel-plated, or zinc-plated steel shot or projectile; or

(3) shot or projectile made of other nontoxic material approved by the director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service under Code of Federal Regulations, title 50, section 20.21, paragraph (j).

C. A person who carries a pistol and possesses a valid permit under Minnesota Statutes, section 624.714, may possess ammunition that does not meet the requirement of item B but must not use the ammunition to take wild animals.

Subp. 4. **Open areas.** The following youth and adult special hunt areas are open by permit in 2026:

A. Portions of Afton State Park in Washington County are open November 7 and 8 for youth taking antlerless deer and legal bucks by firearms. No more than 30 permits shall be issued. The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails, is the sponsor. The bag limit is three.

B. Portions of Banning State Park in Pine County are open October 31 and November 1 for youth taking antlerless deer and legal bucks by firearms. No more than six permits shall be issued. The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails, is the sponsor. The bag limit is two.

C. Portions of Blue Mounds State Park in Rock County are open December 5 and 6 for youth taking antlerless deer and legal bucks by firearms. No more than ten permits

shall be issued. The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails, is the sponsor. The bag limit is two.

D. Portions of Buffalo River State Park in Clay County are open October 24 and 25 for youth taking antlerless deer and legal bucks by firearms in an earn-a-buck hunt. No more than 12 permits shall be issued. The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails, is the sponsor. The bag limit is two.

E. Portions of Camden State Park in Lyon County are open October 24 and 25 for youth taking antlerless deer and legal bucks by firearms in an earn-a-buck hunt. No more than 12 permits shall be issued. The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails, is the sponsor. The bag limit is two.

F. Portions of the city of Baxter in Crow Wing County are open October 15 through 18 for youth taking antlerless deer and legal bucks by firearms. The number of permits is unlimited. The city of Baxter is the sponsor. The bag limit is five.

G. Portions of Kilen Woods State Park in Jackson County are open October 31 and November 1 for youth taking antlerless deer and legal bucks by firearms. No more than six permits shall be issued. The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails, is the sponsor. The bag limit is two.

H. Portions of Lake Bemidji State Park in Beltrami County are open October 16 through 18 for youth taking antlerless deer and legal bucks by firearms. No more than ten permits shall be issued. The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails, is the sponsor. The bag limit is two.

I. Portions of Lake Bronson State Park in Kittson County are open October 24 and 25 for youth taking antlerless deer and legal bucks by firearms. No more than ten permits shall be issued. The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails, is the sponsor. The bag limit is one.

J. Portions of Lake Shetek State Park in Murray County are open November 21 and 22 for youth taking antlerless deer and legal bucks by firearms. No more than 15 permits shall be issued. The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails, is the sponsor. The bag limit is two.

K. Portions of Minneopa State Park in Blue Earth County are open November 14 and 15 for youth taking antlerless deer and legal bucks by firearms. No more than 12 permits shall be issued. The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails, is the sponsor. The bag limit is two.

L. Portions of St. Croix State Park in Pine County are open October 31 and November 1 for youth taking antlerless deer and legal bucks by firearms. No more than 45 permits shall be issued. The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails, is the sponsor. The bag limit is one.

M. Portions of Savanna Portage State Park in Aitkin County are open October 24 and 25 for youth taking antlerless deer and legal bucks by firearms. No more than 25 permits shall be issued. The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails, is the sponsor. The bag limit is two.

N. Portions of Sibley State Park in Kandiyohi County are open October 24 and 25 for youth taking antlerless deer and legal bucks by firearms. No more than ten permits shall be issued. The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails, is the sponsor. The bag limit is one.

O. Portions of St. Croix State Park in Pine County are open October 31 and November 1 for adult learn-to-deer-hunt participants taking antlerless deer and legal bucks by firearms. No more than 14 permits shall be issued. The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, is the sponsor. The bag limit is one.

P. Portions of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Carver and Scott Counties are open October 24 and 25 for adult learn-to-deer-hunt participants taking antlerless deer and legal bucks by firearms. No more than ten permits shall be issued. The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge are the sponsors. The bag limit is one.

Q. Portions of Lake Bemidji State Park in Beltrami County are open October 16 through 18 for adult learn-to-deer-hunt participants taking antlerless deer and legal bucks by firearms. No more than ten permits shall be issued. The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails, is the sponsor. The bag limit is two.

R. Portions of Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center in Pine County are open December 4 through 7 for adult learn-to-hunt participants taking antlerless deer and legal bucks by firearms. No more than 12 permits shall be issued. The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, and the Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center are the sponsors. The bag limit is two.

S. Portions of Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center in Fillmore and Winona Counties are open October 15 through 18 for adult learn-to-hunt participants taking antlerless deer and legal bucks by firearms. No more than six permits shall be issued. The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, and the Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center are the sponsors. The bag limit is two.

EFFECTIVE PERIOD. The expedited emergency amendments to Minnesota Rules, part 6232.2550, expire December 31, 2026. After the expedited emergency amendments expire, the permanent rules again take effect, subject to any permanent rule amendments that have been adopted in the interim.