

2026-2027 Kentucky fishing and hunting licenses available

SUBMITTED

The 2026-2027 Kentucky license year for fishing, hunting, boating and more began Sunday, March 1. Outdoor enthusiasts are able to purchase all the licenses, tags and permits they need to enjoy Kentucky's outdoors through the end of February 2027.

Licenses and permits are sold online through the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resource's License Sales portal and the My Profile app, both searchable on the department's website at fw.ky.gov. Licenses and permits also are sold at agent locations across the state. A list of license agent locations by county is available on the department's website.

The 2026-2027 license and permit fees will remain the same as the current license year ending Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026. License and permit fees for the 2025-2026 license year were increased slightly across the board in January 2026 following a new, inflation-based pricing system measured on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the national measure of inflation calculated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Federal Duck Stamp and application fees were exempt from CPI adjustments.

In Kentucky, a license covers basic hunting or fishing for many species, whereas additional state permits are required when pursuing specific species, such as fishing for trout or hunting for migratory birds, deer, wild turkey or black bear. Sportsmen's-type licenses include multiple species permits as well as basic hunting and fishing privileges.

For newcomers to all the great outdoor opportunities that Kentucky has to offer, a reduced-cost sportsman's license is now available for resident first-time buyers. Only individuals who have not purchased an annual Kentucky hunting or fishing license — or a combination license that includes an annual license — since 1996 are eligible. The \$37 license includes a resident hunting and fishing license, spring turkey permit, fall turkey permit, trout permit, state migratory bird and waterfowl permit and statewide deer permit.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife provides a number of resources to assist avid outdoor enthusiasts and newcomers alike with information on waterbodies, public lands, fishing and hunting education and all the regulations to help anglers and hunters make the most

of their time outdoors via its website and the hunting and fishing guides it produces annually. This includes the new Fishing and Boating Guide available online and in print.

Another great resource is the Fish Boat KY app. Available free from the Apple App Store and Google Play, the app helps anglers find waterbodies, boat ramps and other water access from the palm of their hand. Users can also search by species of fish, store copies of their licenses, and much more using the smartphone app.

The department receives its primary funding through revenue raised by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and permits, as well as federal excise taxes generated by the sale of recreational firearms and ammunition, archery gear and fishing equipment.

For questions, the public may refer to the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Licenses webpage or type "Licenses" into the search bar on the agency website (fw.ky.gov), or contact the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Information Center at 800-858-1549 or at info.center@ky.gov, weekdays 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Eastern), except holidays.

Permit now required at Kentucky Fish and Wildlife shooting ranges

SUBMITTED

An amendment to a state administrative regulation governing shooting ranges on wildlife management areas and other lands overseen by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources completed the legislative approval process this month, establishing a permit requirement for range users.

The rule, now in effect, requires an annual or one-day shooting range permit to use firearms and archery equipment on any department managed, leased or affiliated shooting ranges. The permit system will help the agency better gauge how many people use the ranges, promote safe practices and support maintenance and improvements.

The measure to amend 301 KAR 3:015 - Shooting ranges on department owned or managed lands was approved by the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission last year.

"By establishing a shooting range permit, we're striving to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all range visitors," said Kevin Kelly, director for the department's Information, Education and Marketing Division. "The permit will also help us understand how many people use these existing ranges, and support upkeep, upgrades and aid in the development of new ranges across the state."

The permit is free for Kentucky residents and non-residents ages 16 and older who hold an annual Kentucky hunting or fishing license. Qualifying license holders must check a separate box in their license profile to obtain the permit, as it is not automatically included.

Not all shooting sports participants hold a hunting or fishing license, though they use department-owned, leased or managed ranges. For those

without an annual hunting or fishing license, the shooting range permit costs \$26.43 for an annual permit for the license year, or \$5.29 for a one-day permit. Youth 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Participants in department-administered or affiliated events held on any department-managed, leased or affiliated shooting ranges are exempt from the permit requirement, as are participants in authorized group or club events at those ranges. Clubs must provide the department with a list of participants.

As defined in administrative regulation (301 KAR 3:001), a shooting range is a public facility on lands owned or managed by the department through ownership, lease, license or cooperative agreement, or a facility owned or managed by an affiliated partner of the department that is designated for the shooting of firearms or archery equipment.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife properties that require users to obtain a shooting range permit include:

CURTIS GATES LLOYD WMA

- tube rifle range
- archery range
- club operated ranges include skeet, trap, multi-purpose

HIGGINSON-HENRY WMA

- tube rifle range

JOHN A. KLEBER WMA

- tube rifle range
- pistol pit
- KENTUCKY FISH AND WILDLIFE HEADQUARTERS**
- archery range

MILLER WELCH-CENTRAL KY WMA

- tube rifle range
- archery range
- club operated trap and skeet range

TAYLORSVILLE LAKE WMA

- tube rifle range
- archery range

VETERANS MEMORIAL WMA (OPENING MID-MARCH)

- pistol range
- rifle range

WEST KENTUCKY WMA

- archery range
- club operated skeet range

Proposed regulation amendments, pending legislative approval, would exempt Otter Creek Special Activities Permit and Pass holders, as well as Peabody WMA User Permit holders, from the shooting range permit requirement for using ranges on those properties since a fee is already charged to access the ranges.

Shooters can learn more about shooting ranges on the Shooting Ranges webpage or find a public or private range nearest them using the interactive Kentucky Shooting Ranges map.

The new shooting range permit for the current license year is available, along with all hunting and fishing licenses, permits and tags, on the License Sales app or the My Profile app (for existing customers) on the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website (fw.ky.gov).

For questions, the public may visit the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Licenses webpage, search "Licenses" on the agency website (fw.ky.gov), or contact the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Information Center at 800-858-1549 or info.center@ky.gov, weekdays 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Eastern), except holidays.



Photo by Cody Brock

Breckinridge County senior Jonah Miller looks for an opening during last Wednesday's Regional tournament game against Daviess County.

FIGHTING

FROM PAGE B1

In a statement on the Breck

County Boys Basketball Facebook page, officials reflected on the season-ending game.

"Last night our season came to close," they said. "We put up a tremendous fight against

one of the best teams in the state. The game was so much closer than the score shows, and we have so much to be proud of for the way the boys fought!"

SPRING

FROM PAGE B2

complete the required 180-hour course at no cost. We're proud to support these future first responders and will soon host a job fair to connect them directly with employment opportunities.

Through the dedicated efforts of our Business Solutions Team, we also offer a comprehensive range of services designed to support regional employers. From recruiting and candidate screening to employee development, retention strategies and business consulting, our team serves as a trusted partner to local businesses.

In addition to the day-to-day services we provide, we host a variety of no-cost, ongoing events designed to help employees find their next career while helping employers find skilled candidates.

At our career center in Lebanon, Workforce Success Fridays give jobseekers personalized guidance to strengthen their resumes, build confidence and explore new opportu-

nities. At our Bardstown center, weekly Mock Interview Workshops help participants sharpen their interview skills and prepare to land their next role.

Meanwhile, our Elizabethtown center offers RESEA (Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment) Orientation Classes each week, providing tools and insights for creating individualized employment plans, improving resumes, navigating the job market and more. We're also proud to partner with regional libraries to expand access to career services. Career Team advisors host KCC-LT information booths once a month at both the Hardin County Public Library and the Meade County Public Library, guiding visitors through all things job-related, from resumes to interviews to career advice.

Our services aren't limited to our physical locations. Through our Let's Talk Tuesdays Virtual Job Fairs, job seekers can connect with regional employers, ask questions and take the next step in their careers, all from the comfort of home. These events are held on the first and third Tuesday of each

month.

In addition to these recurring events, we're excited to partner with the American Job Center to host a Central Kentucky Regional Virtual Job Fair on Thursday, March 26, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This event will feature a wide range of employers from across the region. Meanwhile, The Commonwealth of Kentucky and the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs will also host a statewide virtual job fair on March 18. The event will run from 10 to 11 a.m. for veterans and military families, and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for all job seekers.

From personalized career counseling and specialized training to virtual and in-person events, KCC-LT offers the resources and guidance needed for every stage of your career journey. For locations and to learn more about upcoming events hosted by KCC-LT, visit ltcareercenter.org.

Robin Gooden serves as center manager for the Kentucky Career Center-Lincoln Trail. She can be reached at robin.gooden@workforceinc.com.