



## 2026-2027 Kentucky fishing and hunting licenses available

*New license year for outdoor recreation in Kentucky began March 1*

The 2026-2027 Kentucky license year for fishing, hunting, boating and more began on Sunday, March 1, 2026. 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 adjust-

ments.

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.

## Proactive treatment of noxious weeds improves road safety and prevents damage to our roads

To prevent infrastructure damage and maintain roadway visibility, Team Kentucky's transportation crews will soon begin roadside treatments targeting invasive and harmful vegetation.

"There's a lot that goes into maintaining the integrity and safety of our roads," said KYTC Secretary Jim Gray. "Our annual treatment of noxious weeds not only minimizes erosion and damage to drainage systems – it protects travelers by reducing unnatural roadside habitat that attracts wildlife closer to traffic."

KYTC is directed to control the following invasive plants and noxious weeds in accordance with KRS 176.051 and 603 KAR 3:100:

- Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*)
- Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)
- Common Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*)
- Cutleaf Teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus*)
- Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)



Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)

Johnson Grass (*Sorghum halepense*)

Kudzu (*Pueraria montana*)

Marestail (*Conyza canadensis*)

Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*)

Nodding Thistle (*Carduus nutans*)

Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)

Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*)

Noxious weeds like Spotted Knapweed and Canada Thistle often invade and destroy the roadside turf grass, leaving these areas vulnerable to erosion. Aggressive invasive species like Kudzu can smother native plants through rapid reproduction and long-term persis-

tence. Others, like Amur Honeysuckle (a favorite of white-tailed deer), if left to mature, can grow over 20 feet tall and wide, reducing roadway visibility and attracting wildlife closer to roadways.

Kentuckians with noxious weeds on private property adjacent to state-owned rights of way may request highway crews to treat listed vegetation. Application forms are available upon request from the appropriate KYTC highway district office. Contact information may be found on the district website. Motorists are reminded to use extra caution when crews are out treating roadsides.

## You Better Stay Awake

By ROBERT CLAUD

Funny thing, when I was serving in the military from 1963-1967, I had trouble staying awake at night, first serving on a strategic base in Texas guarding B-52's and B-58's alert aircraft. This was during the cold war with Russia. The alert aircraft at that time were armed with nuclear bombs. There were a lot of Strategic Air Command (SAC) bases at that time, and we had several of these bombers in the air from different SAC bases 24/7 for 30+ years.

I hated the midnight shift, because I had always been asleep at night until I joined the Air Force. I would walk from wing tip to wing tip and back, which was 185 feet on a B-52. We were called point guards, and no one could get near the aircraft without the point guard checking their badge. If anyone tried to approach the aircraft without a badge, we were authorized to challenge them, and if they resisted, we were authorized to use deadly force.

I served with SAC from 1963 until early 1965, then was shipped to Okinawa, Temporary Duty (TDY). I was then guarding KC-135 tankers. This period was when the US

began bombing North Vietnam (Operation Rolling Thunder).

I returned to the same SAC base in the states as before after serving nine months in Okinawa. Then I volunteered for a tour of duty in Vietnam. I arrived in Vietnam the first week of March 1966. After about three weeks in country, they asked for volunteers to join Panther flight. This flight pulled security at night all the time. I thought it would be better to be awake at night if the base was attacked, so I volunteered. I should have realized that it was going to be hard to stay awake and it was, because I didn't average but about two to three hours sleep during daylight hours. It was just too hot and dusty to sleep during the day in a tent. The temperature hardly ever went below 100 degrees.

Now, if you happened to get a guard post, say, in a gun tower, which is a two-man post, it wasn't too bad. You had someone you could at least talk to. But on a one man post you might not see or talk to anyone for hours.

I was posted on a one man post one night. It was raining, the bunker I was in was about five feet in diameter and less than three feet high. Sitting on

a couple of sandbags in the center of the bunker, I had fallen asleep with the light rain and quietness. Being in a war zone, we always wore steel pots (helmets). Suddenly I was awakened by a helmet being driven into the top of my helmet.

A patrol jeep had driven up to my bunker without me hearing it, and the Sergeant had gotten out, removed his helmet, and with helmet in hand, he drove it down very hard to the top of my helmet. It felt like a sledgehammer had hit me on the top of my head. I came alive and heard him say, "Soldier, President Johnson has just made a ruling that anyone caught sleeping on guard duty in Vietnam will be court martialed, imprisoned, and fined \$10,000." I never fell asleep again on guard duty.

Several years later while stationed in Korea, I was a sergeant then in charge of a gun jeep leading convoys night and day for over 72 hours on an Army Training Program (ARTAP). I had no sleep for over 72 hours. I like to think that's why I was awarded the Army Achievement Medal.

Now, if I sit down in front of the TV or computer, out I go. Pleasant dreams to all.

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of the Gospel of Christ, Paul trudged on with his God given purpose.

2 Corinthians 11: 24-26 "Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep. In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren."

Paul's body must have been a mass of scar tissue having been flogged five times. Because of Paul's encounter with Jesus on the Damascus Road (Acts 9: 3-6), he was of a certainty of the reality of salvation through Christ Jesus.

Paul had no doubts of the reality of Christ's divinity and His power. Can we have that assurance? Of course we can through faith. Faith is a belief system and among our greatest gifts from God.

Many of us have found our greatest weapon against fear is prayer. When we encounter those (many times super-

fluous), reasons for fear, prayer is constantly available. God never hides or sleeps!

Over five billion people in our world have not found the solace of life offered by Christ Jesus. Did Jesus fear? Luke 22: 44 "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." The man Jesus knew fear because of His immediate future (Hebrews 5: 7).

He could have called twelve legions of angels (Matthew 26: 53) and stopped His inevitable future, but He did not. He went, voluntarily, sacrificially to the cross for the sin of all mankind.

We do not face crucifixion as did Jesus. We do not face the flogging whip as did Paul. Our fears seem miniscule in comparison.

If one's greatest fear is death or the process of dying, consider the depth and promise of Revelation 21: 4. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." We have the promise of

God written by the Apostle John. That place called Heaven awaits the believer in Christ Jesus (John 14: 1-3).

It surely appears many Christians fear greatly the command of Jesus before ascending (Acts 1: 8-9) and that is to tell others about Him. With our world eroding further into chaos as we watch, the only solution for survival beyond total anarchy is our Jesus.

We must not have fear of our verbal witness of the teachings of the Holy Bible, God's word. Matthew 28: 20 "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." We are not alone!

The Bible teaches there is only one eternal salvation. That is by a faith based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) that Christ Jesus was crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (Romans 4: 25), resurrected (Matthew 28: 6) and ascended alive into Heaven (Acts 1: 9).

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