



Rockefeller State Park Preserve

Deer Management Program – General Rules & Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in the Deer Management Program (DMP) at Rockefeller State Park Preserve (RSPP). Below are the “*General Rules & Guidelines*” about the program. Please note, however, that all approved participants are responsible for reviewing the “*Detailed Rulebook & Conduct*” as well.

- Only individuals which are approved by the preserve naturalist, via **permit**, are allowed to hunt at RSPP. **Approved participants are required to attend orientation at the beginning of the season.**
- **Admittance into the RSPP DMP as an approved hunter is a privilege.** All participants in the program are expected to strictly comply with federal and state laws. Additionally, all participants are expected to uphold RSPP’s in-house regulations and code of conduct as well. Violation to any of these regulations, either through direct intention or negligence, can result in permanent expulsion from the program. Suspicion of violation to any of these rules is subject to investigation and suspension.
- The **hunting season is from Oct 1st through December 31st**, though there may be some early-season caveats for September. “New” participants which have been in the program for two seasons or less may be subject to some restrictions. Hunting is only permitted on weekdays from sunrise to sunset. It is prohibited to hunt on weekends, as well as Thanksgiving and Christmas. Free access to an official sunrise-sunset table is offered by the DEC (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/111994.html>).
- Approved hunters may **only use approved bows**. It is illegal to hunt in Westchester with crossbows or firearms.
- Hunting is permitted by **tree-stand/saddle only**. Only **white-tailed deer** may be harvested on property.
- All approved participants are required to possess and present proof of a **valid hunting license ID, DOC#, and landowner permit** prior to accessing the preserve’s property. This identification, as well as a valid driver’s license, must be carried at all times while on preserve property.
- **Before harvesting a buck, participants must first take an antlerless deer.** All harvested deer must be properly tagged and reported (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html>) in accordance with the DEC’s protocols. The program mentors and preserve staff reserve the right to inspect any harvest.
- Participants are required to hunt a **minimum of 5 ‘sessions’ for the season**. Each hunter is required to keep a log of hunting hours and observations, which are compiled for end-of-season reports.
- All hunters are required to **formally sign-in and sign-out** for each day hunted.
- The **hunting area is restricted to the eastern forested area of the preserve. A strictly managed pilot was approved in 2022 for 13 Bridges and the areas west of the Gory Brook/Pocantico waterways.** No hunting is allowed outside of this area. Approved participants are required to review the approved hunting area map and understand delineations prior to hunting.
- Applications may be available online (<https://parks.ny.gov/parks/59/details.aspx>) or may be requested directly from the preserve naturalist (joshua.dipaola@parks.ny.gov). **As a controlled deer management program, we reserve the right to limit and actively manage the number of approved participants each hunting season.**