

Camp Pendleton 2024 Deer Hunting Rules

These rules are in addition to the General Hunting Rules and offer deer specific information. These rules augment and do not replace relevant California Fish and Game Code.

Deer Tags: Archers can use the California Archery Only tag on base, which is available over the counter. Camp Pendleton makes up the G10 deer hunting zone. The G10 tag allows a hunter to harvest a deer with a firearm or archery equipment. Hunters may enter the G10 deer tag lottery through iSportsman from 1 to 31 July. iSportsman will select winners at random. No more than two hunters per family may enter the lottery. Winners will be notified by email through iSportsman the first week of August. Winners may purchase a G10 deer tag after being notified of their selection at the STAR Card counter at the Pacific Views Exchange.

Deer Limit: Each Hunter may harvest one deer on Camp Pendleton regardless of method.

Archery Ethics and Proficiency Test: Archers must complete an annual test before archery hunting. Check iSportsman for scheduled test dates.

Hunters with Physical Limitations: The Camp Pendleton Game Warden's office will attempt to accommodate individuals with specific requests, such as reserving a hunting area with flat ground. A hunter with a doctor's note can receive permission from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to hunt with a crossbow with an archery tag during archery season. In this circumstance, the hunter must coordinate with the Game Warden for an appropriate reserved area. The hunter is responsible for recovering the deer, perhaps with a hunter helper.

Area Assignments: Game Wardens request areas from Range Scheduling each week. Range Scheduling confirms hunting areas on Thursday, or prior to a holiday. Game Wardens run a weekly lottery based on area availability on Thursday evening. Hunters can enter as a group or individually. If entering as a group, the group leader will receive a code from iSportsman to share with the rest of the group to use during their entry. Lottery results are sent by email on Thursday evenings. Lottery winners can reserve an area starting at 0800 the day before their hunt.

Typical Weekly Schedule Before Deer Hunt:

Mon-Wed: Lottery entry available through iSportsman

Thursday afternoon: Lottery conducted, winners notified by email

Friday 0800: Saturday lottery winners can reserve areas

Saturday 0800: Sunday lottery winners can reserve areas

Typical Daily Hunt Schedule:

0500-0600: Lottery winners can check into their reserved areas, non-winners can check into available areas on a first come first served bases.

0600: Unused reservations become available to all hunters.

60 minutes after last shot: all hunters must be checked out of areas, coordinate with the Game Warden if you are delayed to avoid suspension.

Spike Deer: It is illegal to shoot a spike buck. If you do make a mistake and harvest a spike, bring it back to the office and forfeit the deer. Fill out the relevant information on your deer tag and report it to the state. A spike is a male deer with unbranched antlers on both sides which are more than 3 inches in length.

After the Harvest: Contact the Game Warden office by cell phone from the field if your deer moved into a different training area before expiring.

- The hunter must first fill out the tag (always bring a pen with you) prior to field dressing the deer.

- Field Dress the deer in the field. Do not leave the gut pile on a road, within 150 feet water, or in a conspicuous place that could affect military training.
- Bring the carcass or eatable portions back to the Game Warden's office with the tag attached to the ear of a doe or the antler of a buck. If you bring the head and eatable portions you will be asked to produce the Head, the two hind quarters, the two front quarters and the back straps. Call the Game Wardens office to ensure someone will be there to meet you.
- Game Warden personnel will collect data on the deer and validate your tag. The hunter will submit the tag data to the state by mail or online by following the instructions on the tag.
- Hunters may utilize the game processing station and discard animal parts in the "gut cans"; **do not throw regular trash in the "gut cans."** Hunters may store their deer in the walk-in cooler. Deer must be removed from the cooler NLT COB Wed so we can clean the refrigerator for the next weekend. Call to the Wardens to make sure someone will meet you at the cooler.

Guzzlers: These artificial watering holes provide valuable water to thousands of animals each day during the dry season, which coincides with the deer hunting season. Deer hunters support the Game Wardens by maintaining the guzzlers with vegetation trimming, concrete work, or delivering water. Hunting over a guzzler is not an ethical hunting practice as it discourages wildlife from visiting the guzzler. Remember: You can bring water with you, the wildlife cannot.

Deer Hunting Activities: While checked out to hunt deer, you may only hunt deer and shoot coyotes as a target of opportunity. No predator calling nor small game hunting may be conducted while deer hunting.

Etiquette: Deer hunting on Camp Pendleton is the base's most popular hunting activity. Hunters from all over the country participate, many hunting on base for the first time, some hunting deer for the first time, each hunter with their own hunting traditions. Here are a few etiquette notes to reduce angst in the field.

- If another hunter is in "your spot", go somewhere else. Have a plan B or C.
- Give other hunters space, buffer with a large terrain feature or distance suitable for your firearm
- Avoid walking through areas glassed by other hunters, this is disrespectful.
- Parked vehicles are clues that other hunters are in the area, maybe go somewhere else
- Area quotas give each hunter about 1 square kilometer to spread out, please use the space
- Know your effective range, taking an out of range shot will likely result in a wounded animal.