

HUNTING AND FISHING

A reduced fee license for eligible residents and several accessibility permits are available within the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks so that we all have access and opportunities to the great outdoors of this state.

REDUCED FEE LICENSE

Applicants for this small game and fishing license must be a resident of South Dakota and meet at least one of the following conditions:

- » Has a total disability (limited to a wheelchair and permanently physically unable to walk);
- » Provide a copy of a letter from the VA indicating they have received the “K” award, or they receive a veteran’s allotment for a total (40 percent) disability which is deemed a service-related injury and will meet eligibility as established in state law 41-6-10.2;
- » Provide a copy of your summary of benefits letter from the Social Security Administration indicating they are receiving a 40 percent Social Security disability and verification they have served on active duty in the Armed Forces or as a member of the Armed Forces Reserve or National Guard; or
- » Provide a copy of the discharge papers showing their former status as a Prisoner of War.

A veteran may provide proof at the time of application. If you do not have the verification papers in your possession, you may contact the Veterans Administration in Sioux Falls (vetaffairs.sd.gov or 605.333.6869) and have them sent to you.

CROSSBOW/DRAW-LOCK PERMIT

- » Available to any person who is incapable of using a conventional bow with a minimum draw weight of 30 pounds, due to the loss of use of one or both arms, caused by birth defect, injury, disease, or who uses a wheelchair for mobility.
- » This permit is not a license. Applicants must acquire the appropriate archery license for the season and area they are hunting.

DESIGNATED SHOOTER PERMIT

Available to any person, who:

- » Is blind/visually impaired as defined by the state of South Dakota or to any person with paralysis of all four limbs.
- » This permit is not a license. Applicants must be legally licensed for the specific season hunted.
- » The permittee must be in immediate physical presence of the designated shooter and participates in the hunt.

SHOOT FROM VEHICLE PERMIT

Authorizes any individual with a qualifying disability to lawfully shoot game animals from a stationary motor vehicle. The vehicle must be pulled over to the shoulder of the road and placed in park. Individuals can not shoot across the road. This includes big game animals such as deer, antelope, elk, and turkey, and small game animals such as grouse, pheasants, partridge, rabbits, and waterfowl. The hunter will need to obtain the required state licenses for whatever species are to be hunted.

This permit is intended for use in situations where an applicant’s physical or medical condition makes it impossible or causes severe pain or physical hardship on the applicant, when walking afield while hunting.

ANGLER ASSISTANCE PERMIT

Available to a person with a valid fishing license, or who is exempt from licensing requirements, who has a physical or developmental disability that prevents them from being able to perform any of the activities associated with fishing. The permit allows another person to assist the permitted individual while fishing, in accordance with existing regulations, and without the need to possess a valid fishing license. The permit limitations or guidelines specify what a person legally can and cannot do while in possession of an Angler Assistance Permit.

Persons applying for a temporary or permanent permit shall complete this application and must have Part C of the application form completed and signed by a licensed physician, verifying the applicant’s medical condition or disability.

LEARN MORE

For more information on these permits or to obtain an application, visit gfp.sd.gov/accessibility-permits or contact GFP at 605.223.7660 or wildinfo@state.sd.us.



SOUTH DAKOTA STATE PARKS

South Dakota has over 60 state park and recreation areas that offer a variety of activities, amenities, and events. We provide several discount programs offering opportunities for all to enjoy the parks as well as accessible campsites, fishing and hunting areas, and Trackchairs® because we want everyone to have outdoor adventures.

DISABLED VETERAN AND PRISONER OF WAR LIFETIME STATE PARK ENTRANCE LICENSE

The Division of Parks and Recreation offers lifetime state park entrance licenses for disabled veterans who are residents of South Dakota and are deemed 100 percent total and permanent disabled or is a “K” Award recipient. Approved applicants also receive a 50-percent discount on camping fees. The application and additional information can be found at gfp.sd.gov, search “Military Park Entrance License.”

MILITARY GROUP SPECIAL EVENTS

Park entrance licenses are not required for past and present military personnel or their family and guests if participating in an approved military group event held in a state park. This includes South Dakota veterans, members of the South Dakota National Guard and military reserve units, patients of veterans’ hospitals in South Dakota and family members, and guests attending the event. To host a military event in a state park, complete the Special Event Application at gfp.sd.gov.

TRAIL USER SERVICE FEE EXEMPTIONS

The following guests who enter the George S. Mickelson Trail area for a special event hosted by their organization, are exempt from the trail fee:

- » Members and guests of a South Dakota veteran’s organization or group
- » South Dakota National Guard or military reserve unit and guests
- » Patients currently admitted to a veteran’s hospital in South Dakota and their attendants

An approved special event permit must be obtained at least five days before the event. The park manager shall issue a special free trail user pass to participants of the special event.

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CHECK OUT SOUTH DAKOTA STATE PARKS

In partnership between the Department of Education and the Department of Game, Fish and Parks, library card holders may check out a 3-day state park vehicle pass at their local participating public library. The Check Out South Dakota State Parks library park pass is valid for entry of one passenger vehicle into any South Dakota State Park, Recreation Area, or Nature Area.

View the list of participating libraries on the GFP website. Don’t see your local library listed? Contact your library to request their participation.

PARK RX

Any Healthcare provider licensed to prescribe in South Dakota can write a Park Prescription, which is redeemable for a free, 1-day pass to any South Dakota state park or a discounted annual pass for year-round activity.

Regular outdoor activity and exercise are proven to benefit both physical and mental health. We encourage all providers to sign up for the program and get all South Dakotans to work on wellness at one of our amazing state parks.

Talk to your doctor today to see if they participate in the South Dakota Park Prescription program. If not, it’s easy for them to sign up and start writing prescriptions.

The program is being administered by the South Dakota Department of Health in partnership with South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks and SDSU Extension.

ADA CAMPING

Accessible campsites (39 parks) and camping cabins are found in most state park areas. They feature accessible picnic tables, sidewalks, electricity, close parking, and are usually located near the park’s comfort station.

Campers can make reservations for accessible campsites online or through the call center by providing their ADA/Handicap Placard ID.

SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS

VETERANS PROGRAMS



GFP.SD.GOV