

2026 GENERAL PUBLIC HUNTER NOTICE

In 2026, as in recent years, West Point will offer thirty-five (35) total General Public Permits, available on a first-come, first-served basis starting November 01, 2026. Users must have a General Public Sportsman account (see NEW in 2026 below) and a completed West Point Safety & Regulatory Brief to acquire a permit. A General Public Hunting Permit allows for a General Public Sportsman (GPS) user, which is a non-dependent, non-retiree civilian not employed at West Point) who has both a valid NYS Hunting License and this permit to hunt at West Point for seven days of the NYS Regular Big Game Season or until the successful harvest of one deer.

PROCESS:

1. **Create An Account** – In October, users may create a free iSportsman account by completing an application. **See p. 2 for instructions.** Select “General Public Sportsman” user type. **Return users old accounts remain.**
2. **Take the Brief** – Each year, users must retake mandatory Safety & Regulatory Brief before acquiring permit. **See p. 2 for instructions.** Take West Point Safety Brief to qualify for permit. **Return users must retake brief.**
3. **Purchase A Permit** – Beginning 12:00 am (midnight) on November 1, log in to your account to buy permit. **See p. 2 for instructions.** Please note: permits sell fast and having an account does not guarantee a permit.

PERMIT AUTHORIZATIONS/RESTRICTIONS:

1. **Authorizes** ONLY big game (or coyote) hunting at West Point ONLY in the Regular Big Game Season.
2. **Authorizes** the harvest of one (1) deer*. Harvest of said deer will render the permit expired.
3. **Authorizes** the harvest of one (1) bear* prior to the harvest of a deer, but not after.
4. **Authorizes** the harvest of coyotes prior to the harvest of a deer but not after.
5. **Authorizes** hunting on any seven (7) days of the Regular Big Game Season, except for Opening Day.
6. **Restricts** guests, including companions driving deer. General Public may not have guest hunters.
7. **Restricts** Opening Day (1st Saturday) access. General Public hunters may not hunt on Opening Day.
8. **Restricts** first time access. General Public hunters must visit Hunt Control the first day they come to hunt.
9. **Restricts** first week access. Check-in begins at 7 am before 2nd Saturday. From 2nd Saturday on, 5 am.
10. **Restricted** to deer/bear/coyote only. Other small game, upland bird and waterfowl hunting are prohibited.

OTHER REMINDERS:

- **Check-in/Out Required** – all hunters must be checked in to an area to hunt and check out when done. Hunters must be in area within one hour of check-in and checkout within one hour of leaving.
- **Harvest Check Required** – all deer/bear harvested during the Regular Big Game Firearm Season must be brought to Hunt Control (Bldg. 1666 at the Rte. 293-Mine Torne Rd Jct.) for mandatory Harvest Check.
- **Permit Transfers Prohibited** – All permits are restricted to use only by the permittee. All permits are non-transferrable. Permits expire upon one deer harvest, seven-day use, or end of the season.
- **Other Rules Apply** – Users are responsible for All other New York State and West Point hunting rules and regulations apply with respect to harvest limit, implement use, tag/reporting requirements, etc.
- **Failure to Follow Penalties** – Failure to adhere to permit conditions/regulations may result in suspension, at no refund, of hunting privileges. First time suspendees this year may hunt next year, barring incident.

NEW IN 2026:

- **New General Public User Types** – New GP Long Pond Angler (GPLPA) users may only Fish Long Pond. GP Users looking to hunt must be a GP Sportsman (GPS) user (may fish Long Pond and hunt). Past years GP users are already GPS. To hunt, GP LPA users should request account upgrade. Do not create 2nd account.
- **Increased Permit Fees, Extra 2 days** – In 2026, all permits were raised by 25%. As such, the price of a GP Hunting Permit increased in 2026 from \$60.00 per permit to \$80.00 per permit. To offset this necessary increase, West Point has added two hunting days increasing the total from five to seven days.

**** For Any Questions or to arrange account update from General Public Long Pond Angler to General Public Sportsman:** Call (520) 718-0012 Or email: Christopher.w.killough3.civ@army.mil with “Public Hunter” in title.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. CREATING AN ACCOUNT

To create an account:

1. From the West Point iSportsman website, click the New Users page and review eligibility and user type.
2. Click the blue “New User Account Form (Register Here)” link to be taken to the account application form.
3. Complete the two-page Account Application form and submit it.
*Note: Select proper Customer Type. General Public looking to hunt should select “General Public Sportsman”. These accounts will only be approved in October each year in order to prevent management and mission conflict.
4. Wait for an iSportsman administrator to approve the account.

2. TAKING THE MANDATORY SAFETY & REGULATORY BRIEF

To Take the Safety & Regulatory Brief:

1. Log In to account. From the My Account homepage, select “My Safety Briefs” on the blue header bar.
2. Select the proper Safety Brief link to open the presentation.
*Note: General Public hunters (i.e. Sportsman) must take the “West Point” brief. Those looking to also fish Long Pond will also need to take the “Long Pond” safety brief.
3. A slideshow PowerPoint presentation PDF will appear. Review the brief.
4. Answer “Yes” to the one question quiz. This issues a validation and completes the Safety & Regulatory Brief.

3. ACQUIRING A PERMIT:

To acquire a permit:

1. From the My Account homepage, select the blue “Acquire Permits” button.
2. Select the blue “Add to Cart” button besides the proper permit,
3. Read the acknowledgement pop-up, select “I agree” box, and the blue “Save” button to add the permit to cart.
4. Select the blue “View Cart & Checkout” button. The free Long Pond permit requires no credit card information.
5. Select the blue “Checkout” button.
6. Select the green “Confirm” button. This completes the free permit acquisition process.

4. MANDATORY CHECK-IN/CHECK OUT

To check in:

1. From the My Account homepage, select the blue “Check-in/Checkout” button.
2. Select the white activity button.
3. Select the blue “I Accept” buttons on any pop-up windows.
4. Select the white Area button (e.g. “Long Pond”).
5. Enter guest information if applicable.
6. Select the blue “Check-in/Checkout” button. This completes the check-in process.

To check out:

1. From the My Account homepage, select the blue “Check-in/Checkout” button.
2. Select the red “Checkout” button.
3. Report harvest as prompted, if applicable. (Please report your catch.)
4. Select the blue “Confirm Checkout” button. This completes the check-out process.