

2023 Chattahoochee Council Annual FGL Deer Hunt

My name is Lance Hoffman and I am the coordinator for this year's hunt. **My cell phone number is 706.587.9404.** My email address is lwhoffman22@outlook.com. I will be on property for most of the hunt and will be staying at the admin building.

I welcome any comments (good or bad) about this year's hunt. The mission is to have a successful hunt every year – **NO injuries on property due to hunting activities.** **The goal is to promote safe hunting opportunities on scout properties, to our scouts, their families, our friends, and supporters.** A very genuine thank you to scouting supporters.

On behalf of the Council, I wish you a very warm welcome to the Chattahoochee Council Annual FGL Deer Hunt and the best of luck.

We made changes to the hunting procedures and instructions that were in place on previous hunts. Please read through this entire document. Changes will have an asterisk next to them.

1. Safety – Remains the top priority of all hunting on the property. If even one hunter is injured due to self-negligence or negligence of another hunter than we have failed the hunt.

2. The camp Ranger (Eric Linfors) has the final word on all issues. His cell number is 305.798.1623. **In his absence, I will have the final word.**

3. All hunters and non-hunters accompanying a hunter must register online and must check-in at the training room in Bradshaw before wandering around camp.

a. There is a fee for all hunters and non-hunters accompanying a hunter. The cost is \$60/day for any hunter 16 years old or older. For hunters under age 16, the cost is \$20/day. For non-hunters, regardless of age, it is \$20/day. The fee helps offset the cost of opening the camp and operating it.

b. The fee entitles the participants to spend the night in Fort Bradshaw in conjunction with the day of the hunt. In the past, most hunters came in the day before to scout and set up and spend the night at Bradshaw for an early morning hunt the next morning. If you prefer to spend the night on the day you hunt, contact Scarlet Guzman (P 706.341.3350) or Janine Fessler (P 706.327.2634) and let them know. We need to make sure we don't overcommit the number of bunks available in Bradshaw.

4. All Federal, State, County and Army Corps of Engineer (ACoE) rules and regulations must be followed in addition to the Council's. This means that prospective hunters must have the appropriate licenses and completed the appropriate hunter safety courses. There is no special permit needed to hunt FGL other than

registering online at the Council's website. Violations of any of these could end your hunt early this year with no refund as a minimum. Federal, State and ACE regulations could have harsher consequences. As a reminder, below are some of the important regulations that we have seen violated on past hunts.

a. No alcohol is permitted on the campgrounds, nor may you consume alcohol on the property. If you drink off the property and in the opinion of the camp Ranger you are intoxicated, he may direct you to Fort Bradshaw to sleep it off before he will let you hunt. If you are intoxicated and try to hunt, he will direct you to FB to sleep it off and terminate your hunt. He will submit a report to me and a panel will review the circumstances to determine if you have lost hunting privileges on the camp property longer or indefinitely. If you are intoxicated and attempt to drive, he can call local law enforcement personnel to pull you over. We don't expect this requirement be an issue with any of our registered hunters, but it has happened in the past.

b. Each hunter and anyone accompanying a hunter in the woods, must wear the required blaze orange safety equipment. **If you are aiming at a deer and you see any blaze orange in your field of vision, do not shoot!**

c. **State and ACoE regulations do not permit "baiting" on the property.** Scent pads, cover scents and "doe in heat" type of attractants are permitted. **ACoE regulations state: "Driving deer using dogs, people, vehicles, or any other method is strictly prohibited."**

d. **Shotguns with slugs only, black powder weapons, archery equipment and cross-bows may be used in accordance with State regulations.** If you need to zero your weapon, let us know before you arrive. We will try to accommodate you. Buckshot of any size is not permitted to take a deer nor are center fire rifles or archery/cross-bow equipment not authorized by the state laws.

e. If you use a tree stand, hanging stand or blind, follow the manufacturer's safety protocols. Each year, more hunters are hurt from falling out of a tree stand than from being shot by another hunter. Reminder, you cannot put in a permanent type of stand (nailing boards to the trees and the like).

f. State and Federal deer quality management regulations are in effect. You may take 10 does and 2 bucks during the 2023-24 season. **Other than button bucks, bucks taken on Camp FGL property must have 4 points or more on one side of the antlers.** Be sure of points on a buck before you pull the trigger.

g. If you take a deer, you may dress it out, in the hunting area. You may leave the deer entrails in the woods, just make sure that they are in the woods. Do not dress deer out in Bradshaw or any of the tent camp sites without coordinating with Eric. Eric does have a pulley system set up and prefers you dress the deer there. Contact him to show you where it is.

h. Make sure you back haul any trash you carry into the woods. Leave no trace.

i. **Hunting Area 6 is a permanent no hunt area.** It is a buffer zone between hunters and the Ranger's home. **In the event you shoot a deer in an adjacent area and it runs into Area 6, contact Eric before you attempt to recover your deer.** You may leave a message.

j. If you take a deer, but sure to follow the "tagging" regulations and be a good hunter by covering the deer before you leave camp. Some people are opposed to hunting and we don't want them to be offended by parading a dead deer around.

k. GA State law allows youth hunters to hunt and does not specify the age. However, it does specify the following:

- Hunters under age 16 are not required to complete a hunter education course. A child under age 16 must be under "direct supervision" or "directly supervised," which means uninterrupted, unaided visual contact and auditory communication with the child or ward.
- **Exception:** Hunters 12-15 years old may hunt unsupervised after successfully completing a hunter education course.

If you have a hunter aged 12-15 hunting with you, make sure he/she has his/her hunter education card with them or they will have to remain supervised.

5. ***** Signing into hunting areas and changing areas.

a. **When you arrive, you may immediately, reserve the area you want for the days you are there (for all continuous days), but not earlier than 2 PM the day before your hunt. It is a first come, first served system. If you have 2 hunts scheduled with a day or more between the hunts, you may not reserve areas for the second hunt when you arrive for your first hunt. If you have a question about it, contact me. Depending on registration, Eric or I may allow you make the reservation.

b. If you arrive and it is after 2 PM, you may go out to your hunting area for the following day and put up your deer stand, scout the area, and even hunt the area provided another hunter has not reserved the area for that day and is hunting that area, and there are no scouting activities or contract workers in the area. You will not be charged for this partial day. If there are people in the area and they not hunting (i.e., contractors, or scout leaders doing a recon for a scheduled event), you may ask them if you can scout the area and put up your blind or tree stand, but you will not carry a gun or attempt to take a deer until they have completely left the area and have informed Eric or me that they are not returning. If another hunter is in the signed into the area, do not go into the area. Wait until he clears the area (signs out back at Bradshaw).

c. *** Different from previous years. You may switch areas during your hunt, but there is a procedure to do that. You must return to where the area reservation book is

(the training room in Bradshaw) and sign out of your current area before you sign into a different (vacant) area. When you do this, it will open the area you were hunting to another hunter. If you decide to go back to the first area, you may do that provided no one else has reserved it for the rest of the day.

d. *** Two hunters may share a hunting area provided they coordinate hunting in the area together. They do not have to be physically together in the hunting area (except for hunters under the age of 16, paragraph 4.k. above). The individual who reserved the area will add the name(s) of the other hunter(s) in the appropriate section of the reservation sheet. Being an addition to another hunter's reserved area does preclude the additional hunter from reserving his own area.

e. *** An adult hunter (over the age of 21) may have up to 2 non-hunters in the area with him/her, but these non-hunters must remain with the registered/sponsor hunter.

f. *** A hunting area will have no more than 4 people (hunters and non-hunters) in the area unless approved by Eric or myself. We may allow more for youth hunters and non-hunters under the direct supervision of adult hunters.

g. *** If a hunter shoots a deer and it runs into an adjacent hunting area that is occupied by another hunter, he/she may enter the hunting area to recover the wounded deer, but not interfere with the hunt of the individual who has reserved the area. For example, if you shoot a deer 3 minutes after daylight, don't try to recover the deer until a couple of hours later or about noon, unless there is a strong possibility the deer may not be recovered if you don't attempt to recover it immediately (thunderstorm is rolling in). If in doubt, contact Eric or me.

h. *** I will have a toboggan and a deer hauling cart available for your use. I will position them at the training room in Bradshaw. If you use them, please return them to where you got them. Additionally, if I am on camp, and you need some help tracking and/or recovering your deer, call me. I will have a small trailer or a rack on the back of my truck to haul your deer to Bradshaw or the dressing station on camp.

i. *** At sign-in, you will provide the make, model, color, and license plate of all vehicles in your party. This is so Eric and I can watch for vehicle and occupants who should not be out there.

6. Ft. Bradshaw and Camp housekeeping requirements.

a. All garbage goes in the dumpster by the dining hall. Do not leave trash garbage in the bunk areas while hunting.

b. No eating in the rooms. Eat in the training center/kitchen area. There is a stove in the kitchen.

c. No smoking in the buildings. Smoke outside and police up cigarette butts and throw them in the trash. Make sure cigarettes are completely out before throwing them away.

d. When you leave your room at the end of your hunt, clean it out, sweep your room and turn out the lights. Close the door.

e. Clean the kitchen as you go. You may use the stove, pots, pans, utensils as available, and the refrigerator. Do not leave food in the refrigerator when you leave camp.

f. Clean the bathrooms. Clean up after yourself after each use. Throw bathroom trash in the trashcans. Do not put food or room garbage in the bathroom trash.

g. If there is an issue with the facilities, contact Eric our Ranger or myself.

h. NO FIRES in Bradshaw or the campsites. This includes camp stoves. There is a fire pit in front of Bradshaw if someone would like to have a evening campfire. You will have to provide the firewood. Eric can approve a fire in one of the campsite fire pits, but you must have pre-approval.

7. Please provide us with comments about your stay and hunt. We want to hear from you so that we can make this better. Some things we are trying to do in future hunts: finding sponsors for discounts of services or purchases, gifts for door prizes, some meals on nights when we have a set number of folks in camp, etc. Eric and I are also trying to get some food plots on the property to keep deer on the property year round. Possibly get some sponsors to put up some shooting blinds (shoot houses).

8. Best of luck. Let us know if you get something and send pictures via text so we can post on the website for marketing future hunts.

Lance Hoffman