

Spring Turkey Hunt Planned At Melvern Wildlife Area for Youth Hunters

Special hunt designed to recruit and retain young hunters.

With warming days, turkey hunters are beginning to get “the itch” to break out the turkey calls and other gear in preparation for the upcoming spring turkey season. Anticipation runs high with warming temperatures, budding trees, greening grass, and occasional sightings of strutting turkeys. The memories of past hunts begin to enter our thoughts; the sights and smells of a spring morning as mother nature awakens around you, the thundering gobble of a wild turkey from its roost, the dangling beard and full tail fan of a big tom coming your way, memories of the shed deer antler or morel mushrooms found on the walk out of the woods. To those that have pursued wild turkeys during the Kansas spring season, these experiences are real, and can fuel an outdoor passion.

There are however, many young Kansans that have not yet experienced, or have limited opportunities to experience, what outdoor Kansas has to offer. In an effort to introduce or share the spring turkey hunting experience with area youngsters, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism, in cooperation with Flint hills Gobblers Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation are preparing for the Melvern Wildlife Area 1st Annual Spring Turkey Hunt on **Saturday, April 6.**

Designed to entice beginning turkey hunters into the woods in search of a spring gobbler, this event will provide participating hunters (age 11 - 16) with an opportunity to become involved not only in the hunt but also in its preparation. Participants will be provided an opportunity to pattern their shotgun, learn about turkeys and turkey hunting, and scout for turkeys the evening before the hunt. The morning of their hunt, a hunter’s breakfast will be provided courtesy of the Flint hills Gobblers chapter of the NWTF. The hunters will then be guided to area locations on public and private land where encounters with these magnificent game birds are likely! Program volunteers will arrange transportation to hunting sites and will be available to assist in the hunt.

Lodging is available in nearby Emporia and camping is available at Lyon State Lake.

Application is required by March 15th.

Due to demand, hunt is limited to 10 hunters and a lottery drawing will be held after March 15th to select the lucky hunters, so apply early.

Persons interested in learning more about this special hunt and to apply can contact:

Clint Bowman – Melvern Wildlife Area Assistant Manager

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