Reservations

DATES & TIMES: Reservations are available seven (7) days per week from 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM mid-January through late October. No reservations will be made during the Upland Game Season or scheduled Field Trials. An individual or party of up to 5 people may make four (4) reservations maximum in the following four (4) weeks. Of those, no more than two (2) may be in the same week, and only one (1) may be on a Saturday or Sunday.

DOCUMENTATION: We will keep a copy of your valid hunting license, F.O.I.D. card, and current game breeders permit on file in the office. You can purchase a game breeders permit online at www.dnr.illinois.gov. You must be at least 18 years old to hold a reservation.

PROCEDURE: Reservations may be made in person, by fax, e-mail, or telephone. If you fail to show on your reserved day and you do not provide advance notice to cancel, you will lose your training privileges for one (1) year.

Training Regulations

CHECK-IN: Check in at the park office at 7:00 AM to pick up your back patches and keys to the parking area. If you are running late, please call. Site staff will not wait around for individuals who have not called.

PARKING AREA: Park in the WEST LOT on the East Grounds only.

TRAINING AREA: Training is INSIDE the signed and designated area only. See map on back.

FIREARM & SHOT: Maximum of two (2) guns, which are to be shotguns no larger than twelve (12) gauge capable of firing no more than three (3) rounds. Lead #6, 7 1/2, or 8 OR steel #4, 5, 6, or 7. Use live ammunition INSIDE the posted training field only.

BIRD STORAGE: DO NOT store birds in the block privies.

CLOTHING: All individuals within the training field must wear a blaze orange vest and hat. Wear your backpatch on the outside of your vest at all times.

ALCOHOL: Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

CLEAN UP: Leave the training area the way you found it. All refuse, including spent shells, is to be disposed of in the garbage cans provided. Do not dispose of birds in the garbage cans. Leave them out in the field or take them with you. If you do not leave the area as you found it, you will forfeit your training privileges at Des Plaines SFWA.

CHECK-OUT: When you are done for the day or no later than 3:00 PM, whichever comes first, lock the gate and return the keys and backpatch(es) to the office. If the office is not staffed, place the keys and backpatch (es) in the lockbox between the stairs and ramp.
Des Plaines State Fish & Wildlife Area
East Grounds Training Field

Directions from the Site Office:

- Turn left out of the Office/Check Station parking lot.
- Continue on River Road for 3.3 miles to Boathouse Road.
- Turn right on Boathouse Road.
- Continue 0.2 miles to the WEST parking lot. Your key will unlock the gate. Park near the block outhouses outside of the fence. **No motorized vehicles are allowed inside the fence.**