

6th Annual Brooksville Squirrel Hunt Competition

Official Rules for Participation

Event Date – February 21, 2026

Please review the following terms and rules for participation in the 6th Annual Brooksville Squirrel Hunt Competition. By purchasing a team entry you acknowledge that you have read the following in its entirety, you acknowledge that you understand and agree to these rules and terms. You agree to follow and abide by all FWC regulations regarding hunting and taking gray squirrel, and acknowledge you are aware of those regulations. You acknowledge that you have obtained all necessary permissions and licenses required by FWC to take game. Adult supervision of all youth is expected and required. Adult Supervisor is responsible for the participating youth understanding and following these rules.

Registration opens December 8th, 2025 and ends February 14th, 2026 at 9PM. NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE PERMITTED.

The hunt competition takes place on Saturday, February 21st at legal light! **You can only take squirrels for the competition on this day!** Only eastern gray squirrels are permitted!!

We are continuing with THREE separate Team Brackets this year.

1. A team consisting of two YOUTH will be registered under bracket one.
2. A team consisting of an Adult/Youth Combination will be registered under bracket two.
3. A team consisting of Two Adults will be registered under bracket three.

Each bracket will receive 100% payout of that bracket's total registration fees.

****RETURNING THIS YEAR** 3rd place ranking = 50% Payout:**
(3rd Place - 50%, 2nd Place - 30%, 1st Place - 20%).

A Team Entry is \$20 per two-person team. ALL youth registrants will be required to provide their date of birth at registration. A youth will be considered as any person age 17 or younger as of February 21, 2026. Failure to provide youth birth date forfeits participation in this event.

Registration payment will only be accepted via Zeffy link or direct to Michelle Payne or Courtney Volberg. Please do not pay anyone else for your registration as it will not be valid!

****RETURNING THIS YEAR** - Updated Side Pot**

Side Pot for the “Longest Squirrel Tail” - Each single squirrel entry is \$5! The person with the single squirrel entered with the longest tail from the base to the tip (EXCLUDING FUR) wins 100% of that side pot. The tail MUST remain attached to the squirrel harvested and must only be taken on the day of the competition. There will be a YOUTH side pot and an ADULT side pot.

Housekeeping and Rules

- A 2-person team can be any combination of youth or adult (or K9). You can hunt alone - but you still are required to pay the \$20 team fee.
- Entry is non-refundable, the hunt takes place rain or shine.

- Hunting takes place on any private or public (WMA) land in which you have legal permission to hunt.
- Hunting begins at legal light on Saturday, February 21st. ****RETURNING THIS YEAR****
Final weigh in takes place by 2pm this same day. Early bird weigh in will start at 10am. Anyone who is not checked in and in line by 2pm for weigh in, will not be weighed in to the contest.
- ****NEW THIS YEAR**** Weigh in location: Rock Lake Cattle Demonstration Area (PK Ranch) 8132 Croom Rital Road, Brooksville, FL 34602.
- Every registered youth will receive an entry prize at weigh in regardless if they are successful in taking squirrels or not. Youth must check in at weigh in table in order to be eligible for any prizes. **Youth "table" prizes will be issued on a first come, first serve basis.** It is encouraged that participants who are successful early in the day, check in/weigh in early. By doing so, they will get to pick from the "table" prizes ahead of the final raffle announcements. All youth participants will still receive an entry in the youth raffles where we will raffle off our guns and larger sponsorship donations at the end of the event.
- **DO NOT CLEAN your squirrels!!**
 - **Squirrels must remain completely intact for weigh in!**
- **Your squirrels cannot be wet!!**
 - **If you take your squirrels early in the day on Saturday February 21st, please keep them on ice in a cooler. The squirrels MUST BE placed inside a ziplock bag to keep them from soaking up excessive water in their fur. Please note that we understand the difference between soaking wet and a wet squirrel from the rain. Soaking wet entries will not be accepted at weigh in.**
- At weigh in bring *up to* 5 of your heaviest harvested squirrels to the weigh in table. You will not be able to weigh them at the table, you must pick which 5 you feel are the heaviest. Those 5 get weighed together for your cumulative final weight. The top 3 heaviest team entries will win the 100% payout of their bracket (3rd Place - 50%, 2nd Place - 30%, 1st Place - 20%).
- If you are unable to successfully take 5 squirrels, you can enter anywhere from 1 to 5 squirrels at weigh in.
- \$5 per squirrel entry side pot for the “**Longest Squirrel Tail.**” You can pay \$5 per single squirrel to be entered as the squirrel with the longest tail in the whole competition. The single squirrel with the longest tail measured from the base to the tip (EXCLUDING FUR) will win 100% of the side pot for that bracket (youth/adult).
- We WILL have an independent examiner on site at weigh in to check ALL squirrel entries!
- ****ATTENTION**** Any single squirrel with a weight in excess of 1lb-4.0oz and any pot of squirrels with a cumulative weight in excess of 4lb-10.0oz will be held by our team for a second examination (labeled, bagged and kept on ice) until final weights are calculated.
- We reserve the right to refuse any squirrel/person from entry based on that examination and refuse their participation in any future event. Anyone found breaking any rules will be disqualified and reported to authorities if necessary.

Final payout amounts will be announced after all team entries are received and registration is closed.

