

The Outdoors



By: Garrett Pruitt

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Pretty Outdoors!

Have you ever spent some time in the outdoors? If not, it can be very fun. There are all kinds of things you can do in the outdoors, such as hunting, fishing, shooting, and more. Allot of people like the outdoors because it can be really fun and there is allot to do.



Two male deer.

One of the things you can do in the outdoors is hunting. There are a lot of animals to hunt in southern Illinois. Some of them are deer, turkey, and predators, but there are a lot more. Not just anyone can just go out and start hunting. To be able to go hunting, you have to have a hunting licence. You also have to have a permit to hunt every thing but predators.



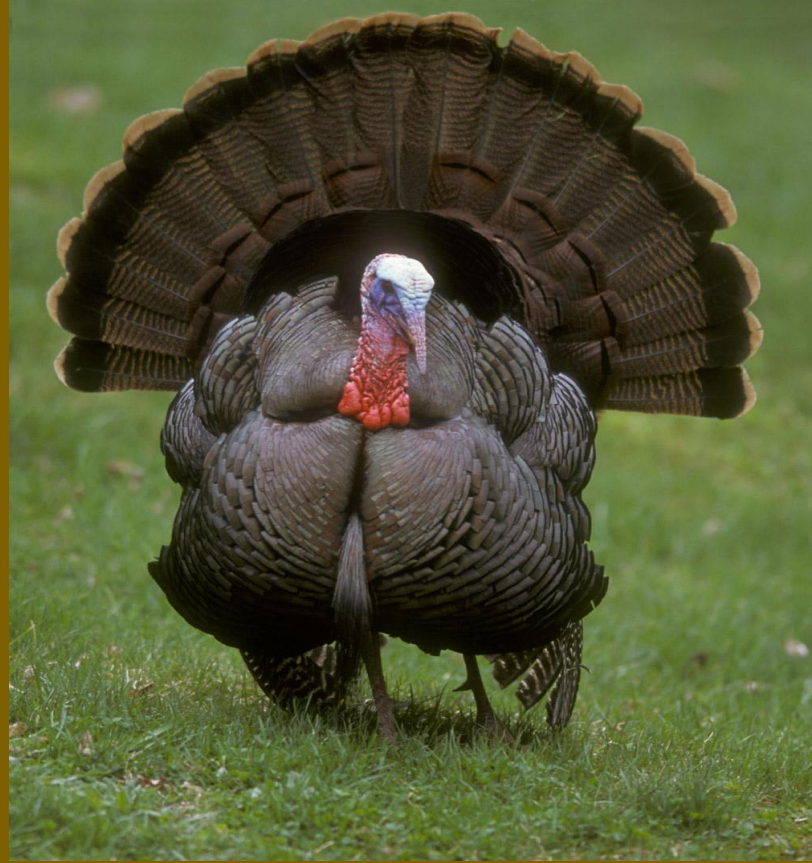
Hunting in the woods

If you are over 16 years old, you can not get a youth permit. According to Illinois DNR, you have to be under 16 to be able to get a youth permit. The season for deer is in the winter and fall, turkey is in spring and predator is any time. You can kill as many deer and turkeys as you can get a permit for, but predators you don't have to have a permit, but you do have to have a hunting licence.

Turkey



Hen with babies
(female)



Tom Turkey
(male)



Three Hens walking
through the woods



Seven turkeys in a
field.

Deer



Doe
(female)



Fawn



Buck
(male)



Two Bucks
Fighting.

Predators



Coyote howling.



Two Coyote Pups Playing



Coyote jumping a fence



Bobcat with a rabbit



A little boy having
fun fishing

Fishing

Another type of fun thing to do in the outdoors is fishing. There are a lot of types of fish around southern Illinois, it just depends on what type they put in that area. The 3 most common types around Southern Illinois are, catfish, bass, and bluegill. I know that because on rockisland.org it says, "Common Freshwater Fish of Illinois and Bass, Bluegill, and Catfish."



Out having fun fishing

Anyone can go and fish on their own land. If you are over 16 you have to have a fishing licence to fish on public water.



A family fishing trip!

The best bait for bluegill, and bass is a plastic worm with a spinner, or you can also use a cricket. The best bait for catfish is stink bait, live bait, cut bait, or little shad. Sometimes worms can work on bass, bluegill, and catfish.

Fish



Catfish



Largemouth
Bass



Bluegill



Shooting a big gun.

Shooting

Shooting is another fun activity that you can do in the outdoors. For shooting around Southern IL. you don't need a big gun. A shotgun is what you use for deer.



Shooting a shotgun.

You can use as big of a gun as you want for predators. I would recommend a 204 Ruger through a 7mag. If you are calling them in close, you can use a shotgun or a 17 hmr. If you have a good enough scope on a 7mag, you can shoot up to 1,000 yards, that is about 10 football fields.



A Lake in the Outdoors.

So as you can see, there are a lot to do in the outdoors. There is hunting, fishing, shooting, and more. The top three to me are hunting, fishing, and shooting. If you are good enough at them, you can go to the pros and olympics for them. So if I were you, I would try the outdoors. You might be really good, you never know.

