



Huron Chamber & Visitors Bureau
1725 Dakota Ave S • Huron, SD 57350
1-800-487-6673 • (605) 352-0000 • Fax: (605) 352-8321
www.hunthuronsd.com or email: cvb@huronsd.com

Huron Ringneck Festival Competition Hunt

The 28th Annual Huron Ringneck Festival is scheduled for November 6 – November 8, 2025! Festivities begin with the Bird Dog Challenge on November 6 and 7, followed by the Competitive Hunt on November 8 with an awards banquet that evening. Attached is a copy of the 2025 application form and rules. Please review the rules carefully and **submit your application prior to the August 29, 2025 deadline.**

Please note: The Competition Hunt is limited to 30 teams. Team selection criteria will include, but not be limited to:

- Meeting application deadline.
- **Complete application information** and waivers.
- Half of entry fee paid (the other half of entry is not due until team has been accepted and notified.)

Teams will be selected and notified by September 19, 2025. Application forms for the Bird Dog Challenge are available upon request or online at www.hunthuronsd.com. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call us 1-800-487-6673 or email cvb@huronsd.com. We look forward to seeing you!

Huron Chamber & Visitors Bureau

2025 Huron Ringneck Festival Hunt Rules

Hunt Date: Saturday November 8, 2025

Application Deadline: August 29, 2025

Registration Fee: The cost for each team is \$1,800 (\$300 per gun). Half the entry fee is due upon receipt of application. A certified check, money order, personal check, online payment, or credit card by phone by August 29th will be accepted. Once the team is accepted, ½ of the total entry fee (\$900) becomes NON-REFUNDABLE after October 1st with the remaining balance due by November 6, 2025. The entry fee includes the Friday Night Landowner/Team Reception & Dinner, Saturday breakfast, the Competition Hunt, Saturday Night banquet, a sack lunch, and a participant gift.

Hunt Registration: The hunt will consist of up to 30 teams with six hunters and two dogs on each team. Teams are required to submit applications with notarized waiver forms by the August 29th deadline. Applications must be complete to be accepted. **All Hunters must be at least 18 years of age.** Teams will be selected and notified by September 19th.

NOTE: Due to the tremendous interest in this event, the number of team applications exceeds the number of entries accepted. Therefore, the application deadline will be strictly adhered to and complete information (with waivers) will be a strong component in accepting or declining a team!

Scorekeepers: Each team will have two non-partisan scorekeepers randomly drawn at the Saturday morning breakfast meeting. Scorekeepers will be responsible for tracking time in the field, shots taken and the number of pheasants harvested. They will have the authority to disqualify any team that does not follow the rules of the hunt. Scorekeeper's decisions are final when made in the field. Prior to the final weigh-in of the birds, the committee can review the scorekeeper's decision if brought to a committee member by a team member that was scored for clarification. Scorekeepers are there to document and monitor the hunt and are not allowed to assist in the retrieving of birds, blocking or driving of the pheasants.

Hunt Times: The teams will be allowed to hunt from 10am until one of the following occurs; 4pm, all 24 shells have been used or 18 birds have been harvested. Scorekeepers will accompany the birds, remaining shells and the entire team back to the check-in area, prior to 5:15pm. The team captain and the scorekeepers must accompany the birds to officially record count and weigh-in.

Check-In: Each team captain and their scorekeepers must check-in their birds at the designated location by 5:15pm. At this time, the birds will be counted, weighed and officially documented by the check-in committee. Check-in time will be strictly adhered to and teams checking in past 5:15pm **will be disqualified**. Immediately following check-in each team will be given the opportunity to have their team photo taken with their birds, dogs and scorekeepers.

Gun & Shells: Each member of the team will be allotted four (4) shells for the hunt, twenty-four (24) per team. Team members may use any LEGAL shotgun shell and gun desired. Limiting the number of shells per team member will help ensure that shooters take clean shots thus reducing the number of wounded birds. Hunters are NOT allowed to exchange shells between team members. The exception to this rule is the Triple Shot Bonus. Each hunter may shoot only 3 birds.

Triple Shot Bonus: A Triple Shot Bonus (TSB) is the harvesting of 3 roosters in the first 3 shots. That hunter must immediately relinquish his/her 4th shell to a scorekeeper and the team must identify the teammate they wish to be the recipient of the shell. The transfer is documented by the scorekeeper and the shell is immediately transferred. He/she may continue to walk and drive pheasants but must put their gun back in vehicle ASAP. If a dog traps a bird, the team can determine if they want to accept or pass by the hunter who could qualify for a TSB. If a trap is determined as the third bird, that hunter's third shell is given to the scorekeeper and the fourth shell is then transferred to a team member and that particular hunter is now done shooting for the day and is not eligible for a TSB.

Dud Shell: In the event of a "dud" shell, contact your team scorekeeper and they will replace the dud shell with a new one. You must have the dud shell to prove that it didn't go off. Once a hunter has used his/her shells, he/she must quit hunting. He/she may continue to walk and drive pheasants but must put their gun back in vehicle ASAP. Violation of any of these rules will result in disqualification of the entire team from the competition.

Dogs: Each team may have up to two (2) dogs in the field at one time. Additional dogs may travel to the hunt location, as long as only two dogs are participating in the hunt at one time. Dogs will not be provided by the committee or landowner and are not required to be in the hunt.

Trapping: If a dog traps a rooster pheasant, that bird can be added to the kill. Each trapped bird is recorded by the hunter losing a shell. If a hunter traps or assists the dog by pouncing on a bird that was not shot by them, this practice is NOT a legal form of hunting and the team is DISQUALIFIED from the hunt immediately. A "TRAP" is defined as a bird that was not shot by the team but was caught by a dog.

Land: The committee will provide the land for the hunt and teams must hunt on the designated land for their team. Landowners will draw for their team at the Friday evening mixer and will have an opportunity to meet at that time. Road hunting will not be allowed for the competition. Landowners are NOT to accompany the hunting party in the field so do not encourage them to do so.

Awards: Awards will be given to the First, Second and Third Place Teams and Landowners. Awards include shotguns for the 1st and 2nd place team and Landowner.

Hunt Headquarters: Headquarters for this year's hunt will be the Crossroads Hotel & Huron Event Center located in downtown Huron. For reservations, call 1-800-876-5858. Ask for the Ringneck Festival room block. In addition, there are several other lodging properties available. Please call for a complete list 1-800-847-6673 or view listing online at www.huronsd.com.

Other Hunting Rules and Regulations:

- ◆ Current South Dakota hunting regulations supercede any and all Ringneck Festival Rules. All hunters must have a current South Dakota hunting license and adhere to all South Dakota hunting regulations. All birds must be tagged and logged in by the team official prior to leaving the field.
- ◆ The daily limit, according to STATE LAW, is 3 cock pheasants per person. Possession limit is 15 cock pheasants, taken according to the daily limit. Limit accrues at the rate of 3 birds a day and 15 birds may not be possessed until after the fifth day of hunting.
- ◆ All hunters must sign a notarized liability waiver form before they will be allowed to participate in the hunt. The committee, landowners, officials and sponsors are not responsible for accidents, injury or theft.
- ◆ If any team disagrees with their official's decision or scorekeeping, finish the hunt and the team must bring up the discrepancy to the rules committee at check-in. The rules committee will have the final ruling in any discrepancy.
- ◆ This is a "Fair Chase" contest and all pheasants are to be taken in flight and not on the ground. Any hunters firing at a pheasant on the ground will be DISQUALIFIED from the hunt immediately.
- ◆ There will be NO ALCOHOL tolerated during the festival hunt. Anyone violating this rule will be immediately disqualified.
- ◆ We ask that anyone choosing to smoke use extreme caution when in the field. Please have courtesy for the landowner's property.
- ◆ The winning team will be determined by; first, the number of birds harvested, second, the number of remaining shells each team has and third, the total weight of the birds. Be sure to give any remaining shells to the scorekeeper at the end of your hunt, so that they can be documented prior to leaving the field.
- ◆ After check-in, the birds will be the team's property and responsibility. We will have a location provided for cleaning of the birds and a number you can call to have them cleaned for you, at your expense.

Ringneck Festival Hunt Application

Available online at www.hunthuronsd.com

Hunt Date: November 8, 2025 (Please Print or Type)

Team Name: _____

Canine Friends _____

1) Team Captain: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (home) _____

City, State, Zip: _____ (cell) _____

Email: _____

Have you participated in the festival in previous years? If so, how many? _____

How did you hear about the festival? _____

How many years have you been hunting? _____

List hunting affiliations: _____

Person to Contact in Case of Emergency

Name: _____ Phone: (w) _____

Address: _____ (h) _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Relationship: _____

2) Team Member: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (home) _____

City, State, Zip: _____ (cell) _____

Email: _____

Have you participated in the festival in previous years? If so, how many? _____

How did you hear about the festival? _____

How many years have you been hunting? _____

List hunting affiliations: _____

Person to Contact in Case of Emergency

Name: _____ Phone: (w) _____

Address: _____ (h) _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Relationship: _____

3) Team Member: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (home) _____

City, State, Zip: _____ (cell) _____

Email: _____

Have you participated in the festival in previous years? If so, how many? _____

How did you hear about the festival? _____

How many years have you been hunting? _____

List hunting affiliations: _____

Person to Contact in Case of Emergency

Name: _____ Phone: (w) _____

Address: _____ (h) _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Relationship: _____

4) Team Member: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (home) _____

City, State, Zip: _____ (cell) _____

Email: _____

Have you participated in the festival in previous years? If so, how many? _____

How did you hear about the festival? _____

How many years have you been hunting? _____

List hunting affiliations: _____

Person to Contact in Case of Emergency

Name: _____ Phone: (w) _____

Address: _____ (h) _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Relationship: _____



5) Team Member: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (home) _____

City, State, Zip: _____ (cell) _____

Email: _____

Have you participated in the festival in previous years? If so, how many? _____

How did you hear about the festival? _____

How many years have you been hunting? _____

List hunting affiliations: _____

Person to Contact in Case of Emergency

Name: _____ Phone: (w) _____

Address: _____ (h) _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Relationship: _____

6) Team Member: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (home) _____

City, State, Zip: _____ (cell) _____

Email: _____

Have you participated in the festival in previous years? If so, how many? _____

How did you hear about the festival? _____

How many years have you been hunting? _____

List hunting affiliations: _____

Person to Contact in Case of Emergency

Name: _____ Phone: (w) _____

Address: _____ (h) _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Relationship: _____

Application Deadline: August 29, 2025.

The entry forms can be sent to: Huron Chamber & Visitors Bureau – Ringneck Festival
1725 Dakota Ave S, Huron, SD 57350. If you have questions call 1-800-487-6673 or 605-352-0000.
Email: cvb@huronsd.com

Ringneck Festival Competition Hunt & Bird Dog Challenge Waiver

WHEREAS, the undersigned is a Participant, Team Member or otherwise involved, in the **HURON RINGNECK FESTIVAL**, known as and hereafter referred to as the “**Ringneck Festival**”. The undersigned does agree to participate in said activities fully realizing the inherent danger in any type of sporting event of this nature and agrees to and assumes the risks inherent therein:

WHEREAS, the undersigned desires to release certain parties from any damages that may arise, directly or indirectly, as the result of his/her participating in the Competition Hunt or Bird Dog Challenge known as the “**Ringneck Festival**”.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of being allowed to participate in the “**Ringneck Festival**” the undersigned assumes all risks inherent in such an activity and does hereby release and forever discharge the “**Ringneck Festival**,” its committee, as committee of the hunt, and members, as members of the hunt, and individually: The Huron Chamber and Visitors Bureau, host facilities, hosts, scorekeepers, judges, sponsors, hunters and all landowners upon whose land they may be hunting, from any and all manner of actions, causes of action, claims and demands whatsoever, in law or in equity, which may arise now or in the future as a result of, or pertaining to, the undersigned participation in said hunt or any of its activities.

AND, in consideration of being allowed to participate in the hunt known as the “**Ringneck Festival**” the undersigned consents to allow pictures, his/her name and/or likenesses of him/her to appear in any official documentary or exclusive coverage of the “**Ringneck Festival**” in any manner incidental to the undersigned participation and without compensation to the undersigned.

I, _____ (print name) being duly sworn, say that I am the person referred to in this record of application: that the statements herein contained are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and that I have read and understand the Release and Rules of the Hunt.

In Witness Thereof, I have hereunto affixed my hand this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Participant _____ (signature)

Town/State _____

Now on this _____ day of _____, 2025 before me, a Notary Public, in and for said person personally appeared to me known to be the identical person who signed the above release and acknowledge the execution thereof his/her voluntary act and deed.

Witness my hand and seal on the day and year above last written.

Notary Public Signature

My commission expires: _____

A waiver form needs to be completed for each team member.

Return the forms to: Huron Chamber & Visitors Bureau – Ringneck Festival

1725 Dakota Ave S, Huron, SD 57350

If you have questions call 1-800-487-6673 or email cvb@huronsd.com