



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 19, 2021

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Hunter ed, outdoor skills courses now available on Go Outdoors Iowa system

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is launching a new event registration site that is part of the Go Outdoors Iowa system currently used for hunting and fishing licenses.

The new site, at <https://events.gooutdoorsiowa.com>, is now home to hunter education classes, hunter education field days, boater education classes, learn to hunt/trap/shoot workshops, mentored opportunities, general outdoor skills workshops and more.

“We will see an increase in the number of hunter education classes as we get closer to February and March ahead of spring turkey season, so those looking to enroll should check it frequently as offerings will likely fill quickly,” said Megan Wisecup, hunter education administrator for the Iowa DNR.

Hunter education classes are typically offered between March and October as the volunteer instructors, county conservation staff and conservation officers are busy during hunting seasons. Go to www.iowadnr.gov/huntered for the available options to satisfy the hunter education requirement and safety measures in place related to COVID-19.

Media Contact: Megan Wisecup, Hunter Education Administrator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-238-4968.

Learn to Hunt program opens registration for virtual shed antler hunting course

DES MOINES - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is offering a free virtual shed antler hunting course to individuals who have little to no shed antler hunting experience or would like to further improve their current skills.

“If you haven't hunted for shed antlers at all or are looking to sharpen your skills, then this course is for you,” said Jamie Cook, program coordinator with the Iowa DNR.

Join the event online for an evening of all things shed antler hunting. Staff with the Iowa DNR's Law Enforcement Bureau and shed hunting enthusiasts with the Iowa DNR will be providing the course instruction.

Participants will have the chance to learn the basics on shed antler hunting, including tips and tricks, regulations, benefits of shed antler hunting, such as post season scouting. It will be an informal webinar and participants will have the chance to ask questions.

The course is geared for participants 16 and older. Those under 16 must have an adult register and participate in the course as well. Space is limited so early registration is encouraged. The event will be held Feb. 9 and will run from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information and to begin the registration process visit: <https://tinyurl.com/shedhunting>

The program is provided through the Iowa DNR as part of a national effort to recruit, retain and reactivate hunters and anglers due to the overall decline in hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation.

Media Contact: Jamie Cook, program coordinator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 859-779-0222.

Missouri and Big Sioux rivers paddlefish fishing season opens Feb. 1

The paddlefish snagging season on the Missouri and Big Sioux rivers opens Feb. 1 and goes through April 30 (sunrise to sunset).

Anglers fishing for paddlefish must have a valid Iowa fishing license, along with a special paddlefish license and unused transportation tag(s).

Please keep track of your catch and effort and complete the electronic survey after the paddlefish season whether you harvested a fish or not. The information collected will help the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) evaluate the success of the season and determine what potential changes/modifications may be needed.

If you catch a jaw-tagged fish (numbered band in the lower jaw), call the phone number on the tag and report the tag number, date of capture, capture location and eye-to-fork length. The Iowa DNR and other state fisheries agencies tag paddlefish to better understand and manage populations. Tagging provides valuable information to estimate population size, fish movement and growth.

For more information about Iowa's special paddlefish season, visit the DNR website at www.iowadnr.gov/paddlefish.

Media Contact: Chris Larson, Western Iowa & Missouri River Regional Fisheries Supervisor, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 712-769-2587.

2020 hunting, fishing license sales

In 2020, Iowa residents purchased...

Fishing

260,048 annual licenses

9,166 lifetime fishing licenses

14,669 three-year licenses

1,185 seven-day licenses

2,957 one-day licenses

49,350 trout fees

176 paddlefish licenses

13,488 third line licenses (resident and nonresident combined)

45,306 fishing, hunting and habitat combination licenses

Hunting

31,205 annual licenses

66,572 hunting and habitat annual combination licenses

2,982 lifetime hunting licenses

3,455 hunting and habitat three-year licenses

1,586 apprentice (hunting and habitat) licenses

24,724 migratory game bird licenses

30,853 habitat fees

13,846 furharvester annual licenses age 16 and older

597 furharvester annual licenses age 15 and younger

408 furharvester and habitat annual combination licenses

273 lifetime furharvester licenses

Large Game

Deer

11,748 youth general deer, 764 antlerless deer licenses

237 disabled hunter general deer, 48 antlerless deer licenses

55,516 archery general deer, 23,944 antlerless deer licenses

7,353 early muzzleloader general deer, 1,524 antlerless deer licenses

46,368 first shotgun general deer, 16,751 antlerless deer licenses

48,735 second shotgun general deer, 18,169 antlerless deer licenses

21,230 late muzzleloader general deer, 10,900 antlerless deer licenses

Turkey

7,039 spring bow licenses

19,634 spring gun/bow licenses seasons 1-3

18,476 spring gun/bow licenses season 4

5,907 spring youth gun/bow licenses

2,356 fall gun/bow

1,519 fall bow

Landowner-Tenant

Deer

61 youth general deer licenses, 66 antlerless deer licenses

5,322 archery general deer licenses, 5,492 antlerless deer licenses

1,279 early muzzleloader general deer licenses, 971 antlerless deer licenses

23,145 first and second shotgun season general deer licenses, 18,961 antlerless deer licenses

2,265 late muzzleloader general deer licenses, 3,844 antlerless deer licenses

Turkey

2,332 spring gun/bow season 1-3

2,189 spring gun/bow season 4

861 bow licenses

34 youth licenses

2,488 fall gun/bow

974 fall bow

In 2020, nonresidents purchased...

Fishing

27,140 annual licenses

2,223 seven-day licenses

11,979 three-day licenses

15,517 one-day licenses

6,146 trout fees

39 paddlefish licenses

Hunting

4,817 annual licenses age 18 and older

13,584 hunting and habitat annual combination licenses age 18 and older

3,007 five-day licenses

1,477 five-day hunting and habitat combination

9,789 habitat fees

3,416 migratory game bird fees

587 apprentice (hunting and habitat) licenses

81 furharvester annual licenses

54 furharvester and habitat annual combination licenses

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is working with state and local officials to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and has transitioned employees to work remotely. DNR offices are closed to the public during this time and only available by appointment.

In other efforts to further reduce the spread of Covid-19, the DNR is encouraging the use of the online services for purchasing licenses, submitting applications, payments and other daily tasks and interaction with DNR staff.

The FREE Go Outdoors Iowa app is available at the App store and Google Play. The Go Outdoors Iowa app allows users to purchase and view hunting and fishing licenses and submit harvest and quota reports, all from your cell phone.

Full list of DNR's online services: <https://www.iowadnr.gov/about-dnr/about-dnr/online-services-databases>.

Up-to-date information on DNR services, facilities and events impacted by Covid-19: <https://www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/Covid-19>.

Technical information for regulated businesses in regards to Covid-19: <https://www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/Social-Media-Press-Room/Disaster->

[Assistance#3057321-covid---19-outbreak.](#)

Thank you for your patience and flexibility during this time. If you need to contact DNR staff you can reach them by email or phone or by calling (515) 725-8200.