



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# Iowa DNR News

## Conservation and Recreation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 20, 2018

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## Memorial Day weekend campsites soon available for reservation

For people who like to camp for the entire Memorial Day weekend, the three-month window to reserve a state park campsite for a Friday arrival opens Feb. 25.

Memorial Day weekend starts Friday, May 25 through Monday, May 28.

“Campers can make reservations for sites three months ahead of their first night stay,” said Todd Coffelt, chief of the DNR State Parks Bureau. “Now is a great time to start planning summer vacations and make a reservation at your favorite park.”

New for the 2018 season, 75 percent of available campsites at each park can be reserved through the online reservations site; the remaining 25 percent are available first-come first-serve at the park.

Information on Iowa’s state parks is available at [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov) including the link to reservations. Campers also can log on directly to <http://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com> to make a reservation.

When visiting the reservation site, campers should take note of closures or renovations taking place at each park. Five campgrounds will be closed for the entire 2018 summer camping season for upgrades and renovations including the campgrounds at Ledges State Park, Lacey-Keosauqua State Park, Geode State Park, Marble Beach State Recreation Area and Maquoketa Caves State Park. Those parks will still be open for day-use visitors.

Closure information can be found [www.iowadnr.gov/parkclosures](http://www.iowadnr.gov/parkclosures) and on individual park web pages.

**Media Contact:** Todd Coffelt, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-725-8485.

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## Land donors honored during reception in Des Moines

DES MOINES – Nearly 5,500 acres of Iowa land in 32 counties was permanently protected through donations for conservation.

The donors associated with 48 donations of land or land value will be recognized during a ceremony on March 5, from 12:45 to 2 p.m., in the first floor rotunda, at the State Capitol, in Des Moines. Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds and Lieutenant Governor Adam Gregg are scheduled to attend.

Landowners who are in attendance will be honored individually for their donation. For more information about individual donations, visit the DNR website at [www.iowadnr.gov/landdonors](http://www.iowadnr.gov/landdonors).

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Alicia Plathe, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-725-8263.

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## Hunter education classes available before turkey season

Hunters who need to satisfy the hunter education requirement can search for and sign up for a course at [www.iowadnr.gov/huntered](http://www.iowadnr.gov/huntered).

Prospective students can see which courses or field days are near them; how many seats are available for the class or if the class is full and a waiting list is available. There is also a map showing the location along with the instructor's name, a course overview and any special instructions.

Iowa law requires all hunters born after Jan. 1, 1972 to satisfactorily complete a hunter education course in order to purchase a license. Children as young as 11 may enroll in the course, but their certificate of completion will not become valid until their 12th birthday.

Each year, around 12,000 students complete hunter education in Iowa.

**Online only course option for adults**

The online only course for adults is designed for Iowa residents 18 years of age or older that have prior hunting and/or firearms handling experience.

The course covers the same material as the classroom course, allowing the student to complete the entire course, including the final test, in an online setting. Certification is received at the successful completion of the online course.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Megan Wisecup, Hunter Education Administrator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-238-4968.

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## Space available in upcoming hunter education classes

Hunter Education Classroom courses are offered by knowledgeable and certified volunteer instructors and Iowa Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officers. Classroom courses are typically 12-15 hours in length and are held over 2 to 3 sessions (days). In order to receive certification, a student must attend all sessions and pass the final exam.

Iowa law requires that anyone born after January 1, 1972 must be certified in hunter education before they are eligible to purchase an Iowa hunting license.

### Upcoming Hunter Education Classes

Feb. 27, Jefferson, Milwaukee Road Depot

March 1, Indianola, Izaak Walton League-Indianola

March 2, Des Moines, Izaak Walton League-Des Moines

March 6, Ottumwa, Izaak Walton League-Ottumwa

March 6, Winterset, Pammel Park Nature Center

March 7, Palo, Palo Outdoors

March 8, Central City, North Linn Fish & Game Club

March 8, Muscatine, Monsanto Recreation Building

March 10, Montrose, Lee County Conservation Board

March 10, Mount Pleasant, Henry County Nature Center

March 10, Waterloo, Hawkeye Community College - Waterloo

March 10, Chariton, Pin Oak Lodge  
March 12, Cresco, Prairie's Edge Nature Center  
March 12, Anthon, Anthon Shelter House  
March 13, Toddville, Wickiup Hill Learning Center  
March 15, Knoxville, Marion County Sportsman Club  
March 17, Ventura, Iowa Regular Baptist Camp  
March 17, Oelwein, Regional Tech Complex  
March 17, Maquoketa, Hurstville Interpretive Center  
March 19, Clarinda, American Legion – Clarinda  
March 20, Dubuque, EB Lyons Interpretive Center – Mines of Spain  
March 22, West Des Moines, Raccoon Park Nature Lodge  
March 24, Vinton, Izaak Walton League–Vinton  
March 24, Fairfield, Southeast Iowa Skeet Club  
March 24, Victor, Knights of Columbus  
March 26, Burlington, Starr's Cave Nature Center  
March 27, Ames, Izaak Walton League–Ames  
March 29, Tipton, Cedar County Conservation Board Office

April 5, Iowa City, Fin and Feather  
April 6, Durant, Durant Community School  
April 11, New Sharon, Mahaska County Conservation Board Nature Center  
April 12, Ionia, Twin Ponds Nature Center  
April 12, Des Moines, Baldwin-Patterson American Legion Post 274  
April 14, Solon, Solon Lakeview Elementary School

For more information on these and other hunter education opportunities, go to [www.iowadnr.gov/huntered](http://www.iowadnr.gov/huntered)