



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa DNR News

Conservation and Recreation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2018

- [Iowa state parks Camping Kickoff is this weekend](#)
- [Popular outdoor skills camps expected to fill quickly as registration opens](#)
- [Space available in upcoming hunter education classes](#)

Iowa state parks Camping Kickoff is this weekend

Forecasters are predicting beautiful weather for the weekend when state park campgrounds will celebrate Camping Kickoff, May 4 – 6.

State parks will feature more than 40 events across the state, including hikes, kayaking demonstrations, fishing clinics and much more to celebrate the start of the season. A full schedule of programs is available at www.iowadnr.gov/campingkickoff. Campers will also receive a free summer issue of Iowa Outdoors magazine.

“We are looking forward to this season opener and to welcoming visitors and campers to our parks,” says Todd Coffelt, chief of state parks for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Those wanting to join the Camping Kickoff celebration can make advanced reservations through this Wednesday, May 2.

Reservations can be made at <https://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com> or by calling 1-877-427-2757. Phone center hours are 7 AM to 7 PM CST. After Wednesday, campers can use walk-in camping on a first-come, first-serve basis for any sites not already reserved.

Iowa’s Camping Kickoff is in conjunction with the national Let’s Camp America! initiative, when state parks across the country will celebrate the start of the camping season.

Popular outdoor skills camps expected to fill quickly as registration opens

Iowa boys age 12-15 have two opportunities this summer to learn skills associated with Iowa's traditional outdoor pursuits at the hands of experts.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Hunting and Conservation Camp (HACC) uses a hands-on approach to teach outdoor activities including wildlife identification, fly tying, fishing basics and skills relating to hunting deer, turkey, waterfowl and pheasants.

The boys will have the opportunity to shoot shotguns, rifles and muzzleloaders, try their hand at archery, learn game care, how to clean fish and the basics of trapping.

Participants will leave with their hunter education certificate.

The catch? There are only 30 spots available at each camp.

"We've taught these skills to more than 3,100 students since HACC started in 1997," said AJ Winter, with the Iowa DNR. "This is a popular camp because we keep it educational and we keep it fun. We expect the spots to fill quickly."

- The first camp is July 18-20 at the SYC camp in southern Clay County near the town of Webb. Participants will spend two nights at camp.
- The second camp is July 25-27 at the Butch Olofson shooting range northwest of Polk City. This is a day camp with no overnights.

Registration fee is \$150 which includes food, snacks, course materials and lodging for the SYC camp. To register, go online to <https://register-ed.com/programs/iowa/173-iowa-hunter-education-camps> and follow the links.

Attendees may not bring their own firearm or shells.

Media Contact: For the **SYC Camp** - Marty Eby, Recreation Safety Officer, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 712-260-1036; for the **Olofson Camp** - AJ Winter, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-669-7201.

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

May 1, DeWitt, Wapsi Valley Ikes

May 5, Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon Fire Department

May 7, Polk City, Butch Olofson Shooting Range

May 9, Independence, Buchanan County Wildlife Association

May 12, Blue Grass, Oak Hills Gun Club

May 16, Exira, Audubon County Conservation Board

May 17, Marshalltown, Izaak Walton League – Marshalltown

May 26, Altoona, Altoona Shrine Center

June 11, Elkader, Osborne Nature Center

July 24, West Chester, West Chester Heritage Building

For more information on these and other hunter education opportunities, go to www.iowadnr.gov/huntered