



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 17, 2023

- [Missouri and Big Sioux rivers paddlefish fishing season opens Feb. 1](#)
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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.

Ongoing drought conditions and low river levels might affect Missouri River boat ramp access.

For more information about Iowa's special paddlefish season regulations, 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.

Early childhood online outdoor education training scheduled this spring

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach are offering an online training for the national award-winning *Growing Up WILD* activity guide.

This online training provides exciting hands-on activities and resources to help lead children (ages 3-7) out the door and explore nature. Activities use age-appropriate practices and concepts to build and nurture a child's sense of wonder about nature, wildlife, and the great outdoors. Early learning activities focus on: math, science, language, literacy, health living, play, and creativity.

Participants are required to complete online pre-workshop activities and attend the virtual training on March 9 from 6:00 - 9:00 pm. Cost is \$15 and includes the *Growing Up WILD* activity guide. The discounted rate is made possible with support from Iowa *Project WILD*. Participants receive 4 (clock) hours credit for childcare license renewal approved by Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS).

You must register to attend the online training. Register and submit your payment by February 23 on the [Iowa Child Care Provider Training Registry](#) (search for Reconnecting Children with Nature).

Additional early childhood outdoor education learning opportunities

Iowa State University Extension provides in-person *Growing Up WILD* training for early childhood professionals that include continuing education credits through the Iowa Department of Public Health. Visit the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach website (www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/growing-up-wild) to find a class.

Media Contact: Barb Gigar, training specialist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-494-3891.

Teaching outdoor skills courses scheduled this summer

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is sponsoring four courses on how to teach outdoor skills for K-12 teachers, naturalists and other educators this summer.

Hands-on sessions (indoors and outside) will provide introductory skills instruction and development, teaching materials and lesson plans. The cost of each course varies. Create an account on the [AEALearning website](#) to find the cost, registration deadline and requirements for each course.

- **Introduction to Basic Outdoor Skills**, June 27-28 at Kent Park Conservation Center, Polk City or July 11-12 at Swan Lake Education Center, Carroll

Participants will receive introductory instruction and lesson plans for planning outings, map reading, hiking, paddling, fishing, archery, campfire cooking and basic firearm safety/shooting. Registration fee includes meals (lunch and dinner on day 1 and lunch on day 2) and materials.

- **Fish Iowa! Basic Fishing**, June 12 at Wapsi River Environmental Education Center, Dixon or June 14 at Bigelow Park, Salix

This blended course will acquaint participants with the *Fish Iowa!* Basic Spincasting teaching module and a variety of other resources to teach fishing in a variety of settings. Participants will learn to teach fish identification, fishing locations, casting techniques and cleaning and cooking fish. Participants will experience lake/pond fishing (including fishing from a kayak and/or canoe)

and be introduced to a variety of *Aquatic WILD* activities. Peer teaching and small group work will be used to develop appropriate teaching strategies for individual teaching situations. Individuals who register for this class must complete **online coursework prior to the in-person session**.

- **Archery**, June 28 at Olofson Shooting Range, Polk City

Participants will learn basic archery and archery instructional skills, as well as maintenance of archery equipment. Participants will receive *National Archery in the Schools* instructional materials. Individuals who register for this class will receive information via email to register for the "Basic Archery Instructor" online course. **(Completion required between June 21-27, 2023.)**

- **Hunter Education**, July 10-11 at Olofson Shooting Range, Polk City

Learn the requirements to become a certified hunter education instructor, including firearm handling and safety, hunter education class requirements and policies and procedures.

Registration fee includes lunch, supplies and teaching materials. Bring a laptop or tablet to access online resources.

Educators can earn license renewal for all six courses. Graduate credit is also available for the Introduction to Basic Outdoor Skills and *Fish Iowa!* Basic Fishing sessions.

Register for the how to teach outdoor skills courses through the AEALearning website at <https://aealarning.truenorthlogic.com/>. You will be asked to create an account if you do not already have one. After you login, enter "outdoor skills" in the course search to find registration information for each course.

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