

Firearms Safety Class to be Offered

A Minnesota Department of Natural Resources approved Firearms Safety Program will be offered in Edgerton on Saturday, May 8. Students should begin their on-line course work by registering through www.huntercourse.com. Starting in 2012 the Edgerton area firearms instructors for the Minnesota DNR converted to the on-line classroom format. This on-line format has been very successful and provides the students with a self-paced learning environment. On May 8th the students will participate in a full day event. The morning will include a 3 hour classroom review followed by the field day examination.

The program will begin with registration at 8:30 AM. Students must have completed their on-line course and bring the certificate of completion in order to participate in the field day examination. If the student is under the age of 18 at the time of the field day examination, a parent or guardian must attend the first half hour of the program and sign a permission slip/waiver prior to the student being permitted to participate. Students are required to bring their own 22 LR Rifle. The firearm must be legally transported to the class. Students are not permitted to have any ammunition in their possession during the class. All ammunition will be provided by the instructors. Lunch will not be provided so students should bring a sack lunch.

Students will learn the principles of safe and responsible firearms handling, hunter responsibility, personal preparedness, basic wildlife management, wildlife identification and basic outdoor survival.

Youth:

Students must be at least 11 years old when the class begins to participate. Minnesota Regulations require anyone born after December 31, 1979 complete an approved Firearms Safety Program prior to obtaining a hunting license. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend the entire class.

Adults:

This program is not just for the youth. The program has seen an increase in the number of adults taking the course each year, especially with the on-line course. Students 18 or older may take an online course and examination. The classroom and field day on May 8th is optional for adult students.

Prior Apprentice Validations:

Hunters who purchased the Apprentice Hunter Validation and are 18 or older may also be eligible for the Home Study of Internet Program. The Apprentice Validation is only valid for two license periods and cannot be renewed.

State COVID Requirements:

The Minnesota DNR has established strict COVID-19 requirements for this class during the Pandemic. The classroom is limited to only students and instructors. All others must remain outside the classroom. Any student with any symptoms or prolonged exposure to the virus will not be permitted to attend the class. All participants will be required to wear a mask and social distance.

Class size is limited. The cost of the program is \$24.95 and is paid at the start of the on-line program. The instructors are volunteers and are not compensated through any of the fees collected by the Minnesota DNR or the on-line course provider. The instructors will not be collecting any fees during the course. Contact Doug Kroh (507-820-0136), Brad Bruxvoort (507-215-1629) or Hiene Walhof (442-

3624) for reservations or information. The instructors are available during the students' on-line course if questions are encountered.