

PRESS RELEASE

The Portage Hunter Education Association and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, in conjunction with the Portage Rod & Gun Club, will be conducting a Hunter Education and Firearms Safety Course in Portage, beginning on Tuesday, August 4, 2009.

Registration begins at 6pm Tuesday, August 4, 2009 at the Portage Rod & Gun Club, W10450 Hwy.16. Classes will be held every Tuesday and Thursday, August 4 thru August 18, from 6pm until 9pm. There will also be a Field Test Day on Saturday, August 15th from 8am until 4:00 pm. All classes are mandatory attendance.

There is no minimum or maximum age requirement. However the student must be at least 12 years old in order to purchase a hunting license, and be able to hunt, and the student must be at least turn 12 years old during the upcoming hunting season to receive the "free" benefits allowed first time graduates. State law requires that a person under the age of 16 to be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian while in possession of a firearm or bow and arrow unless the person has successfully completed a Hunter Education Course and is at least 14 years old. This law applies to target practice with firearms as well as hunting. No one under the age of 12 may hunt or possess a firearm. A Hunter Education Certificate is required for everybody born after Jan. 1 1973 in order to purchase a hunting license in the state of Wisconsin. If planning a hunt outside the State of Wisconsin be aware that some states require a Hunter Education Certificate of all hunters, regardless of age, including nonresidents, in order to purchase a hunting license.

The Hunter Education Course contents include firearm safety in the home and field, first aid, survival, wildlife management, hunter ethics, hunting skills, and hunting and firearm safety law's. Firearms will be fired on the range but are not required to be provided by the students.

Pre-registration is not allowed and a parent or legal guardian must accompany their children on the first night to register and are welcome to attend the other sessions. There is a \$10 fee, payable upon registration, for the course.

Students will receive a basic Hunter Education Graduate Certificate, and a distinctive embroidered emblem. First time graduates will also receive a free Small Game license, and a free antlerless deer carcass tag, good for the upcoming hunting season only.

A preview of class materials and preparation for the class is available at <http://homestudy.ihea.com/index.htm>

For further information contact Mike Mittelsteadt at (608) 742-8702 or Conservation Warden Paul Nadolski at (608) 635-8126.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS MUST CONTACT THE INSTRUCTOR AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE OF THE COURSE TO REQUEST SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS.

Our course following this one begins Tuesday April 6, 2010 and will run every Tuesday and Thursday April 6 thru April 20 from 6 - 9 pm, with the Field Day on Saturday April 16 from 8am 4pm.