



Safety Education Is For Everyone

The four Mandatory Safety Education Programs, boating, hunter, trapping and snowmobiling, are primarily designed to train young people between the ages of 12 and 18. However we encourage persons of all ages to participate in the programs.

All Mandatory Safety Education classes require minimum hours of instruction by law. The primary objectives of the Safety Education Programs are to teach **USER RESPONSIBILITY, RESPECT AND SAFETY.**

Who Teaches Safety Education Courses?

State certified volunteer instructors throughout the state spend hours teaching safety education classes. The volunteer instructor staff is made up of men and women who donate thousands of hours of their personal time offering safety courses to many communities. These dedicated individuals form the backbone of the Safety Education Programs.

What Should You Bring To A Safety Education Class?

Unless specifically directed by the instructor or announced publically, the only items you will need to bring are a pencil and a note pad. Manuals and handouts are provided by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

General Information

- Persons of all ages are encouraged to participate in Safety Education Classes.
- Classes are open to the public and federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color national origin, or handicap.
- It is the policy of IDNR that youth under the age of 10 must be accompanied to and during the safety education courses by an adult or guardian at least 16 years of age.

Mere attendance of this safety education training and taking a written test will not guarantee the passing of this course. Multiple criteria such as mental and physical acuity, the ability to demonstrate and recognize safe procedures, attitude and the maturity level of each individual student will be a factor assessed by the instructors in the final certification process.

Safety Education Regional Map



1. Northwestern Illinois

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2. Northeastern Illinois

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3. Central Illinois

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4. Southern Illinois

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For information on Safety Education classes in your area, contact the Safety Education Section Springfield Office, the nearest Natural Resource Region Office or visit our webpage at www.dnr.illinois.gov/safety



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Safety Education Section
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702-1271

1-800-832-2599
www.dnr.illinois.gov



The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is looking for a few good instructors.

Are you interested in helping to preserve your recreational pursuit?

If so... become a Certified Volunteer Safety Education Instructor.

Contact your Region's Volunteer Services Coordinator for more information.

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; 217/785-0067; TTY 217/782-9175. This information may be provided in an alternative format if required. Contact the DNR Clearinghouse at 217/782-7498 for assistance.

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State of Illinois
Illinois Department of
Natural Resources

Illinois Mandatory Safety Education Programs



Illinois
Department of
Natural
Resources

Boating

Safety Education



What Is It?

The Illinois Boating Education Course consists of a minimum eight hours of instruction. These courses cover the basics of boating, safety, equipment and requirements, navigation, motorboat registration and titling, emergency measures and the state boating regulations.

Persons 12 and over completing the minimum eight hours of instruction and successfully completing the final examination will receive a State of Illinois Certificate of Competency.

Who Must Take The Course?

On January 1, 1978, Illinois law was passed that requires persons at least twelve years of age and less than 18 years of age may only operate a motorboat if:

- They have in possession a valid Boating Education Certificate of Competency sanctioned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Safety Education Section.
- Or they are accompanied on the motorboat and under direct control of a parent or a guardian, or a person at least 18 years of age designated by a parent or guardian.

New Law:

On January 1, 2016, no person born on or after **January 1, 1998**, unless exempted by subsection, shall operate a motorboat with over 10 horse power unless that person has a valid Boating Safety Certificate issued by the Department of Natural Resources or an entity or organization recognized and approved by the Department.

Beginning on January 1, 2016, persons at least 12 years of age and less than 18 years of age may operate a motorboat with over 10 horse power only if the person meets the requirements mentioned in this subsection.

Where Are Courses Available?

Many civic organizations, park districts, school, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Power Squadrons, along with other interest groups sponsor classes throughout the state. On-line courses are now available at www.boat-ed.com and at www.boaterexam.com.

Hunter

Safety Education



What Is It?

The Illinois Hunter Education Program consists of a minimum 10 hours of instruction. These courses cover the basics of hunter responsibility, tree stand safety, wildlife conservation, firearms and ammunition, field safety, wildlife management, bowhunting, muzzleloading, and state regulations.

Persons completing the minimum 10 hours of instruction and successfully completing the final examination will receive a State of Illinois Certificate of Competency.

Who Must Take The Course?

On January 1, 1996, Illinois law was passed that requires anyone born on or after **January 1, 1980** may not be issued a hunting license unless:

- They present a valid Hunter Education Certificate of Competency sanctioned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Safety Education Section.
- Or they present evidence he or she has held a hunting license issued by the State of Illinois or another state in a prior year.

Where Are Courses Available?

Courses are sponsored by various conservation clubs, public service and outdoor organizations, park districts, schools and other interest groups throughout the state.

Online Self-Study/Field Day Course—Students may study course material online and must attend a Field Day to complete the course. On-line study material is available at www.huntercourse.com or www.hunter-ed.com.

Why Take This Course?

Many states are now requiring adult hunters to furnish evidence of having completed a Hunter Education Course prior to issuance of non-resident license. The shooting sports, both hunting and target, are lifetime recreational activities enjoyed by millions of Americans. The Illinois Hunter Safety Education Program was designed to improve safety and to develop an attitude of respect for wildlife and the environment.

Snowmobiling

Safety Education



What Is It?

The Illinois Snowmobile Education Course consists of a minimum eight hours of instruction. These courses cover the basics in maintenance and repair of snowmobiles, proper and safe operation, history of snowmobiling, first aid, protection of the environment and the state regulations.

Persons 12 and over completing the minimum eight hours of instruction and successfully completing the final examination will receive a State of Illinois Certificate of Competency.

Who Must Take The Course?

On October 2, 1975, Illinois law was passed that requires persons at least twelve years of age and less than 16 years of age may operate a snowmobile only if:

- They have in possession a valid Snowmobile Safety Education Certificate of Competency sanctioned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Safety Education Section.
- Or they are accompanied on the snowmobile by a parent or guardian or person at least 16 years of age designated by a parent or guardian.

Where Are Courses Available?

Courses are sponsored by various snowmobile clubs, public service organization, park districts, schools and other interest groups throughout the state. On-line courses are now available at snowmobilecourse.com and snowmobile-ed.com.

Why Take This Course?

Illinois winters are very unpredictable and when we receive enough snow for snowmobiling, everyone is anxious to ride. Courses should be taken before the snow arrives. Besides teaching basic safety principles, the course attempts to develop the proper attitude of respect for the student's fellow person and for the environment. The development of this respect and correct safety procedures are essential if snowmobiling is to continue to grow and give hours of enjoyment as a leisure time recreational activity in Illinois.

Trapping

Safety Education



What Is It?

The Illinois Trapper Education Course consists of a minimum eight hours of instruction. These courses cover the basics in equipment and trapping techniques, trap and pelt preparation, wildlife and furbearer management, reporting requirements, trapper ethics, game identification and state regulations.

Persons completing the minimum 8 hours of instructions and successfully completing the final examination will receive a State of Illinois Certificate of Competency.

Who Must Take The Course?

Effective January 1, 2017, first-time trappers born on or after **January 1, 1998** are required to complete a trapper education course before purchasing a license.

Additionally, any trapper regardless of age, who has not previously held a valid trapping license issued by this state or another, within the three years preceding application, are required to complete a trapper education course before purchasing a license.

Where Are Courses Available?

Courses are sponsored by various conservation clubs, park districts, public service organizations and other interest groups throughout the state. An on-line course is now available at www.trapped.com.

Why Take This Course?

This course is designed to teach new or inexperienced trappers the most ethical and humane procedures for trapping Illinois furbearers. Conservationists, wildlife managers, and others who believe in protecting and enhancing wildlife, recognize trapping as one of the most suitable means of harvesting furbearers and controlling predators when it is conducted by responsible trappers. The course will provide a solid beginning to your trapping education – an education that will continue every day you are on your trapline.