

571—12.34 (483A) Hunter safety and ethics education program.

12.34(1) The education course for the hunter safety and ethics education program is designed to teach students basic survival and first-aid skills, water safety, wildlife identification, and the basics of wildlife management, hunting laws, and firearm/archery safety. The education course also stresses the importance of individual responsibility and outdoor ethics. Satisfactory completion of the education course is mandatory pursuant to Iowa Code section 483A.27 for anyone born after January 1, 1972, who wishes to purchase an Iowa hunting license.

12.34(2) The education course is taught by certified instructors and is a minimum of ten hours in length. The education course shall have both classroom and hands-on components. Where permitted, live fire exercises may be taught.

12.34(3) The hunter safety and ethics education program also offers an online course/field day. The online course is approximately six hours in length and covers the same subject taught in the lecture portion of the department's course. A field day voucher may be purchased from the online vendor for a fee determined in the memorandum of understanding between the vendor and the department upon the student's successful completion of the online course. The field day voucher is valid for one year from the date of issuance and authorizes entrance into a field day course. The field day portion is approximately four hours in length and is designed to meet the additional required elements of the hunter safety and ethics education program required in Iowa Code section 483A.27. Students must preregister for the field day course by using the DNR online training registration and tracking system unless Internet access is unavailable, in which case the student shall preregister by contacting the department.

a. The department recommends that the student be 16 years of age or older to take the online/field day course.

b. Only vendors that have been approved by the International Hunter Education Association and have entered into a memorandum of understanding with the department shall be allowed to offer an online course that results in the issuance of a field day voucher.

12.34(4) The following criteria apply to the hunter safety and ethics education program:

a. Any student who is 11 years of age or older may enroll in a course and receive a certificate if the student successfully completes the course; however, if the student is 11 years old, the certificate shall not become valid until the student's twelfth birthday. If the certificate is lost, a replacement certificate may be obtained from any electronic license system for Iowa (ELSI) vendor during regular business hours for \$3.50.

b. A student successfully completes the course by completing a minimum of ten hours of training, six of which may be completed online if a student chooses to attend an online/field day course. Upon completion of the ten-hour curriculum, each student must take an individual oral or written test provided by the department. The student must pass the test with a score of 75 percent or higher. Based on the results of the test and the student's demonstration of safe handling of a firearm, the instructor shall determine if the student shall be issued a certificate of completion.

c. Students must use the DNR online training registration and tracking system to register for classes unless Internet access is unavailable. Students who do not have access to the Internet, which includes access through a public option such as a school or library, may contact a recreation safety officer, a department district office, the system administrator, or an instructor to set up a student account and register for the class. Assistance may be found by calling (515)281-5918. Students under the age of 11 must have a parent or guardian establish a user account and register on their behalf.

d. There is no fee for the education course.