

**571—12.36 (483A) Bow hunter education program.**

**12.36(1)** The education course for the bow hunter education program is designed to teach bow hunters safe and ethical hunting techniques and to instill responsible attitudes toward people, wildlife, and the environment. The education course is based on the National Bowhunter Education Foundation's publications and is administered by the department. The education course covers topics such as responsibilities of a bow hunter, knowledge necessary before hunting, shot placement, tree stand safety, blood trailing, and game care.

**12.36(2)** The education course is offered in both a classroom and an online setting.

*a.* The classroom course is taught by department-certified instructors and is approximately six hours in length. The course consists of both a lecture and hands-on exercises. Students will be given a written examination which they must pass with 75 percent accuracy in order to earn an education certificate.

*b.* The online course is a combination of an online class and a field day and is recommended for students 16 years of age or older. A student must complete both the online class and field day to gain certification. Only vendors that have been approved by the International Hunter Education Association and have entered into a memorandum of understanding with the department will be allowed to offer an online course that results in the issuance of a field day voucher. The field day voucher is valid for one year and authorizes entrance into a field day course.

(1) The online class is completed by the student on the student's own time. This portion of the course is in conjunction with the National Bowhunter Education Foundation, which charges a fee to students for the foundation's service.

(2) The field day is offered free of charge by a certified bow hunter instructor. A student successfully completes the online course/field day by presenting to the field day instructor a copy of the Field Day Qualifier Certificate from the National Bowhunter Education Foundation online course to show that the student has successfully completed the online portion. Students then must successfully participate in practical testing at the field day and demonstrate bow and arrow safety and hunting skills under the supervision of a certified instructor. Students may be required to bring their own bow hunting equipment to be used during the field day. Students must also 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.

**12.36(3)** The following criteria apply to the bow hunter 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 certification shall not become valid until the student's twelfth birthday.

*b.* 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.

*c.* There is no charge for the department's course.