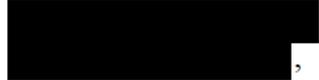


HUNTER NATION INC.,
6700 Squib Road, Suite 103A,
Mission, KS 66202,

and,

LUKE HILGEMANN,


Plaintiffs,

v.

Case Type: Declaratory Judgment

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES,
101 South Webster Street,
PO Box 7921,
Madison, WI 53707-7921,

Case Code: 30701

and,

PRESTON COLE, in his official
capacity as Secretary of the Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources,
101 South Webster Street,
PO Box 7921,
Madison, WI 53707-7921,

Defendants.

COMPLAINT

Through their undersigned counsel, Plaintiffs Hunter Nation Inc. and Luke Hilgemann allege as their complaint against Defendants Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Preston Cole, in his official capacity as Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, as follows:

1. This case challenges as unlawful the actions of Defendants to cease all in-person hunter education programming throughout the entire State of Wisconsin. Defendants' actions, as alleged herein, greatly restrict or outright eliminate the options for Wisconsinites to become

licensed hunters, putting our state's proud hunting heritage – a heritage that has helped sustain our state for generations – at risk.

2. The right to hunt is guaranteed by the Wisconsin Constitution. The right to access hunter education programming is guaranteed by the Wisconsin Statutes. Yet by executive fiat, Defendants are actively denying those rights to Wisconsin citizens.

PARTIES

3. Plaintiff Hunter Nation Inc. (“Hunter Nation”) is a non-profit business organized under the laws of the State of Kansas. Hunter Nation maintains its principal office at 6700 Squib Road, Suite 103A, in the City of Mission, County of Johnson, and State of Kansas. Plaintiff Hunter Nation is a 501(c)(4) membership-based organization with members throughout the State of Wisconsin.

4. Plaintiff Hunter Nation is dedicated to, among other goals, promoting the right to hunt, encouraging future generations to carry on the great American tradition of hunting, educating the public regarding hunting, and combating threats to hunting. Hunter Nation actively works to further these goals on behalf of its members.

5. Plaintiff Hunter Nation has been harmed because it was denied the opportunity to weigh in on Defendants' policy through the statutory rulemaking process and because Defendants' policies challenged herein have impeded its ability to further its own organizational goals. Defendants' policy denying all in-person hunter education directly harms Hunter Nation's mission to engage with and foster new hunters in Wisconsin. Additionally, Plaintiff Hunter Nation brings this action on behalf of its members located throughout Wisconsin, including members born after January 1, 1973 who have not yet taken a hunter education course and are having their right to do so significantly hindered by Defendants' unlawful policies challenged herein, and whose minor

children are being outright denied the opportunity to complete hunter education. Hunter Nation also has members who are certified hunter education instructors, and those members are being denied the opportunity to provide in-person hunter education courses by Defendants' policies challenged herein.

6. Plaintiff Luke Hilgemann is President and CEO of Hunter Nation Inc. He is a Wisconsin Resident and taxpayer. Plaintiff Hilgemann resides at [REDACTED], in the [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and State of Wisconsin.

7. As a taxpayer, Plaintiff Hilgemann has suffered a loss as a result of Defendants' unconstitutional policy discussed herein. Because Defendants failed to pursue the statutorily mandated rule-making processes, Plaintiff Hilgemann was also denied the opportunity to seek to influence Defendants' policies through participation in such a process.

8. Defendant Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources ("DNR") is an administrative agency of the State of Wisconsin, created by statute. DNR's principal office is located at 101 South Webster Street, in the City of Madison, County of Dane, and State of Wisconsin. DNR is the state agency required by law to provide hunter education in the State of Wisconsin.

9. Defendant Preston Cole is the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and is sued in his official capacity only. Defendant Secretary Cole's principal office is located at 101 South Webster Street, in the City of Madison, County of Dane and State of Wisconsin. Defendant Secretary Cole is the highest-ranking DNR official and is charged with oversight of the statutes, code provisions and policies referenced herein.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

10. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 227.40(1) and 806.04(1)-(2).

11. Venue in this Court is proper pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 227.40(1) and 801.50(2)-(3).

BACKGROUND

12. Wisconsin's Constitution guarantees the right to hunt subject to only reasonable restrictions "prescribed by law." Wis. Const. Art. 1, §26.

13. In the State of Wisconsin, no individual may engage in hunting without first obtaining an approval authorizing hunting from Defendant DNR (namely, a hunting license).

14. Generally, in the State of Wisconsin, in order to obtain a hunting license and hunt on their own, Wisconsinites born after January 1, 1973, must have first obtained a "certificate of accomplishment" from Defendant DNR. Wis. Stat. § 29.593(1)(a), reflecting his or her completion of a hunter education course. State law provides limited exceptions to this general rule (namely, completion of a course in another state country or province, or completion of basic training in the U.S. armed forces). *See* Wis. Stat. § 29.593(2)-(3).

15. Once an individual has successfully completed a hunter education course, Defendant DNR "shall issue a certificate of accomplishment for free to a person who successfully completes the course of instruction under the hunter education program" and who pays the instruction fee for the course. Wis. Stat. § 29.591(4)(a)1.

16. Thus, in order to hunt in the State of Wisconsin any individual must obtain a hunting license. No individual, unless they fall within one of the exceptions under statute, who is born after January 1, 1973, may obtain such a license without having first taken and passing an approved hunter education course and obtaining the "certificate of accomplishment" from Defendant DNR.

17. Defendant DNR's duty to make such a course available to Wisconsinites is mandatory. In Wisconsin, Defendant DNR "shall establish a hunter education program" and "shall conduct these courses of instruction in cooperation with qualified individuals, organizations, groups, associations, public or private corporations and federal, state and local governmental entities. The hunter education program shall provide for a course of instruction in each school district or county ..." Wis. Stat. § 29.591(1)(a).

18. There are now a variety of individuals and entities who offer in-person hunter education courses all around the State of Wisconsin. However, upon completion of those courses, DNR must issue a "certificate of accomplishment" or the individual will not be able to obtain a hunting license.

19. The Defendants are currently refusing to "permit" in-person hunter education and have announced that they will not issue a "certificate of accomplishment" to those who pass such courses. Thus, they are refusing to fulfill their obligations under Wis. Stat. §§ 29.591(1)(a) and 29.591(4)(a)1.

20. Defendant DNR's website directs individuals wishing to enroll in hunter education courses to utilize their "Go Wild" website. That website currently contains a banner stating that "In light of COVID 19 and the Safer at Home order, all DNR sponsored in-person recreational safety classes and R3 events are canceled for the duration of the public health emergency...." An "R3" event is a "Recruit, Retain and Reactivate" event sponsored by DNR designed to increase the number of hunters, anglers and trappers in Wisconsin. R3 events are not at issue in this lawsuit. The cancellation of all DNR sponsored in-person recreational safety classes, however, is the subject of this complaint. A true and correct copy of this webpage is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

21. The Safer at Home order referenced on the “Go Wild” page was found to be invalid by the Wisconsin Supreme Court on May 13, 2020. See *Wisconsin Legislature v. Andrea Palm*, 2020 WI 42. As a result, with the exception of restrictions related to schools which are not relevant here, the Safer at Home order is void and unenforceable.

22. Additionally, the DNR “Go Wild” page states these restrictions will be in place “for the duration of the public health emergency.” On March 12, 2020, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers declared a public health emergency via the issuance of Executive Order #72. By statute, that order expired 60 days after it was issued. Wis. Stat. § 323.10. The public health emergency order has now been expired for more than a month.

23. DNR does offer an online course of instruction under the hunter education program. However, individuals under the age of 18 who take that program are still required to attend an in-person “field day” and a written test to complete the course successfully. They cannot do so under the Defendants’ current ban on in-person hunter education.

24. Individuals over the age of 18 may take an online hunter education program without the requirement for an in-person “field day” or a written test. However, DNR’s website makes clear that such a course “is designed for adults that have prior hunting and/or firearms handling experience. If you do not have prior hunting or firearms handling experience it is highly recommended that you take a traditional classroom course or attend an internet field day course in order to receive one-on-one firearms handling training with a certified hunter education instructor.” That is, Defendants themselves make clear that this online course is inadequate for individuals who do not have prior hunting or firearms handling experience. A true and correct copy of Defendant DNR’s website outlining online education programming is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

25. Taking an online course also requires access to a computer and an internet connection, which not all Wisconsinites have or even have ready access to.

26. Defendants' policy outright denies all Wisconsinites under 18 the opportunity to complete a hunter education course and become a licensed hunter, and forces anyone over 18 to either not take a course and be denied the opportunity to become a licensed hunter or to take an online course that Defendants themselves admit may not provide enough training for individuals without prior hunting or firearms experience.

27. Defendant DNR has been actively enforcing this policy to prohibit in-person hunter education. For example, the Oneida County Sheriff's Office, a local government entity as that term is used in Wis. Stat. § 29.591(1)(a) had planned to offer an in-person hunter education course beginning on June 22, 2020.

28. On June 11, 2020, the Oneida County Sheriff's Office cancelled the course and issued a press release explaining that they were "informed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that they will not recognize the course due to Governor Evers' Covid-19 restrictions" and due to that "students would not receive the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Hunter Safety Certificate and they may decertify our hunter safety instructors." A true and correct copy of this press release is attached hereto as Exhibit C.

29. DNR not only made the policy clear that no in-person hunter safety courses may be offered, would be recognized, or could be used to obtain a hunting license, they went further and even threatened to *decertify* hunter safety instructors who offer such courses.

30. The Oneida County Sheriff's office was told by DNR on June 3, 2020, via e-mail, that:

...Right now, all safety classes are suspended until further notice.
So, still no safety classes allowed. I am ok with you planning and

making arrangements, with the understanding that they may still be cancelled in the future. We haven't been given any "official" direction of information as to when they will resume, but from recent meetings, it sounds like they'll be waiting for a two week decrease in positive cases before going there.

At this time, we are not allowing any alternative method of delivering hunter safety. I have a lot of school districts that are wanting to run it through an online platform, like blackboard, but that is still not allowed. Hunter safety still requires in person class time, regardless of the method of delivery...

31. A true and correct copy of this e-mail is attached hereto as Exhibit D. This e-mail message was sent well after the Governor's public health emergency had expired, and well after the "Safer at Home" restrictions were found invalid by the Supreme Court of Wisconsin.

32. Defendant DNR's email makes clear that any "alternative method of delivering hunter safety" is also prohibited by their policy.

33. The statutory requirements imposed on the Defendants to establish a hunter education program and to conduct courses of instruction are still in force and have not been amended to allow for Defendants policies.

34. Defendants' policy disallowing any in-person hunter education programs, as explained on their "Go Wild" web page (Exhibit A), and as further explained in the e-mail sent to the Oneida County Sheriff's Office (Exhibit D), is a statement of policy and a general order of general application, as those terms are used in Wis. Stat. § 227.01(13).

35. Defendants have not promulgated any rule purporting to interpret or apply that statute to authorize them to cease all in-person hunter education activities. Such a rule would directly conflict with state law as discussed herein.

36. Without the availability of Hunter Education courses, Plaintiff Hunter Nation's mission to expand hunting is significantly hindered throughout the State of Wisconsin.

COUNT ONE – DECLARATORY JUDGMENT, STATUTORY AUTHORITY

37. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all allegations as if they were fully set forth herein.

38. Plaintiffs seek a declaration that the actions of Defendants are outside of their statutory authority and unlawful.

39. Defendants are required by statute to establish and conduct a course of instruction in hunter education in the State of Wisconsin. Wis. Stat. § 29.591(1)(a).

40. Defendants are further required to issue a certificate of accomplishment to any individual who successfully completes the course of instruction in hunter education and who pays the instruction fee. Wis. Stat. § 29.591(4)(a)1.

41. Defendants have adopted a policy prohibiting in-person hunter education courses from being conducted, and even threatening to decertify any instructors who teach such courses. Defendants have also adopted a policy refusing to issue a certificate of accomplishment to anyone who completes such a course. As a result, no individual under the age of 18 in Wisconsin can successfully complete a hunter education course and individuals over the age of 18 are substantially hindered in completing a hunter education course both because on-line courses are explicitly not designed for most people and many Wisconsinites lack access to the technology to take classes on-line.

42. Defendants are an administrative agency of the state and the highest ranking official at that agency.

43. As an administrative agency, DNR is a creation of the Legislature and has “only those powers as are expressly conferred or necessarily implied from the statutory provisions under which it operates.” *Brown Cty v. DHSS*, 103 Wis. 2d 37, 43 (Wis. 1981). The enabling statutes for

an agency such as DNR are to be strictly construed and Wisconsin Courts will “resolve any reasonable doubt pertaining to an agency's implied powers against the agency.” *Wisconsin Citizens Concerned for Cranes & Doves v. Wisconsin Dep't of Nat. Res.*, 2004 WI 40, ¶ 14.

44. Defendants lack the authority to cease all in-person hunter education courses in the State of Wisconsin, and lack the authority to refuse to issue certificates of accomplishment to individuals who successfully complete such courses.

45. As an administrative agency, Defendants may not “implement or enforce any standard, requirement, or threshold ... unless that standard, requirement, or threshold is explicitly required or explicitly permitted by statute or by a rule that has been promulgated in accordance with [Chapter 227].” Wis. Stat. § 227.10(2m). Thus, any action taken by DNR requires *explicit* authority from a statute or a rule.

46. Defendants are attempting to implement or enforce a standard, requirement, and/or threshold that they will not allow in-person hunter education courses from being conducted or issue any certificates of accomplishment during a “public health emergency.” That standard, requirement and/or threshold is not contained in, much less explicitly required or permitted by any statute or rule that has been promulgated in accordance with Chapter 227.

47. If the Court does not grant this declaration, Defendants will continue to act outside of their lawful scope of authority and will continue to deny or significantly burden the rights of Wisconsinites to take a hunter education course and become licensed to hunt.

COUNT TWO –WRIT OF MANDAMUS

48. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all allegations as if they were fully set forth herein.

49. Plaintiffs seek a Writ of Mandamus, requiring Defendants to act in accordance with their statutorily mandated duties.

50. Mandamus is an appropriate remedy to compel public officers to perform duties arising out of their offices. *State ex rel. Oman v. Hunkins*, 120 Wis. 2d 86, 88, 352 N.W.2d, 22 (Ct. App. 1984). The elements needed to secure a writ of mandamus are: “(1) a clear legal right; (2) a plain and positive duty; (3) substantial damages or injury should the relief not be granted; and (4) no other adequate remedy at law.” *Id.*

51. The Plaintiffs have a constitutional right to hunt and a statutory right to the provision of hunter education required by statute; the failure to provide such education causes substantial injury for which there is no adequate remedy at law.

52. Unless this Court issues a Writ of Mandamus, Defendants will continue to refuse to perform official duties arising out of their offices

COUNT THREE – DECLARATORY JUDGMENT, RULEMAKING

53. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all allegations as if they were fully set forth herein.

54. In the alternative, or in addition, Plaintiffs seek a declaration that Defendants’ policy is a “rule”, that this rule was not promulgated in accordance with statutorily mandated rulemaking procedures, and that it is invalid.

55. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.10(1), Defendants “shall promulgate as a rule each statement of general policy and each interpretation of a statute which it specifically adopts to govern its enforcement or administration of that statute.”

56. Defendants’ decision to cancel all in-person hunter education courses in Wisconsin and to refuse to issue certificates of accomplishment is a statement of general policy and an

interpretation of a statute that it has specifically adopted to govern its enforcement or administration of that statute.

57. Defendants have not promulgated these policies as rules, and so these policies were adopted without compliance with statutory rule-making procedures.

58. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.40(4)(a) “the court shall declare the rule ... invalid if it finds that it violates constitutional provisions or exceeds the statutory authority of the agency or was promulgated ... without compliance with statutory rule-making ... procedures.”

59. Defendants’ actions have created significant confusion and uncertainty regarding hunter education in the State of Wisconsin. Their failure to clearly promulgate their policy choices and statutory interpretations as rules has not only increased this confusion and uncertainty, it is also unlawful.

60. Unless this court grants a declaratory judgment, Defendants will continue to enforce an unlawfully adopted administrative rule.

COUNT FOUR – DECLARATORY JUDGMENT, RIGHT TO HUNT

61. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all allegations as if they were fully set forth herein.

62. Article 1, § 26 of the Wisconsin Constitution guarantees, among other rights, the right to hunt: “The people have the right to fish, hunt, trap, and take game subject only to reasonable restrictions as prescribed by law.”

63. Defendants’ policy to cancel all in-person hunter education courses in Wisconsin and to refuse to issue certificates of accomplishment is a restriction on the right to hunt. Specifically, this policy makes it impossible for anyone in Wisconsin born after January 1, 1973, who is under the age of 18, to complete the hunter safety course required by law to obtain a hunting

license necessary to engage in hunting, and makes it difficult for anyone over the age of 18, by requiring them to take an online only course that the Defendants themselves have acknowledged are inappropriate for less experienced hunters and which courses are not available to those without access to the technology to take classes on-line.

64. Defendants' policy is not "prescribed by law." In fact, the law requires the opposite of what this policy provides.

65. Further, Defendants' policy banning all in-person hunter education courses is an unreasonable restriction on the right to hunt.

66. Since Defendants' policy is both unreasonable and not "prescribed by law" it is in violation of Article 1, §26, and should be declared invalid.

67. Unless this court declares the policy to be in violation of Article 1, §26 of the Wisconsin Constitution, Defendants will continue to enforce unconstitutional and illegal restrictions on the right to hunt.

COUNT FIVE – DECLARATORY JUDGMENT, RELIANCE UPON EXPIRED EMERGENCY DECLARATION AND/OR UNLAWFUL EMERGENCY ORDERS

68. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all allegations as if they were fully set forth herein.

69. In the alternative, or in addition, Plaintiffs seek a declaration that Defendants' policy to cancel all in-person hunter education courses in Wisconsin and to refuse to issue certificates of accomplishment is unlawful because it relies upon an invalid emergency order, and/or an expired public health emergency declaration.

70. DNR states on their website that their policy to cancel all in-person hunter education courses in Wisconsin and to refuse to issue certificates of accomplishment was adopted

in furtherance of the “Safer at Home” order and this policy will be in force “for the duration of the public health emergency.” (Exhibit A).

71. Since the Safer at home order has been found largely invalid (with the exception of one section which is irrelevant in this case) and the Governor’s declaration of a public health emergency has already expired, neither can be used as a grounds for Defendants’ policy canceling all in-person hunter education courses and refusing to issue certificates of accomplishment.

72. To the extent that Defendants continue to rely on the unconstitutional “Safer at Home” order for their policy, that action is in direct conflict with the Supreme Court of Wisconsin’s decision in *Wisconsin Legislature v. Andrea Palm*, 2020 WI 42.

73. Further, to the extent that Defendants are purporting to rely on the Governor’s declaration of a public health emergency, that declaration expired last month and is no longer in force.

74. Unless this court issues a declaration, Defendants will continue relying upon an invalid emergency order and/or upon a public health emergency declaration that expired more than a month ago.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiffs request the following relief:

A. A declaration that the decision made by the Defendants to cancel all in-person hunter education courses in Wisconsin and to refuse to issue certificates of accomplishment is unlawful;

B. The issuance of a Writ of Mandamus requiring Defendants to establish and allow an in-person hunter education program, and to issue certificates of accomplishment to anyone who

successfully completes the hunter education program and pays the instruction fee, as required by statute;

C. In the alternative, or in addition to, a declaration that Defendants' policy canceling all in-person hunter education courses in Wisconsin and refusing to issue certificates of accomplishment is a "rule" and was not promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 227, and is therefore invalid;

D. In the alternative, or in addition to, a declaration that Defendants' policy canceling all in-person hunter education courses in Wisconsin and refusing to issue certificates of accomplishment is unconstitutional, and is therefore invalid;

E. In the alternative, or in addition to, a declaration that Defendants' policy canceling all in-person hunter education courses in Wisconsin and refusing to issue certificates of accomplishment is relying upon an expired public health emergency declaration, or an invalid emergency order, and is therefore, invalid;

F. An injunction prohibiting Defendants from enforcing said policy;

G. Such equitable or other relief as is just and appropriate.

Respectfully submitted this 17th day of June, 2020.

WISCONSIN INSTITUTE FOR LAW & LIBERTY, Inc.
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

/S/ Signed electronically by Richard M. Esenberg

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Find a Class to Enroll In

In light of COVID 19 and the Safer at Home order, all DNR sponsored in-person recreational safety classes and R3 events are canceled for the duration of the public health emergency. This is a fluid situation that we are monitoring closely. We look forward to the time when it will be safe to reopen our in-person safety classes and R3 related events. We appreciate your patience during this difficult time.

Search

Course Type

Please Choose...



County

Statewide



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[ATV safety](#)

Learn about ATVing in Wisconsin.

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Learn about boating in Wisconsin.

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Learn about hunting in Wisconsin.

[Snowmobile safety](#)

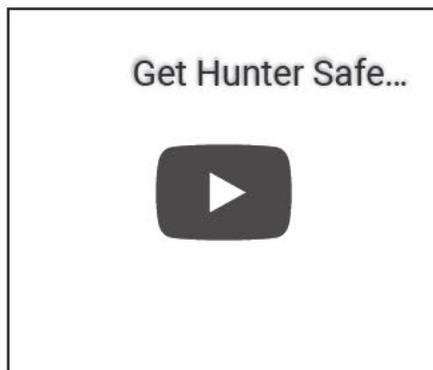
Learn about snowmobiling in Wisconsin.

[OHM safety](#)

Learn about riding off-highway motorcycles in Wisconsin.

Related links

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- [Crossbow safety](#)
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A sneak peak at a Wisconsin DNR approved internet field day held in Waukesha County.

Online safety education courses

Requirements for all safety education courses

All Wisconsin recreational safety students are required to obtain a Wisconsin DNR Customer ID Number before the completion of any recreational safety class and will be required to provide that customer ID number along with students' personal information to the instructor.

You can obtain a DNR Customer ID Number:

- [online](#); or
- by visiting a DNR [service center](#) during regular scheduled hours.

DNR-approved online courses

Hunter education

Hunter internet field day (non-age specific)

This course is designed for the busy student or working adult that cannot fit a traditional class into their already busy schedule.

- Students must register with a certified internet field day instructor and then complete the online training before attending the field day.
- Online coursework with 80% passing score or higher to obtain field day voucher.
- Wisconsin hunter education in-person internet field day requirement.

After passing the course, you will spend a day in the field reinforcing what you learned online, basic firearm safety and handling skills. You will be tested on what you have learned at the end of the field day. The field day is *mandatory* to earn your hunter education safety certification. Cost will vary depending on which website is used. The DNR-approved online courses are:

- [Hunter Ed Course \[exit DNR\]](#) (\$13) (not approved for the adult course)
- [Wisconsin Hunter Ed Course \[exit DNR\]](#) (\$24.50)
- [HUNTERcourse.com](#) (\$24.95)

An additional \$10.00 DNR fee is required to obtain your certification.

NEW! Adult hunter education (18+)

Adult hunter education online course

18 years of age or older: The adult online course has the same general content as the traditional classroom course and online/field day course but requires state specific information to be covered along with a final exam in which the student must achieve a score of 80% or better to pass.

This course is designed for adults that have prior hunting and/or firearms handling experience. If you do not have prior hunting or firearms handling experience it is highly recommended that you take a traditional classroom course or attend an internet field day course in order to receive one-on-one firearms handling training with a certified hunter education instructor.

The two approved online course options for the adult hunter education online program are:

- [Wisconsin Hunter Ed Course](#) (\$24.50)
- [HUNTERcourse.com](#) (\$24.95)

An additional \$10 DNR fee is required to obtain your certification.

Archery education (18+)

Adult archery education online course

[Wisconsin Bowhunter Ed Course \[exit DNR\]](#) (\$30.00) is a Wisconsin-approved online course covering all the information you need to get started. If you are 18 years of age or older, passing the online Wisconsin

Bowhunter's Ed Course will complete your bowhunter education. Those under the age of 18 must complete an archery course taught by a certified DNR archery instructor.

Course features

- Education from the industry leading experts in bowhunting education.
- Fun and engaging content
- Videos, interactive animations and illustrations.
- Designed for any device
- Customer support 8:30 a.m. to midnight.
- Free to start Free to study Pay only when you pass

An additional \$10 DNR fee is required to obtain your certification.

ATV education courses

Operators of all-terrain vehicles can receive ATV safety certification through web courses. Students can take a course at any age but will not receive their official certification until they turn 12 years of age.

Available online courses:

- [ATVcourse.com \[exit DNR\]](#)
- [Wisconsin ATV Rider's Ed Course \[exit DNR\]](#)

Off-highway motorcycles education courses

Operators of off-highway motorcycles (OHMs) can only receive safety certification through web courses. Students can take a course at any age, but the certification is not valid until they turn 12 years of age.

Previous Wisconsin ATV safety graduates need only complete the OHM safety certification short course which is free and offered online at [ATVcourse.com \[exit DNR\]](#) or [Wisconsin ATV Rider's Ed Course \[exit DNR\]](#).

Operators in need of both OHM and ATV safety certification may complete the online combination course available at either [ATVcourse.com \[exit DNR\]](#) or [Wisconsin ATV Rider's Ed Course \[exit DNR\]](#).

Snowmobile courses

Operators of snowmobiles can receive snowmobile safety certification through web courses. Students must be 16 or older in order to become certified by these online courses.

Available online courses:

- [Wisconsin Snowmobile Ed Course \[exit DNR\]](#)
- [SNOWMOBILEcourse.com \[exit DNR\]](#)

Boating courses

Available online courses:

- [Boat Wisconsin Course \[exit DNR\]](#) - A three-hour course split into short segments that are designed for easy comprehension and quick learning. This course has the identical text that students study in DNR's classroom courses, with more than 200 realistic drawings, more than an hour of streaming videos and interactive animations.

- [BoaterExam.com \[exit DNR\]](#) - Suitable for boaters of any age and reading skills. This course takes a minimum of three hours to complete.
- [Wisconsin Boat Rental Course \[exit DNR\]](#) - A course for Wisconsin residents and visitors who do not already possess a valid boating education certificate, but who wish to rent a boat or personal watercraft (PWC) to operate on Wisconsin waters. The course covers all the information you'll need to know to receive your temporary boating certificate.

Last revised: Friday September 21 2018



ONEIDA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Grady M. Hartman
Sheriff

Daniel L. Hess
Chief Deputy



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – Thursday, June 11, 2020

The Oneida County Sheriff's Office has been teaching hunter safety for many years to people of all ages in northern Wisconsin. This year we have attempted on two different occasions to hold a hunter education course. However, we have been informed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that they will not recognize the course due to Governor Evers Covid-19 restrictions. As a result, students would not receive the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Hunter Safety Certificate and they may decertify our hunter safety instructors.

Regretfully, the Sheriff's Office is cancelling the hunter safety course scheduled starting on 06/22/2020. The Oneida County Sheriff's Office was attempting to hold this course at this time at the request of the public so it would not interfere with as many summer activities or when fall sports are starting up. We apologize for having to turn away all the students that signed up for the class, and hope you understand that doing so is out of the control of the Oneida County Sheriff's Office.

Any media requesting additional information about this information should contact Captain Tyler Young at 715-490-1454.

****END****

Lucas Vebber

From: David Seefeldt <dseefeldt@co.oneida.wi.us>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 9:02 AM
To: Tyler Young
Subject: FW: hunter's safety

From: Juza, Katelyn M - DNR <Katelyn.Juza@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2020 8:29 AM
To: David Seefeldt <dseefeldt@co.oneida.wi.us>
Subject: RE: hunter's safety

Good Morning, Sgt!

I thought I'd try email for now to clarify some common questions I've been getting from safety instructors instead of playing phone tag. Maybe this will help.

Right now, all safety classes are suspended until further notice. So, still no safety classes allowed. I am ok with you planning and making arrangements, with the understanding that they may still be cancelled in the future. We haven't been given any "official" direction of information as to when they will resume, but from recent meetings, it sounds like they'll be waiting for a two week decrease in positive cases before going there.

At this time, we are not allowing any alternative method of delivering hunter safety. I have a lot of school districts that are wanting to run it through an online platform, like blackboard, but that is still not allowed. Hunter safety still requires in person class time, regardless of the method of delivery.

I'm not sure what that will look like for instructors in the future, but you can expect to see some policy changes regarding class numbers, social distancing, and sanitizing/cleanliness.

If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to ask. I will be around my phone today, but have two conference calls in the late morning and early afternoon.

Thanks,
kate

We are committed to service excellence.

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Kate Juza
Phone: 715-416-0483
Katelyn.Juza@wisconsin.gov

From: David Seefeldt <dseefeldt@co.oneida.wi.us>
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 8:56 AM
To: Juza, Katelyn M - DNR <Katelyn.Juza@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: hunter's safety

Goodmorning, Sgt. David Seefeldt with the Oneida County Sheriff's Office. I have some questions regarding hunter safety classes we teach at the Sheriff's Office. Could you give me a call please at your convenience. Cell # 715-499-0243. Work # 715-361-5116. Thanks.

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, beginning March 25, 2020, until further notice, access to Oneida County facilities is limited and restricted. We encourage you to contact departments via email or telephone for service prior to coming to a County facility. All email addresses and telephone numbers can be found on the County's website at www.co.oneida.wi.gov. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your cooperation at this time.