

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

With the state's major hunting seasons just around the corner, potential hunters ages 12 to 29 have a chance to earn their hunter education certification through a course in Imperial next week.

The course will be held Oct. 16-19 at the IVFD fire hall in Imperial (upstairs), from 6:30 to 9 p.m. each of the four nights.

Doug Mitchell, an instructor certified by the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, will teach the course. Others assisting will be Duke Jaeger and Mac DeHart.

Safety, hunter ethics and Nebraska's hunting rules and regulations will be covered. All materials will be provided and participants should not bring their firearms to the classes, Mitchell said.

The class will be limited to 30 students this year, Mitchell noted.

In Nebraska, hunters age 12 to 29 must have "on their person" a proof of successful completion of firearm hunter education while hunting in Nebraska with a firearm or crossbow.

Those ages 11 and younger must be accompanied by a licensed person age 19 and older.

Those hunting deer, elk, antelope or bighorn sheep who are 15 and younger must also be with a licensed hunter 19 and older.

Mitchell said he is looking for a couple of young adults who would be interested in assisting with teaching the course next week.

Contact Mitchell with questions or with interest in being an apprentice instructor at 882-4003 or 882-8306.

Online sign-up this year

One change instituted this year is how to register for the course. Mitchell said only online registrations will be taken for Imperial's course.

To register, participants should go to: outdoornebraska.ne.gov, then click on the "education" tab along the top of the page. Then, click on "firearm hunter education classroom courses" and find the Imperial class (sites are categorized by start date).

Following the course, students will be able to go online and print off their successful completion certificate if they passed.

Hunters who have lost their hunter education card can also go online at the same site and get a new one reprinted, Mitchell said.