



Big Hollow Shooting Range Refresher Course

For 2018 renewals

As part of Des Moines County Conservation's commitment to safety, we require all certified shooting range users to complete a refresher course in order to maintain certification.

This course will keep our range users up to date on rules and policies governing the Big Hollow Shooting Range.

If you have questions, feel free to contact us any time.

1. DOES THE BIG HOLLOW SHOOTING RANGE CERTIFICATION COURSE QUALIFY ME FOR A CONCEALED CARRY PERMIT?

No. We get this question quite a bit. The Big Hollow Shooting Range Certification Course is exclusive to obtaining a membership to the Big Hollow Shooting Range and does not meet the requirements for any other certification/qualification or permit of any sort.

For information on obtaining a permit to carry firearms in Des Moines County, contact the Des Moines County Sheriff's Department at (319) 753-8212.

2. WHY CAN'T I BRING MY OWN STEEL, REACTIVE, OR NON-PAPER TARGETS?

This is for safety purposes. Steel and other reactive targets tend to deflect rounds and ricochet in unpredictable directions. To prevent dangerous ricochets and bullet deflections, we require members use only paper targets (which won't deflect) or the reactive targets that we provide that we've deemed safe to use.

Note: Most of the steel and reactive targets that we've provided on the ranges over the years have been donated. If you'd like to donate a reactive target, contact us.

3. NEW GRACE PERIODS FOR EXISTING MEMBERS

New cards with a consistent annual expiration date (month and day) will be issued when the annual fee is paid. Members have up to ninety (90) days past their card expiration date to renew their membership. Beyond that 90 day grace period, the card is no longer valid to gain entry into the range.

However, a membership may be renewed for the current year up to one (1) year past the card's expiration date without the member having to retake the certification course. If a cardholder's membership lapses for more than one year, they will have to pass the certification course again.

Des Moines County Conservation reserves the right to NOT renew a membership for ANY reason.

4. OTHER THAN THE SHOOTING RANGE, WHAT OTHER AMENITIES DOES BIG HOLLOW RECREATION AREA OFFER?

Big Hollow Recreation Area is becoming the area's premiere outdoor recreation destination. Aside from the nearly 1,000 shooting range members that collectively visit the range over 3,000 times per year, the park is also popular among local fishermen, campers, trail hikers, horseback riders, and many other outdoor recreationists. We estimate the park gets over 50,000 visitors per year.

We ask that all park visitors be courteous to others, drive safely inside the park, and help ensure a great experience for everyone that comes out to enjoy the park.

5. THE CERTIFICATION COURSE CAN NOW BE TAKEN ONLINE

In the interest of making it easier for people to join the shooting range, we've created an online version of the original certification course for new shooting range members. Granted, this doesn't so much apply to current members (unless your membership has lapsed for more than a year), but we wanted you to know in case you know someone that would like to join the range. There's no need to sit through the in-person course anymore.

We also now are able to take range membership payments online for both renewals and new memberships. At the conclusion of the course and test, you'll be sent a confirmation with instructions on how to access the pay site if you choose to pay online. Otherwise, you can still pay through the mail or in person at our main office.

6. HOW TO CONTACT US.

If you need to contact us for any reason, here's how:

DES MOINES COUNTY CONSERVATION

Main Office:

- Phone: (319) 753-8260 (after hours, there will be the option to have your call forwarded to an on-call staff member's mobile phone)
- Email: conservation@dmcounty.com

Big Hollow Maintenance Shops:

- (319) 985-2502 (this number will only be answered when someone is actually present at the shop)

Park Ranger cell numbers:

(will be answered when these staff members are on duty)

- (319) 759-4779
- (319) 572-5445

Des Moines County Dispatch:

(use this number if you need to reach law enforcement in a non-emergency situation)

- (319) 753-8366

Emergency Number: 911

You can also follow us on social media. We have both a Facebook and Instagram page.

7. What are the Four Fundamental Rules of Firearm Safety?

1. ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
2. ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until you're ready to shoot.
3. ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.
4. ALWAYS be sure of your target and what is beyond.

8. Range Regulations

Please review and follow these rules when using the range:

1. All shooters must have their certification card with them. The first person on the range will assume the Range Officer position. He/she is in charge of range commands and appointing a Range Officer when he/she leaves the range. Most importantly, he/she is in charge of safety on the range.
2. All range users and guests must sign in and out on the forms provided inside the range buildings.
3. Shooters shall use only the target frames or reactive targets supplied and approved by the Des Moines County Conservation Director. Shooters must use cardboard or the backing furnished for the target frames. Only paper targets on the frames are allowed; No other targets will be allowed or accepted.
4. All bullets must impact the termination berm. All target frames on the 25 yard, 50 yard, 100 yard, and 300 meter ranges are permanently affixed and shall remain where installed.
5. Shooters must always know their target, use good judgment and be extremely cautious of what may be behind their target. Be aware there are homes and people beyond the shooting range and stray bullets from the range can cause damage to life and property. Shooters must always keep the muzzle of the firearm pointed in a safe direction.
6. All loaded firearms must be pointed downrange at the termination berm.
7. All firearms shall be unloaded with action open until ready to fire.
8. All firing shall be done from the firing line on the 50, 100, and 300 ranges.
9. On the 25 yard range shooters may move forward as a group under the direction of the Range Officer.
10. Only shooters, spotters, and coaches are allowed on the firing line while it is in operation. Spectators are to stay behind the firing line at all times.
11. All barrels should be checked for a bore obstruction before firing. Malfunctioning firearms should not be used. Only legal firearms are to be used.
12. All unsafe acts or situations on a range shall be corrected immediately.

13. Any person may call "CEASE FIRE" at any time they see an unsafe situation or act.
14. Upon the command "CEASE FIRE" all firearms will be unloaded immediately.
15. Eye and ear protection is required during active shooting.
16. Dry firing is permitted on the firing line only.
17. Make sure the correct ammunition for the firearm is being used.
18. Inexperienced shooters must be accompanied by experienced shooters.
19. All shooters should clean their target and firing station when they have completed their firing.
20. When shooters go downrange to change targets and score, the Range Officer must control movement by using standard range commands.
21. Clay pigeon shooting is not allowed on ranges except during Des Moines County Conservation sponsored events.
22. During heavy range usage there will be a 30 minute time limit.
23. Des Moines County Conservation reserves the right to close the shooting range at any time.

General Area Regulations

1. Loud or abusive language will not be permitted.
2. Alcoholic beverages or shooters having immediate prior consumption are prohibited at the shooting range complex.
3. During heavy use vehicles should be carefully parked, permitting all vehicles to exit the range area in a safe manner.
4. Please stay on the walkways.
5. Pick up any trash or debris in the shooting area.

Security and Enforcement

1. Disregard for and failure to adhere to range or general area regulations will automatically and immediately disqualify the offender from using the shooting range indefinitely.
2. Des Moines County Conservation will make every effort to provide safety and security for the shooting range. Des Moines County Conservation will strictly enforce all rules, regulations, policy and procedures.
3. The range is fenced and posted with "Danger No Trespassing Shooting Range" and "Stop Only Certified Shooters May Use Ranges" signs; violators will be prosecuted under Code of Iowa, Section 461A.44, "Prohibited Areas".
4. Individuals found to be intentionally or unintentionally shooting over berms will be prosecuted under Code of Iowa Section 724.30, "Reckless Use of a Firearm".
5. The range will be supervised when in operation at all times.
6. The Des Moines County Conservation Board will determine the penalty or punishment on reported violations other than those covered by public law.



Big Hollow Range Refresher Course Self-Certification & Hold Harmless Agreement

For 2018 Renewals

Name (print): _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

1. Yes, I understand that the Big Hollow certification course only qualifies me to become a Big Hollow Shooting Range member and does not meet any other certification or permit requirements.
2. Yes, I understand why I may only use paper targets or the reactive targets provided by Des Moines County Conservation at the Big Hollow Shooting Range.
3. Yes, I understand that my certification card will remain valid to use the range for 90 days past my expiration date but that I may renew up to one year past expiration without having to retake the original certification course.
4. Yes, I know that Big Hollow is a popular multi-use outdoor recreation destination and I will do my part to ensure all visitors have a good experience.
5. Yes, I know that the new member certification course can now be taken online.
6. Yes, I realize Des Moines County has updated its website and I know where to find important pages (such as range reservations) on the updated site.
7. Yes, I know and will abide by the Four Fundamental Rules of Firearm Safety.
8. Yes, I agree without reservation to abide by all safety and operating rules and regulations of the Des Moines County Conservation Shooting Range located at Big Hollow Recreation Area. I also hereby waive, relieve, and absolve Des Moines County Conservation and its employees, agents, assignees, directors, and all other duly authorized representatives thereof, of any and all liability whatsoever, including all claims, demands, and causes of action of every nature affecting the undersigned and their children or wards which any of them may have or ever have in connection with the shooting range facility.

Signature: _____ Date: _____