



# Inside Illinois DNR

July 2020

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## IDNR Careers

*IDNR offers a wide array of professional careers in the conservation and natural resource arena. Click [here](#) to see the job openings available.*

## A Message from Director Colleen Callahan



As July arrives and we celebrate our nation’s independence this week, we reach another milestone in what has been the challenging, wild ride that is 2020.

After spending a lot of time at home during the spring, many of us have taken advantage of the chance to get outdoors again – and the first few weeks of summer have been very busy at our Illinois recreation areas, state parks, and fish and wildlife areas.

Our lakes and waterways have been highly visited as well, and with the Independence Day holiday weekend here, it is a good time to remind boaters to make safety their first priority

whenever they take to their favorite lake, river or stream.

IDNR Conservation Police Officers (CPOs) place a much-needed focus on boating safety during this busiest time of year. CPOs conduct boat safety inspections to ensure watercraft have all required safety gear onboard, that boaters know how to use it, and that boaters know the rules and regulations that govern boating in Illinois. Two of the most important reminders regarding boating safety cannot be mentioned enough.

First, boat operators must be sober. Impaired boat operators put themselves, their passengers and other boaters in danger. CPOs made more than 100 arrests for operating under the influence (OUI) last year. Please, don’t be part of that list this year!

Second, wear a life jacket while boating. Life jackets save lives! They are required equipment on your boat but won’t do you any good if they’re stowed away. Kids under 13 must wear a life jacket, and everyone on a Jet Ski must also wear a life jacket. Make it a must for everyone on your boat.

Whether you’re putting in a canoe or kayak on an area stream or backing a trailer down the ramp at a state park boat access area, review your safety checklist, check any site-specific boating regulations, and enjoy a fun and safe day on the water.

Thank you for your interest in and support of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources – and enjoy the 4th of July holiday and the rest of the summer outdoors in Illinois.

Colleen Callahan, Director, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

## DNR in the News

**Will County  
Forest Preserves:  
Lab-raised Hine's  
Emerald  
Dragonflies  
Released into the  
Wild**

**Illinois Times:  
Working in  
Solidarity**

**Chicago Sun  
Times: Escape to  
Hennepin Canal**

**Agri News:  
Illinois Waterway  
Closures begin for  
Lock and Dam  
Repairs**

## Statewide Offices

**Springfield, IL  
217-782-6302**

**Bartlett, IL  
847-608-3100**

**Benton, IL  
618-435-8138**

## Highlights

### Camping Reservations



Summer is a great time for camping in Illinois. Make reservations today for campsites at Illinois state parks, recreation areas and fish and wildlife areas through the Reserve America website at [www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com).

### Camping Guidelines



For the latest health and safety protocols and guidelines for campsites in Illinois as part of Restore Illinois Phase 4, check the IDNR website by [clicking here](#).

### Reminder: Arrive Early at Illinois' Busiest State Parks



Plan to arrive early in the morning if you're planning a visit to Starved Rock State Park and Matthiessen State Park. Parking lots fill quickly and "No Parking" restrictions are strictly enforced. [Click here](#) to learn more parking regulations.

### Waterfowl Blind Drawings Cancelled for 2020



The IDNR has cancelled planned waterfowl blind drawing events this summer due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Existing blind holders will be allowed to maintain their blinds for the 2020-21 waterfowl seasons and blind drawings will resume next year. Read the details by [clicking here](#).



## ICF Membership Program

Become an ICF Member Today

With your help, we are "Turning Screen Time into Green Time."

Join ICF Today

Call (217) 785-2003

Visit ICF

### Illinois Birds: Volume V, Shorebirds Poster



The fifth in the Illinois Birds series of posters from the IDNR and the Illinois Audubon Society is now available. *Illinois Birds: Volume V, Shorebirds* is a two-sided, 24" by 36" poster that features 25 shorebird species that travel through, nest in and/or, for a few species, occasionally overwinter in the state. Shorebirds are often found around water or in places where the soil is wet as most of them feed by probing mud or damp soil with their bill to find small invertebrates to eat. The poster can be ordered from the publications

webpage at <https://dnr2.illinois.gov/teachkids/>.

### Please Leave Wildlife Alone



If you find sick or injured wildlife, either leave the animal where you found it and let nature take its course or call a wildlife rehabilitator. Call the local animal control office or police department for assistance if the animal poses a threat to public health or safety.

Lots of useful information is available at the [Wildlife Illinois website](#).

### Free for Adults – Learn to Hunt



The Illinois Learn to Hunt program provides free education and training workshops to teach adult participants how to hunt deer, turkey, squirrels, pheasants, ducks, geese and other game. Learn to Hunt information is [online here](#).

### Target Illinois Poachers



The IDNR Office of Law Enforcement developed the Target Illinois Poachers (TIP) program to encourage concerned citizens who

witness a conservation offense to report the violation. [Go online](#) for more information on the TIP program.

HISTORIC  
*Preservation*  
DIVISION

  
**COASTAL**  
Management Program  
IL Dept of Natural Resources



## Deer Hunting in Illinois

Detailed information on the results of the 2019-2020 Deer Hunting Seasons in Illinois is available online from the IDNR Division of Wildlife Resources. [Check out the report.](#)

## IDNR Historic Sites Field Trip Grants



The IDNR is offering a new grant program to help teachers of grades Pre-K through 12 in the state make history come alive for students. The IDNR Historic Sites Field Trip Grant program provides funding for field trips to select IDNR State Historic Sites. Up to \$500 is available per winning application to reimburse the school for bus transportation costs. The grant program is competitive, and applications are due by September 30, 2020. Funding is provided by donations. For more information, [click here.](#)

## Kids Can Celebrate Red, White and Blue with the Illinois State Museum



“Red, White, and Blue Super Saturday” will occur online during the 4th of July weekend, Friday, July 3 to Monday, July 6. Join the Illinois State Museum and celebrate the holiday by engaging in art and science activities while at home. Families are encouraged to [interact with the Museum online](#) to complete red-

white-and-blue themed activities and share their experiences.

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## Nominations Sought for Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame



The Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) is accepting nominations through July 8 for the 2020 Class of the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame. Since 2002, the ICF has recognized individuals who have records of exemplary service in and

commitments to improving conservation efforts and outdoor recreation opportunities in Illinois. Nominations must be submitted on the official [Hall of Fame Nomination form](#).



## Boat Registration Info



Have a question about boat registration and titling in Illinois? You may find your answer on the IDNR website on the [Watercraft FAQ page](#).



For more information check out our [monthly calendar of events!](#)



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