

Loudoun Outdoors



ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE MERIT BADGE PROGRAM

Our chapter is sponsoring our inaugural "Environmental Science Merit Badge Weekend" during the weekend of December 9 - 11, 2005. This is a required merit badge for all Boy Scouts who wish to attain the rank of Eagle Scout.

This year's event is a pilot program, organized for Boy Scout Troop 982 of Leesburg. It is hoped that the lessons learned from this first event, will allow us to make this an annual event open to other Loudoun County Boy Scout troops.

Consideration is also being given to expansion of the program to include other conservation merit badges including, but not limited to, Soil and Water, Geology, and Forestry. Operating this program continues our commitment to Loudoun Boy Scouts, which has spanned more than a half century.

LCC-IWLA members who will be presenting the program include Tim Twigg, Marcy Brown, John Wyckoff and Dave Hiers. Members interested in helping can contact Tim Twigg at ttwiggs@adelphia.net.

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LOUDOUN COUNTY FIREARMS ORDINANCES

Hunting season is fast approaching, and we have many chapter members new to Loudoun County. If you are new to Loudoun, and plan to venture forth this fall, there are several county ordinances that you should be familiar with. A brief overview follows :

1. It is unlawful to possess a loaded rifle or shotgun while walking or standing on the road except when permission to hunt is obtained from landowners on each side .
2. It is unlawful to transport, possess, or carry a loaded rifle or shotgun in any vehicle on any public street, road or highway.
3. Discharging firearms is prohibited within certain areas, and restricted in others.
4. The discharge of firearms is prohibited within 50 yards of a highway in the primary or secondary system of state roads.
5. Discharge of firearms is prohibited within 100 yards of any public park or school.
6. Discharge of firearms is prohibited within 100 yards of a building with a current occupancy permit unless the owner or authorized agent has given permission.

The eastern part of the county has additional regulations in Chapter 684. If you plan on hunting in eastern Loudoun, you need to be familiar with ordinance 684.06 .

State preemption exists for many local ordinances for holders of a valid Virginia Concealed Carry Permit, and or where acting in defense of one's person.

This brief overview is meant as an introduction to, and not a replacement for detailed understanding of local and state laws. If unsure, you are encouraged to look further. For more detailed information on Loudoun County ordinances and Virginia state regulations over and above the brief introduction here, visit the following links :

- <http://www.co.loudoun.va.us/general/hunting.htm>
- <http://www.dgif.state.va.us/hunting/regulations/index.asp>.
- <http://legis.state.va.us/Laws/CodeofVa.htm>

The Virginia Gun Owners Guide is also a very good reference book on this topic, providing the state statutes in plain English, with much additional supporting information. Loudoun Guns normally carries this, at a price of around \$14.

RANGE HOURS UPDATE

Our range hours have recently changed to a 6:00 PM closing time. Effective Monday, Oct 31, the range closing will fall back to 5:00 PM as we change back to Eastern Standard Time.

Range hours are posted on the ranges and must be observed at all times. Range hours are also posted on the chapter web site, but should the web site conflict with the range postings, the range postings shall be observed.

With the approach of fall deer seasons, sight-in range use is increasing. Please be reminded that when other members are waiting, limit your usage to one shooting position, and limit your time to one hour. Your adherence to these policies will be appreciated by all range users.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Renewals Status

Renewals are being received and processed. One batch has been sent to National IWLA and the 2006 membership cards have been received. A second batch is currently being sent to National. These two batches cover renewals for 162 members (114 individual memberships and 24 family memberships). Chapter Life members and any renewal memberships paid for by the chapter are included in these two batches.

It is expected that 2006 cards will be sent to the members starting around the end of November or early December for those renewals where the 2006 card has been received from National IWLA. If your renewal arrives later and is not fully processed by both the chapter and National by this time, the renewal card will be forwarded to you upon receipt from National.

Below are some common questions and mistakes that have been noted on the renewals received so far. In most of these cases, the renewal paperwork is returned to the member for correction. Overall there have not been many renewals that had problems that required the return of the materials to the member for correction, but these errors are occurring and renewing members should be aware of them.

Senior Citizen Members

Per the bylaws, a member must be 65 years of age or older to qualify for this membership type. We have received several renewals where the member indicates a change from individual or family to senior membership but, based on the date of birth provided, is not yet 65 years of age. This seems to happen with members who have turned 55 and apparently do not realize that the age requirement for LCC IWLA senior membership is 65. These renewal packages are returned to the member for submission of the correct membership fee (and workday fee if applicable).

Senior citizen members do not need to meet the workday requirement and thus are not required to pay a workday fee. We have received some renewals from senior members where the workday fee has been added to the renewal amount. In these cases, the check has been deposited and the renewal processed. When the 2006 membership card is mailed to these members, a note will be included indicating that the member may request a refund of this workday fee. If a refund is not requested, the workday fee will be treated as an additional contribution and included with the workday fees from other members.

Workday info/fees

Renewal packages have been received where the workday information is not completed and the workday fee was not added to the membership renewal amount. In some cases, the chapter renewal form is not even returned with the renewal. I have been checking to see if the renewing member has been reported as completing the workday requirement. If no confirmation of meeting the workday requirement is on file, the renewal package is returned to the member.

When the work was performed, that fact should have been reported so that it can be used to validate that the workday requirement has been met. If you have performed work for the chapter and have not been reported by the appropriate chairperson, that chairperson is being asked to confirm your service before the renewal is processed. Please remember that when you perform service for the chapter, you should make sure that the appropriate chairperson is aware of the service and remind him/her to report that service to the Second VP.

Incorrect Renewal Fees

Enclosure of the incorrect renewal fee is also a common error. For most members who are not changing their membership class, the proper fee is listed on the renewal forms received from National. This is the amount (plus workday fee if applicable) that should be submitted with the renewal package. One example where the amount on the National renewal form is different is for those members who have paid for a life membership at the National level. For individual members in this situation, the amount on the National renewal card is 99.00 which is the normal renewal amount of 135.00 less the 36.00 that is charged to renew the National membership.

The fees listed on the chapter renewal form are for members who are changing their membership class. Even for these members, the amount should be adjusted as noted above if the renewing member has a life membership at the National level.

The one case where the renewal amount on the National renewal form should NOT be used is for Chapter Life members. As noted last month (and in a notice sent with the renewal package), Chapter Life

members are not required to pay any membership or workday fees. The package was sent to these members so the member could provide updated contact information or make an additional, voluntary contribution to one of the programs of the chapter.

Please take the time to accurately calculate the total renewal fee due. If the workday requirement was NOT met, the normal individual renewal dues are \$202.50 (135.00 dues plus 67.50 workday fee) and the normal family renewal dues are \$270.00 (202.50 dues plus 67.50 workday fee). If an error is made and an insufficient amount is enclosed, the renewal package will be returned to the member for correction.

Loudoun Outdoors is a periodical of the Loudoun County Chapter Izaak Walton League of America and is available for subscription at feed://www.loudouniwa.org/lcc.rss . Comments can be sent to loudounoutdoors@loudouniwa.org. For further info visit us on the web at www.loudouniwa.org , or call 703-777-9684.