

Are you interested in helping maintain our beautiful woodland trails? Sign up now for a chain-saw safety course!

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is planning a two-day course in chain-saw safety. This course will be open to members of the Friends of Machimoodus & Sunrise State Parks and the Friends of Gillette Castle State Park, and will be held in spring or fall of 2021, depending on interest.

Successful completion of this course is mandatory for volunteers wishing to be able to use chainsaws to help with trail maintenance at the parks. It is also a great educational resource for any homeowner, as it provides real-world, hands-on training.

This is a two-day course (on a Saturday and a Sunday, with the actual dates to be determined). The first day is a primer for those wanting to learn the basics of chainsaw use and maintenance; the second day will cover advanced topics such as cutting and felling techniques.

Class size will be limited to 10 participants and the cost will be \$100 per day for members, \$120 for non-members. ([Become a member today!](#)) Students must bring their own saws and safety gear.

Students bring their own saws and safety gear, practice the skills taught and have the opportunity to fell trees under the guidance of a professional instructor. Topics covered include: personal protective equipment, routine saw maintenance, chain sharpening, notching and boring techniques, safe felling practices, using wedges, limbing, and handling difficult trees. Instructor Bill Girard of Girard Custom Cut Hardwoods is a Certified Instructor for the world-renowned "Game of Logging" chainsaw training program. He has been a full-time logger for more than 30 years, and owns and operates a variety of logging equipment.

Send an email to info@gillettecastlefriends.org if you are interested. Once course participants are identified, the course dates and other logistics will be finalized.

