Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC) will be held at the Flagler Lake State Wildlife Area in Flagler May 5-6 starting at 7 a.m. each day.

The event is being co-sponsored by the Cheyenne, Kit Carson, Kiowa and Yuma counties 4-H shooting sports programs and the Kit Carson County Pheasants Forever Chapter.

YHEC is recognized as one of the most comprehensive youth hunting programs anywhere in North America. The Youth Hunter Education Challenge is the NRA's (National Rifle Association) "graduate studies" program in outdoor skills and safety training for young hunters and/or outdoor enthusiasts.

The program is conducted under simulated hunting conditions to provide the best practical environment for reinforcing and testing a young hunter's skills; from shotgun, rifle, bow and muzzleloader shooting at a variety of targets and sporting clays to wildlife identification, map-and-compass orienteering and much more.

YHEC participants (youth and adults, too) get hands-on training in eight skill areas.

Call the Extension Office in Burlington 719-346-5571 ext. 302, Extension Office in Kiowa County 719-438-5321, Extension Office in Yuma County 970-332-4151 or the Area Extension Office in Cheyenne County 719-767-5716 to request a shooter information packet that has all the information one needs to know about the events and how to sign up. There will be something for everyone from the young to the young at heart!

There will be two one-day events, one on Saturday and one on Sunday. The program will only be able to handle 50 shooters per day, so space will be limited and on a first come, first served basis.

The deadline to sign up and pay is Friday, April 27.

Adults interested in helping run the various challenges are encouraged to contact Perry Brewer, YHEC coordinator at 719-349-1358.

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