



COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT: SKYWARN Weather Spotter Class

WHEN: April 5th 1pm -3pm

WHERE: Downtown SUNY Upstate Campus Room E12405A & B.

During this training provided by local National Weather Service (NWS)

You'll learn:

- Basics of thunderstorm development
- Fundamentals of storm structure
- Identifying potential severe weather features
- Information to report
- How to report information
- Basic severe weather safety

TO REGISTER PLEASE EMAIL Chris Dunham at Dunhamch@upstate.edu or Kelsey Wagner at Wagnerk@upstate.edu

Space is limited for this free class.

The SKYWARN® Spotter and the Spotter's Role

The United States is the most severe weather-prone country in the world. Each year, people in this country cope with an average of 10,000 thunderstorms, 5,000 floods, 1,200 tornadoes, and two land falling hurricanes.

Approximately 90% of all presidentially declared disasters are weather-related, causing around 500 deaths each year and nearly \$14 billion in damage. SKYWARN® is a National Weather Service (NWS) program developed in the 1960s that consists of trained weather spotters who provide reports of severe and hazardous weather to help meteorologists make life-saving warning decisions.

Spotters are concerned citizens, amateur radio operators, truck drivers, mariners, airplane pilots, emergency management personnel, and public safety officials who volunteer their time and energy to report on hazardous weather impacting their community. Although, NWS has access to data from Doppler

radar, satellite, and surface weather stations, technology cannot detect every instance of hazardous weather. Spotters help fill in the gaps by reporting hail, wind damage, flooding, heavy snow, tornadoes and waterspouts.

Radar is an excellent tool, but it is just that: one tool among many that NWS uses. We need spotters to report how storms and other hydro meteorological phenomena are impacting their area. SKYWARN® spotter reports provide vital “ground truth” to the NWS.

They act as our eyes and ears in the field. Spotter reports help our meteorologists issue timely, accurate and detailed warnings by confirming hazardous weather detected by NWS radar. Spotters also provide critical verification information that helps improve future warning services. SKYWARN® Spotters serve their local communities by acting as a vital source of information when dangerous storms approach. Without spotters, NWS would be less able to fulfill its mission of protecting life and property.

If travelling to SUNY Upstate please park in the EAST Parking Garage - See map below

Parking costs will not be reimbursed.

