

**Sogn Valley SKYWARN media contact:**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SKYWARN Teaches Critical Weather Observation Skills**

**KENYON** — One of the most mild winters on record has many people contemplating an early spring. As the temperatures begin to rise combined with a lack of snow cover, the ingredients could soon be in place for the beginning of severe weather season. After all, we learned back in 2017 how early March is capable of producing tornadoes in southern Minnesota.

“Over the past several years observing the weather has taught us to expect the unusual,” says Jim Braaten, lead coordinator for the Sogn Valley SKYWARN group. “Who would have believed how during January of this year parts of Canada were actually warmer than Key West Florida. It’s odd. It’s sometimes extreme, but together we must prepare to deal with all types of weather uncertainties thrown at us.”

This spring **Sogn Valley SKYWARN** has several opportunities to help residents prepare for the upcoming severe weather season. Anyone with an interest in public service is encouraged to participate as a volunteer storm spotter. The SKYWARN program is a great resource allowing local citizens to get involved by keeping their communities safe during severe weather events. The more trained eyes spread across the county the better for early detection and public warning systems to work.

NWS certified instructors will teach spotters how to observe and subsequently report severe weather to assist in the weather warning process. Trainees will learn the basics of thunderstorm development, the fundamentals of storm structure, how to identify potential severe weather features, what information to report and how, as well as severe weather safety.

The times and dates for the two online SKYWARN training webinars are:

- ★ Tuesday, March 26 @ 6:30pm
- ★ Thursday, April 4 @ 6:30pm

In-person classes will be held in the following cities:

- ★ Cannon Falls (Christ UM Church) on Saturday, April 13, starting at 9:00am
- ★ Nerstrand (Fire Hall on Cherry Street) on Wednesday, April 17, at 6:30pm
- ★ Zumbrota (Fire Department) on Monday, April 22, at 6:30pm

Registration sign-up links for the online sessions can be found at [www.Sogn.us](http://www.Sogn.us) after March 8. In-person classes do not require registration, but check the website for any possible changes prior to attending any class. Additional information about **Sogn Valley SKYWARN** and these upcoming training opportunities is also available by contacting: [info@Sogn.us](mailto:info@Sogn.us).

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**Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 8-12, 2024.**

