

Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update

February 2020

YCC Delegates and Mentors,

For many, February is a month for hunkering down and just getting through. Think about all of the animals and insects that spend these winter months in a dormant stage - many of them hidden from sight. However, winter is also a time that nature unveils many secrets. The next time you are outdoors you might be surprised at how deep you can peer into the woods. Without the screen of leaves, the trees and landscape become exposed. Cocoons, nests, woodpecker holes, shelf fungi, colorful birds, and animal tracks are just a few secrets easily spotted during winter months. What else have you noticed? You might be surprised at the secrets you find - even in your own backyard.

Go play outside and open your eyes to nature in a new way! ~Kyle, YCC Coordinator

Please take note of the following reminders and notices:

- Please keep track of your time spent participating in WCC meetings, mentored outings, YCC promotions, and conservation related activities. Keeping track of your hours is important to the WCC. Please log them online: <https://forms.gle/zNsLvLPD33wQXmao9>
- We will be trialing the "Remind" texting services that many schools use. If you did not receive a text requesting you to join, please follow this link to sign up for YCC text information: <https://remind.com/join/wiyc>

Picture Perfect!

This month send us pictures of nests, cocoons, or unique tracks you find on your outdoor explorations

Each month we will ask you to share outdoor pictures.

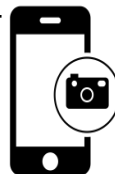
Please text pictures to Kyle Zenz at 715-299-0925 or email:

Kyle.Zenz@Wisconsin.gov

We will select a photograph to be featured in next month's YCC newsletter



Visit the
[WCC Facebook site](#)
to see what's new



Outdoor Adventures!



Great catch! Vilas County delegate, Tommy enjoys spending time ice fishing.



Racine delegate, Sam attended a program "Owl Prowl" at Bong State Rec Area. Pictured is the presenter holding a screech owl.



Fresh snowfall at the Burlington School Forest, photo by Sam

Wisconsin Youth Conservation Contacts

YCC Oversight Committee Chair: Trent Tonn, (262) 534-1962 / ttonn@basd.k12.wi.us
YCC Oversight Committee Vice Chair: Rob Bohmann (262) 498-4605 / rob.bohmann@att.net
YCC Secretary: Tashina Peplinski (262) 483-2483 / tashina@startistries.com
YCC Coordinator: Kyle Zenz (715) 299-0925 / kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov
WCC Liaison: Kari Lee-Zimmermann (608) 266-0580 / Kari.LeeZimmermann@Wisconsin.gov



Featured YCC Delegate

Name: Gavin Wright

School: Waterloo Community School (sophomore)

County: Jefferson

WCC Mentor: Lowell Wright

Years involved in the YCC: almost 4

What is one of your most memorable outdoor experiences?

My most memorable outdoor experience is going bear hunting and making Boone and Crockett. This was with a Learn-to-Hunt youth tag I received from the WCC.

Last summer, I shot on the WI State Champion squad with the Beaver Dam high school trap team and was a SCTP Nation Champion in Handicap Trap.

Share something specific you have learned from your mentor?

When you are outdoors, even if tempted to not follow the laws, you need to set the example and act like you are hunting with a warden. You also need to give back and respect the environment, like helping with Ducks Unlimited, Wings Over Wisconsin or Pheasants Forever.

Aside from your interest in the outdoors/hunting, are there other school activities or personal activities that you enjoy participating in?

I love trapshooting and shoot on the Waterloo FFA team, Beaver Dam school team and at the Waterloo Gun Club. I also play football and wrestle for Waterloo High School.

What would you say to encourage someone to join the YCC?

You will learn new and helpful tips that help you in life. You also meet very nice people who give up a lot of time and put a lot of effort to engage and improve Wisconsin and the outdoors.

Another valuable lesson you learn is participating in discussing laws and how we vote to implement them into our outdoors. We also have to figure how these laws will affect our environment before we pass or veto them.

Anything else you would like to share about yourself or your YCC involvement?

I was scared to join, but I'm glad I did. I have learned so much from some amazing people. I'd like to say if you are interested in the outdoors or the workings of the government, you should try it. It is a once in a lifetime experience and I have enjoyed every minute of it.

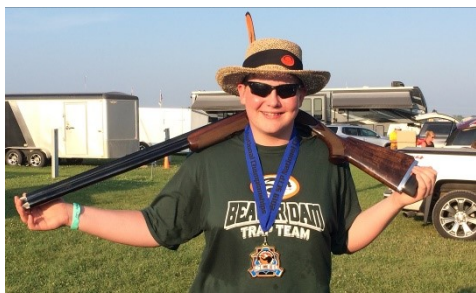


**YCC
SPOTLIGHT**

Gavin, pictured with his dad and mentor, Lowell Wright at the 2018 State Convention

“ As Gavin’s mentor and father, I am glad he wanted to join the YCC. He has met many new people from all over the state through the YCC. It is neat to run into some of the other YCC delegates throughout the year, and not just at the state convention.

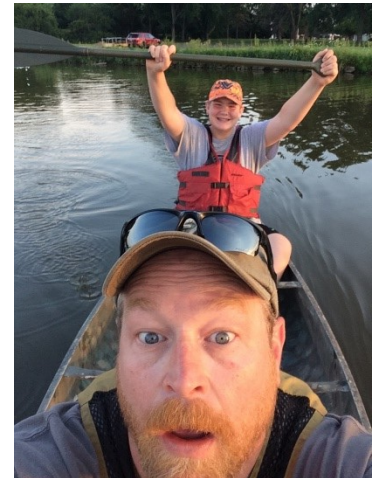
I have tried to instill in him the need to be a leader in protecting the environment, giving back to the things he loves (By volunteering with Ducks Unlimited, Wings Over Wisconsin and YCC), and the need to encourage others his age to take an interest in the many outdoor opportunities available in our great state. - Lowell Wright ”



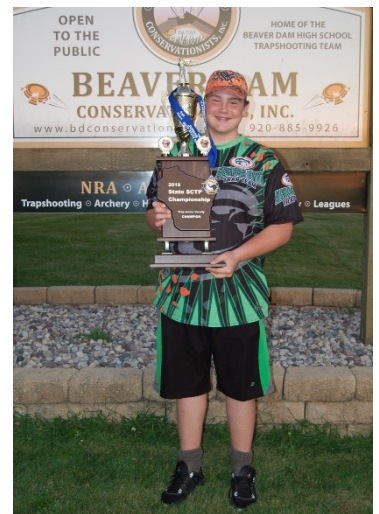
Representing Wisconsin at the SCTP National Championships in Morengo, Ohio. Gavin was National Champ in Handicap Trap



Successful Bear harvest



Fun family times canoeing



2019 WI SCTP champions



2019 Gavin deer hunting with his sister Gabby.

REQUEST FOR PICTURES

We are looking to grow our photo database for the YCC. As we prepare displays, documents, videos and publications we are in need of more photos.

Do you have photos featuring you involved with:

- YCC events or activities?
- Mentored hunting experiences?
- Archery, trap or fishing competitions?
- A successful fishing, hunting or trapping experience?
- Unique outdoor experiences?

Please email pictures to Kyle at kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov



JUNIOR VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTOR

Have you completed DNR safety courses? Would you like to help instruct classes?

The Junior Instructor program is a great way for youth to get involved, plus gain skills like public speaking and confidence.

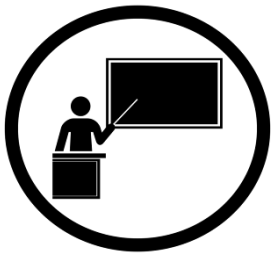
Hours put into the program may also meet volunteer hour requirements that some schools require to graduate.



A Junior Volunteer Instructor needs to be between the ages of 12 and 17 and have successfully completed a safety course within the designated education program. The Junior Volunteer Instructor needs to be sponsored by a local certified instructor. The junior volunteer instructor and sponsor complete the junior volunteer instructor application and submit it to their local DNR Outdoor Skills Trainer (OST). Junior volunteer instructors can assist the instructor in the program, but cannot instruct on their own. The years that a junior volunteer instructor participates count toward full instructor certification, and will eventually count towards instructor years of service. When a junior instructor turns 18 years of age they need to complete the certification process forms and consult with their local OST.

Application for Junior Volunteer Instructor:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/forms/8500/8500-143.pdf>



We are also planning to put together a sample powerpoint file for presentations about the YCC. If you have specific requests or thoughts to include in this presentation please share your ideas.

UPCOMING CDAC MEETINGS

Each county in Wisconsin has a County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) to provide input and recommendations to the Wisconsin Department of Natural

Resources on deer management within their county. Councils work with local department staff to schedule meetings, provide community outreach and an opportunity for public input, review population data and deer impacts on forests and agriculture, develop 3-year recommendations on county population objectives and create annual antlerless harvest quotas.

Upcoming meetings are individually scheduled by each county in March and April

We encourage all YCC delegates to attend the meeting in their county. Please review this document before attending: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/documents/cdacpublic.pdf>

For more information about CDAC please visit: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/cdac.html>



LEARN TO HUNT BEAR APPLICATION

Beginning in 2005, the Wisconsin DNR began offering Learn to Hunt Bear opportunities. The Learn to Hunt Bear Program (LTHB) is an opportunity to expose novice hunters to the hunting experience and recruit new hunters into the sport. The Conservation Congress is one of the statewide conservation organizations that are specifically issued a bear harvest tag through the LTHB Bear Program. Each year the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is awarded a tag with the express intent of awarding it to a deserving individual with the desire and interest in learning more about hunting bear.

Each spring the Conservation Congress accepts applications from novice hunters interested in participating in the LTHB Bear Program. Applicants must fill out and submit an application along with a brief essay describing why they would like to be considered to receive the bear harvest tag and why they would like the opportunity to hunt bear.

For additional information and application form visit: <https://dnr.wi.gov/about/wcc/hunt.html>

Applications must be postmarked by Wednesday, April 22, 2020.

YCC Upcoming Opportunities

FEBRUARY

- February 8 - 23 - sturgeon spearing season on the Winnebago system. This could be an opportunity to work alongside DNR staff during sturgeon registration.
- February 29 - Leap day! You get one extra day this year. What will you do with your extra 24 hours?

MARCH

- 21st - YCC Oversight Committee Meeting
- Join a [Scholastic Shooting Sports](#) team at your school or check with local sporting clubs to see if they offer opportunities for high school teams.
- Dates vary by county - County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) Meeting

APRIL

- April 13 - WCC Statewide Spring Hearings
- April 15-30 (approximately) - Sturgeon Guard volunteers needed <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/sturgeon/sturgeonguard.html>
- April 22 - Earth Day, celebrating 50 years
- Dates vary by county - County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) Meeting

MAY

- May 2 - Fishing opener in Wisconsin. *Please always check regulations first. Season dates are often specific to the species of fish as well as the water body.
- May 14-16 - WCC State Convention, Green Lake Wisconsin. YCC events being planned include: hands on trout habitat restoration with the DNR, trap shooting, and more - stay tuned!
- May 20-21 - [Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo](#).

JUNE

- June 6-7 Free Fishing Weekend in Wisconsin

ONGOING

Statewide opportunity: volunteer to help with conservation work-days at State Natural Areas. <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/naturalareas/volunteer.html>



Learn more about what is going on in the Conservation Congress by reading the Conservation Chronicle Fall 2019 edition

<https://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/Documents/Chronicle/Fall2019CC.pdf>

STURGEON FISHING OPPORTUNITY



Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a part of the 2020 sturgeon spearing season? WCC Delegate, Terri Roehrig is inviting YCC delegates for an opportunity to view sturgeon spearing first hand. Terri would be happy to host YCC youth on the ice February 8, 9, 15, or 16. If you are interested in learning more, please contact:

Terri: (920) 540-2775, troehrig@yahoo.com

You will need to provide your own transportation to and from Lake Winnebago.

EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS



Have you started searching for scholarship opportunities? There are scholarships available out there for almost all programs or disciplines. Local scholarships are a great place to start. Talk to your mentor, teachers or guidance counselors. Often scholarships are available from local conservation organizations and sporting clubs.

If you know of any conservation related scholarships for high school seniors, please share the information. I will be happy to post it in our newsletter.

-----Available now-----

Wisconsin Hunter Education Instructor Association (WHEIA) is offering three, \$500 scholarships to high school students graduating in 2020 or current college students. The deadline for applications is March 4, 2020: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FNq_Ovsq7sX8hKpWNN7Z6VPMxm0-93z/view

LOOKING FOR TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES?



Hunter safety classes are currently being offered across the state throughout the next few months. Check out the link to find a training near you.

<https://gowild.wi.gov/customers/safetypedclass>