

Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update

Photo by Samantha

January 2020

YCC Delegates and Mentors,

The winter solstice on December 21st ushered in a transition towards light. Have you noticed our sunlight sticking around a few minutes longer each day? Does the changing daylight affect you? How do you think it affects animals and plants?

Photoperiodism is the term for the response of a plant or animal to the relative lengths of daylight and darkness it experiences.

In animals, migration, reproduction and color changes in appearance (fur or plumage) are affected by daylight. In plants, periods of light and dark can affect flowering and ultimately seed production.

Although not every one will agree with me, I think we are lucky to live in a latitude where we get to experience the change of seasons, and light.

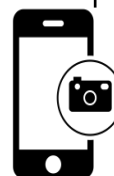
Go play outside and enjoy the lengthening daylight each day! ~Kyle, YCC Coordinator

Please take note of the following reminders and notices:

- Our January 18th ice fishing event is right around the corner. Please RSVP for the event here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NHJPNZN>
- Please keep track of your time spent participating in YCC events, activities, and mentored hunting experiences. Details for recording and sharing these hours can be found on page three.

Picture Perfect!

This month send us pictures of your ice fishing adventures



Each month we will ask you to share outdoor pictures.

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

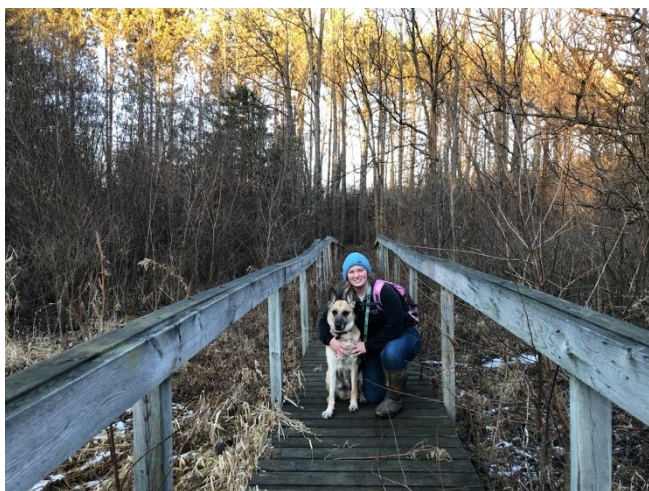
Kyle.Zenz@Wisconsin.gov

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!



Racine County delegate, Samantha enjoys spending time exploring the Burlington School Forest.



Youth Conservation Congress Coordinator, Kyle spent time hiking with family in Jackson County over the winter break.



*Winter glow.
Photo by Samantha*

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



Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress



Winter Activity - Ice Fishing

Saturday, January 18th, 9:00am to 5:00pm

Lake Petenwell, [Petenwell County Park](#)

All Youth Conservation Congress delegates are invited! Enjoy a day on the ice while learning new techniques for a successful fishing adventure. This is the **FREE** fishing weekend in Wisconsin.

All WCC County delegates are encouraged to attend - invite a youth to join you.

Bring a friend or relative who is new to fishing or hasn't gone fishing in years*

Details:

9:00 - meet at [Petenwell County Park](#), 2004 Bighorn Drive - Arkdale, WI. Check in at the park office building to get information about the day. Set up on the ice.

9:30 - 12:00 While we are fishing, a DNR warden will meet with our group to talk about regulations and ice safety. We will also learn about specific ecological characteristics of Lake Petenwell and discuss fish biology and winter survival adaptations.

12:00 - We will provide hot dogs to grill on the ice, or bring your own sack lunch.

3:00 - Wrap up fishing and pack up gear.

3:30 - Drive 1.5 miles to the Town of Monroe Town Hall (981 County Rd. Z, Arkdale) to clean and prep fish.

4:00 - Pot luck dinner at the Town Hall - bring a dish to pass and (hopefully) enjoy our catch of the day.

What to bring:

- \$5.00 cash to cover Petenwell County Park vehicle admission.
- This is the **FREE FISHING WEEKEND** in Wisconsin. You do not need a fishing license for this weekend.
- **WARM** clothes and boots! You will have a more pleasant and successful day if you are prepared for the weather. We will have some fishing shelters to use and there are heated bathrooms available at the park.
- Ice fishing equipment (poles, bait, lures, ice scoop, fillet knives, chair) Ice augers will be available as well as extra gear. If you are new to ice fishing, don't worry we will provide training and all equipment.
- Food to share for the pot luck. Please indicate what you plan to bring when you fill out the RSVP form.
- *Youth (under 18) who are **not** currently registered as YCC delegates will need to fill out and bring a guest activity consent form signed by a parent/guardian.

Link to consent form: https://dnr.wi.gov/about/wcc/Documents/YCC/2019_YCC_GuestActivityConsent.pdf

Please RSVP by January 13th. Follow this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NHJPNZN>

Contact: Kyle Zenz, Youth Conservation Congress Coordinator for more information

715-299-0925 (call or text) - Kyle.Zenz@wisconsin.gov

PLEASE TRACK YOUR HOURS RELATED TO CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

Record keeping is not always everyone's favorite activity, but it is important to document your involvement as a YCC delegate. This information is important to the Conservation Congress and it should be equally important to you. Many college applications and scholarships inquire about service hours and hands on experience.

Please take a few minutes after each activity to record your information. We have created an excel file and online database for you to keep track of your hours. Ultimately we would like you to enter your hours online so we can easily collect information.

Additional information about tracking hours and forms will be emailed to you.

2020 - Youth Conservation Congress Time Sheet Name: _____ County: _____

Please record hours spent involved in conservation related activities as described. Keep this sheet for your records.

Date	Description of event/activity	Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) Meetings				YCC Organized event	Activity with WCC Mentor	Volunteer with the DNR	Time spent promoting WCC or YCC	Other			Additional comments?						
		WCC County Meeting	WCC District Meeting	WCC Oversight Committee Meeting / other committee meetings	WCC Spring Hearings	WCC Annual Convention	Fishing, hunting, trapping event	Other YCC event	Attend a WCC meeting	Hunting, fishing, trapping	Other outdoor activity (not hunting, fishing, trapping)	Volunteer with DNR staff		Job shadow DNR staff	Promoting/presenting to adults about WCC/YCC	Promoting/presenting to youth about WCC/YCC	Time spent with other outdoor professionals learning about natural resources or conservation service work	Time spent with school/youth sporting organizations (hunting, fishing, trapping)	Time spent volunteering for conservation related event

Please transfer this information onto the YCC online database after completing each activity. Google form: <https://forms.gle/PXv3Scm5uJZzeEv6> Thank you!

After each activity, please enter your hours: <https://forms.gle/ZsnRinTnYajuPPan7>

WINTER WOLF ECOLOGY WORKSHOPS

Interested in learning more about wolves in Wisconsin? There are three remaining workshops scheduled for this winter. These workshop will cover wolf ecology, history, monitoring, and management, and a field trip into wolf country is included.



Minimum age for attendees is 14, under 18 must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian.

Workshop information: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/training.html#wolf12>

Workshop brochure: <http://www.timberwolfinformation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/TWIN-Brochure-2020.pdf>

Date: January 11th and 12th, 2020
Time: 9:00 a.m. Saturday – 12:00 p.m. Sunday
Location: Treehaven, Tomahawk

Date: January 25th and 26th, 2020
Time: 9:00 a.m. Saturday – 12:00 p.m. Sunday
Location: Beaver Creek Reserve, Fall Creek

Date: February 1st and 2nd, 2020
Time: 9:00 a.m. Saturday – 12:00 p.m. Sunday
Location: Sandhill Outdoor Skills Center, Babcock

WHAT LIVES IN YOUR WOODS?

Are you curious about what walks through your woods while you aren't looking? Snapshot Wisconsin is a volunteer-based project which utilizes a statewide network of trail cameras to monitor wildlife year-round.



Volunteer to host a trail camera on your property, or adopt a camera already in place on public land. The project provides important data for wildlife management. It is also a unique opportunity for individuals, families, and students to get involved in monitoring the state's valuable natural resources. No experience is necessary, and all training and equipment are provided. Volunteers must be able to participate for at least one year and check the camera at least once every three months.

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/research/projects/snapshot/>

HELP IDENTIFY WILDLIFE

Photos collected by Snapshot Wisconsin cameras are hosted on Zooniverse, a crowdsourcing website for citizen science projects. Thousands of volunteers worldwide participate on Zooniverse by identifying wildlife captured in Snapshot Wisconsin photos. You can help Snapshot WI identify animals:

<https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/zooniverse/snapshot-wisconsin>

YCC Upcoming Opportunities

JANUARY

- Happy New Year!
- 18th—YCC event— Ice Fishing on the Petenwell Flowage.
- Check out Candlelight Hikes and Snowshoe events across the state: <https://dnr.wi.gov/news/Weekly/Article?id=4700>

FEBRUARY

- February 8 - 23 - sturgeon spearing season on the Winnebago system. This could be an opportunity to work alongside DNR staff during sturgeon registration.

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.
- Date to be announced - County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) Meeting (meetings will be held in each county). <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/cdac.html>
Meetings are open to the public. Please review: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/documents/cdacpublic.pdf>

APRIL

- April 13 - WCC Statewide Spring Hearings
- April 15-30 (approximately) - Sturgeon Guard volunteers needed <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/sturgeon/sturgeonguard.html>
- Date to be announced - County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) Meeting (meetings will be held in each county). <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/cdac.html>
Meetings are open to the public. Please review: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/documents/cdacpublic.pdf>

MAY

- 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](#), MacKenzie Center, Poynette. This event welcomes volunteers.

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.

OUTWI GO - SNOW!



Join park staff and partners for OutWiGo Snow!, a winter recreation celebration at Lapham Peak on Saturday, Jan. 11 and at Willow River State Park on Saturday, Feb. 1. Both events are from noon to 4 p.m.

Bundle up with family and friends for an afternoon of cross-country skiing, fat tire biking, snowshoeing, ice fishing demos, sledding, s'mores and more! Cross-country ski and snowshoe rentals will be available at both events. Participants of all ages are welcome. A \$5 admission fee applies to participants ages 18 and older, cash only. Wisconsin State Park vehicle admission sticker or day pass required for entry.

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/outwigo.html>

***This event welcomes volunteers. There are a variety of options to help with. If you are interested in volunteering you can contact Jane Simkins with the WI DNR at: jane.simkins@wisconsin.gov**

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/safetiedclass>



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>

GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK!
This page is a work in progress. Let us know what you would like to see more of. We will make changes to the next edition. We want to hear from you. Send your ideas, comments, pictures and articles to: Karl.Landrum@dnr.wisconsin.gov