

Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update

October 2022

YCC delegates and mentors,

Sunshine, snow, wind and warm weather are all to be expected during the month of October. So far, this year is no exception. The variability in weather is what makes us appreciate, enjoy, and savor beautiful fall days.

We were lucky to have a gorgeous fall day for the YCC upland bird hunt at Mead Wildlife Area. Thanks to the mentors who brought dogs and guided the hunting groups. We had some success and an overall great morning.

The YCC Oversight Committee met in the afternoon and discussed plans for the upcoming year. Tentative dates have been set for YCC meetings and activities. Check out page 7 for details.

A planning survey will be sent out to YCC delegates, mentors and committee members. This survey will help guide programming and priorities for the YCC. Please take time to share your feedback with us.

Get outside and take time to enjoy the changing of the season! ~Kyle Zenz, YCC Coordinator

Outdoor Adventures



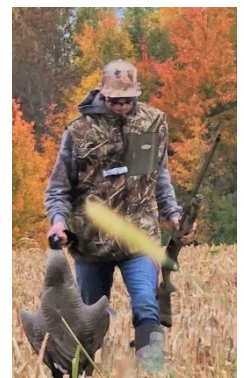
Blake, YCC Alumni (right) mentored his sister for the youth hunt. Congrats on a successful hunt.



Caleb, YCC delegate from St. Croix Co. has been busy! Just days apart, he harvested a grouse and a woodcock while hunting in Minnesota. Good work to Caleb, and his dog, Gunner.



Gabby, YCC delegate from Jefferson Co. had a successful day duck hunting. She is pictured with a green-winged teal.



Blake, YCC Alumni enjoyed a goose hunt near Stevens Point.



Wisconsin Youth Conservation Contacts

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YCC Oversight Committee Vice Chair: Reed Kabelowsky (920) 242-3144 / r.kabelowsky@sbcglobal.net

YCC Oversight Committee Secretary: Tashina Peplinski (262) 483-2483 / tashina@startistries.com

YCC Coordinator: Kyle Zenz (715) 299-0925 / kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov

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Welcome

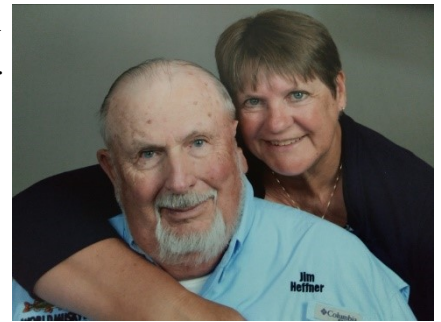
We are excited to welcome a new delegate to the YCC:
Kane, Racine Co.



THANK YOU!

The YCC is appreciative of the following financial gifts:

- The [Wisconsin Conservation & Education Foundation](#) awarded the YCC with a \$1000.00 grant. This foundation is proudly affiliated with the Wisconsin Conservation Warden Association. The YCC is extremely grateful and will use this gift to fund conservation programming, learn to hunt programs, and additional YCC activities.
- The Blackhawk Musky Club, based out of Janesville, WI recently donated a memorial gift in honor of Jim Heffner to the Youth Conservation Congress. These funds will be used for programming related to youth fishing and education.
- Carol Heffner donated a memorial gift to the YCC in honor of Jim Heffner. Jim was a special mentor, YCC committee member, and friend to many. Jim's passion and enthusiasm towards fishing and youth education was a joy to witness. We will remember Jim and use this gift to share his love of fishing with others.



WCC delegate, Jim Heffner & wife, Carol Heffner.

Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine - Fall 2022

Savor the season with a Wisconsin Fall Bucket List of activities, including everything from scenic drives and leaf peeping to apple picking, camping in the colors and more. This [issue](#) also includes suggestions for Fall Day Trips, such as Holy Hill near Milwaukee and central Wisconsin's beautiful Rib Mountain State Park.

Aspiring photographers will find great advice on how to take picture-perfect fall photos using a smartphone. And it's time to rethink fall cleanup with tips to save time and money on seasonal chores while still helping nature. Kids will love diving into the science behind autumn's colorful glory to learn why leaves change color.

Fall means an array of hunting seasons in Wisconsin. That also means hunting safely. The fall issue shares important information to help you stay safe when heading out in the field this fall.

Meanwhile, learn about the history of Lizard Mound State Park, settle into the saddle with horseback riding in Wisconsin's State Parks, and meet Elena Terry, a chef and member of the Ho-Chunk Nation, who finds inspiration in her connections to land and community.

View the magazine [online](#).



Featured YCC Delegate

Name: Madison Odenbach

County: La Crosse

School: West Salem High School , Senior

Years involved in the YCC: 2

Why did you join the YCC?

I joined the YCC as I am passionate about the outdoors and was looking for opportunities to gain experience. I found the YCC and have learned so much!

Share an experience from a YCC program or experience with your mentor that was memorable:

My favorite experience I've done was helping with collaring elk. I was able to watch and hold a cow elk as the DNR and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation were tranquilizing and then collaring and taking measurements. It was the coolest experience, but I got a lot of elk drool on my pants.

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

I run both our school's Ecology Club and our cultural food club, Maps and Apps. I love painting and photography. I frequent our farmers markets and after you can find me hammocking on top of the bluffs.

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

Definitely go for it. You get to have such amazing experiences and meet a bunch of people who are interested in the same stuff you are. You make connections and learn more about what you might want to do as a future career.

Is there anything else you would like to share about yourself or your YCC involvement?

A big thank you to Kyle and all of the adults who make this project possible!



YCC
SPOTLIGHT

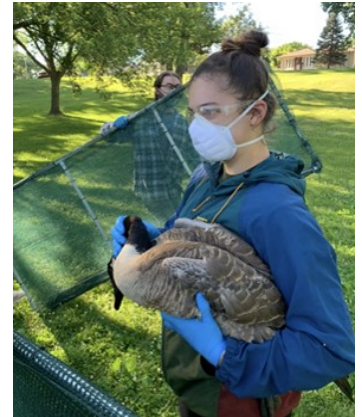
Madison loves traveling and exploring. She is pictured at Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park.



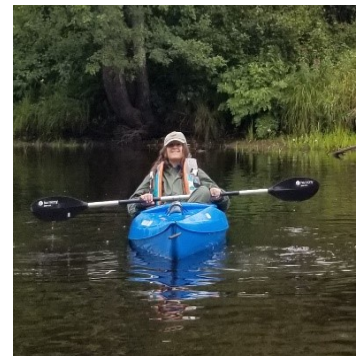
Releasing stocked pheasant with DNR Staff in Jackson County



Helping collect elk data on the Black River State Forest.



Volunteering to band geese with DNR biologists



Kayaking during the YCC Summer Program

“ Madison is one of the very active delegates in the YCC program. I remember at our first appearance at the Waterfowl Hunter's Expo in 2021, Madison made the drive up to Oshkosh from LaCrosse Co. I remember thinking how dedicated a young person must be to take that on. This has been Madison's trademark - she is always at the YCC events. When I think of the energy she puts into the events once there, I know that she is getting the most out of every opportunity to learn her trade. Madison is planning to study at the University of Montana - and I know she will put every ounce of her energy into this as well. I am extremely impressed with her self confidence, inner drive, attitude, and genuine personal nature. It is a big undertaking to choose a life course and then take a journey to accomplish those goals. Madison has the personal traits to accomplish any goal she sets after. I look forward to hearing of her accomplishments.

Madison did a remarkable job of sharing her passion and helping the young people at this year's Waterfowl Hunter's Expo. I have enjoyed the time we get to spend together at our YCC activities. I especially enjoyed a few minutes at Flambeau River this summer listening to Madison and Sarah talk about their upcoming educational ventures - just a special moment that I am thankful that they allowed me to be there for. I enjoy spending time with all the delegates and watching them in their personal and professional growth. I am glad that Madison shared her friendship and I wish her all the best. Please keep us posted on those mile markers Madison. ”

~Reed Kabelowsky, YCC Committee Vice Chair



Participants in the hunt: Jeff Pritzl, Trevor, Liv, Miles, Tommy, Caleb, Blake, Reed Kabelowsky, Mike Lane

YCC 2022 GROUSE & WOODCOCK HUNT

MEAD WILDLIFE AREA



Tommy was successful in harvesting his first grouse!



Caleb brought his dog, Gunner to help locate birds for the hunt.



Miles enjoyed hunting with the group and spending a beautiful day outdoors.



Trevor & Liv flushed two woodcocks in their hunting groups.



Blake is a freshman at UWSP, and he was excited to be able to join us for a nearby hunt.



Professor Sarah Orlofske from UW-Stevens Point presented information about woodcock parasite research with YCC delegates following the hunt.

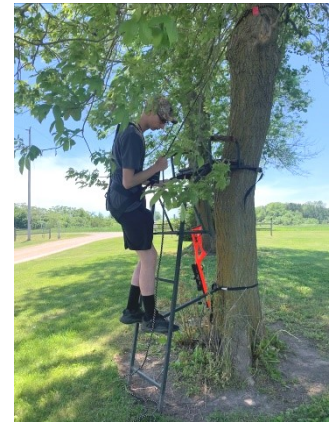
BECOME A JUNIOR VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTOR



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.



YCC alumni, Blake served as a Junior Volunteer Instructor. He is pictured demonstrating tree stand safety.

Application for Junior Volunteer Instructor: <https://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/forms/8500/8500-143.pdf>

WANNA GO HUNTING? DNR HUNTING WEBINAR SERIES



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hosting several educational hunting webinars for members of the public that are new to hunting or hunting curious. The webinar series is in partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever and Becoming an Outdoorswoman.

The series is designed for those interested in learning about hunting, fishing and trapping. Each episode will feature guest speakers sharing their experiences getting started with hunting and include discussions addressing common challenges faced by those new to hunting, fishing or trapping.

[The first webinar of the series – Wanna Go Hunting? Let's Get Started!](#) – will cover how to get started and includes insights from novice hunters who explain their hunting journey through the eyes of a beginner.

[The second webinar – Wanna Go Hunting: What Can We Hunt?](#) – covers the wide variety of hunting opportunities available in Wisconsin and basic equipment needs to get started.

[The third webinar - Wanna Go Hunting: Where Can We Hunt?](#) - shares information about finding lands open to public hunting and tips on getting access to private land.

[The fourth webinar - Wanna Go Hunting: Where can we practice shooting?](#) - will share information about finding firearm and archery shooting ranges, target practice opportunities, range etiquette and safety rules. This webinar will air on October 19th at 7:00pm.

Follow the [DNR YouTube](#) channel to learn more.

YCC INDIVIDUAL FOCUS OPPORTUNITY

What: Each YCC delegate will identify a conservation topic or outdoor skill they would like to learn more about. This will be a self-driven focus project, supported by the YCC coordinator and YCC mentors. The YCC Oversight Committee will receive updates on projects throughout the year. This project should reflect interests, or a topic/field each YCC delegate wants to explore further.

Why: Youth participating in the YCC focus opportunity will gain valuable knowledge related to natural resource management, advocacy, leadership, and outdoor skills.

How: YCC delegates will work with the YCC Coordinator to develop a plan to:

- Identify learning goals and potential projects
- Connect with partners and identify timeline
- Share experience

Following initial plan development, the YCC coordinator will assist youth in developing a timeline and connect youth with DNR staff and other partners. All projects will be unique, and the time commitment for each project will vary based on the interest and availability of each YCC delegate.

YCC delegates may check with their school district to see if an independent credit option exists for this type of focus project. (All school districts have unique requirements for independent study projects)

When: The project timeline will run from September 1st through August 31st each year.

September through November – Identify a learning goal and submit a proposal to the YCC Coordinator.

December through April – YCC delegates will gather information, meet with partners, complete hands on learning activities, participate in field days, and ultimately plan a virtual, written or in person skill sharing opportunity to present to YCC peers.

May – Present final projects/learning at the WCC Convention. Presentations can be a poster, photo display or video.



Think about why you joined the YCC...

This individual focus opportunity is designed to help guide you as you explore your conservation interests and set a yearly learning goal. You will be supported in this focus opportunity by mentors, partners and the YCC Coordinator.

YCC Upcoming Opportunities

OCTOBER

- 8th - YCC upland bird hunt at Mead Wildlife Area.
- 8th - YCC Oversight Committee meeting, Mead Wildlife Area.
- 8th & 9th - Youth deer hunt, 15 years and younger.
- 12th - YCC virtual gathering. YCC updates and yearly planning.

NOVEMBER

- 9th - YCC virtual gathering. Topic to be determined.
- 19th-27th - Gun deer season.

DECEMBER

- 8-11th - State antlerless hunt. Potential opportunity for YCC to hunt in Sauk Co.
- 14th - YCC Virtual Gathering 7:30-8:30pm. Topic to be determined.

JANUARY

- 11th - YCC Virtual Gathering 7:30-8:30pm. Topic to be determined.
- 21st - YCC Ice Fishing Event, Shawano Lake.
- 21st-22nd - Free Fishing Weekend in Wisconsin.

SAVE THE DATE

- March (date TBA), YCC Oversight Committee meeting.
- May 11-13, WCC Convention, Oshkosh.
- June 22, YCC Career Day Field Trip.
- August 10-13, YCC Summer Program.
- August 26, Volunteer at the Youth Zone - Waterfowl Hunter's Expo, Oshkosh.
- October (date TBA), YCC Oversight Committee meeting. YCC Learn to Hunt program.

YCC BIG BUCK & OUTDOOR WRITING CONTESTS

Take part in the annual YCC big buck and fall writing contests. All YCC delegates are invited to participate.

Big Buck Contest

Take a photo of your harvested deer (with you in the photo) and submit it to Kyle. We will determine a winner based on rack points.

Fall Writing Contest

Share a story with us about a unique fall experience. Maybe it was about the big buck that got away, an experience witnessing waterfowl migration, or just a really neat wildlife encounter.

Please send buck photos or your fall story to kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov by December 5th. Photos and stories will be posted in the YCC newsletter and winners will receive a prize.



Ben, 2021 Big Buck winner

PLANT MORE TREES!

Have you thought about planting trees in the spring? The DNR-Division of Forestry's reforestation program is now accepting orders from Wisconsin forest landowners for tree and shrub seedlings. The high-quality seedlings are native species appropriate for planting throughout Wisconsin.



Seedlings grown by the state nurseries are used for reforestation and conservation plantings on private, industrial, state and county forest lands. They can provide future forest products and revenue, wildlife habitat and fodder, soil erosion control, living snow fences and other benefits.

Learn more about tree species available, pricing, and additional details:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/treeplanting/order>