

Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update

May 2022

YCC delegates and mentors,

It seems like the month of May always puts more on our plate than we have time for! Between wrapping up school, sports, work and family commitments, it is a busy time of year. In addition, there are outdoor temptations at every turn. The return of warm weather begs us to spend more time in the woods, along the river, on the lake, at a campsite, hiking a prairie, or just relaxing around a campfire in the backyard.

We hope you all stay connected to the YCC throughout the summer. Reach out to your mentor to see if there are local opportunities for fishing tournaments, conservation activities, or volunteer projects. Plan to join us at our YCC summer program: August 11-14, on the South Fork of the Flambeau River. Save the date!

I hope you can all find balance between responsibility and recreation this month.

~Kyle Zenz, YCC Coordinator

REQUEST FOR PICTURES

We want to feature photos of you in our monthly newsletters.

Email or text outdoor pictures of yourself to: kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov or 715.299.0295



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

Outdoor Adventures



Jacob, YCC delegate from Dane Co. assisting with a prescribed burn.



Sarah, YCC delegate from Racine Co. checking her Snapshot WI trail cam. She volunteers for the elk project.



Blake, YCC delegate from Calumet Co. shot 25/25 and 49/50 overall for his high school trap team. He had 45 in a row! Great job!



Gavin & Gabby are YCC delegates from Jefferson Co. They are pictured with their dad, Lowell. They all competed at the WI Badger State Games in the trap division. Gavin was the top shooter with 99/100 and won gold. Gabby finished 3rd and Lowell won his division. Congratulations!



Wisconsin Youth Conservation Contacts

YCC Oversight Committee Chair: Trent Tonn (262) 534-1962 / ttonn@basd.k12.wi.us

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YCC Oversight Committee 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

Welcome

We are excited to welcome new delegates to the YCC:

Maddie, La Crosse County
Tyler, Sawyer County
Brody, Racine County



Outdoor Adventures



Gabby & Gavin, YCC delegates from Jefferson Co. enjoyed a pheasant hunt on Gabby's birthday!



Caleb, YCC delegate from St. Croix Co. was successful during the youth turkey hunt.



Mark Conratt, YCC Oversight Committee member harvested this turkey with his bow.



Olivia, YCC delegate from Calumet Co. didn't have luck harvesting a turkey, but she is all smiles while posing with a couple of decoys.

CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP CORPS

We encourage all YCC seniors to apply for the Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC). The CLC is designed to provide training for seniors in high school along with college freshmen, sophomores, and juniors to develop leadership skills and techniques to allow students the ability to analyze as well as develop conservation policies in his or her subject of interest.

All expenses encountered while participating in the CLC program will be covered by WWF. At the successful completion of the year, each participant will receive a Certificate of Accomplishment for the training program, a letter of commendation for their resume portfolio and a scholarship to advance their continuing education.

Application Deadline is May 31st, 2022. Interested CLC candidates should fill out the application and send it to the CLC Coordinator, at CLC.WWF.Coordinator@gmail.com. **Additional details and application:** [click here](#)



YCC SUMMER PROGRAM

Save the date: Thursday, August 11th - Sunday, August 14.

Initial plans are being made to hold our YCC Summer Program on the South Fork of the Flambeau River in Price County. There will be many opportunities to explore and learn about river ecology, fisheries biology, forest management, wildlife management and more. Fishing, paddling, hiking and camping activities will take place over the weekend. Plans will be finalized by June. Save the date!



NATURAL RESOURCE FOUNDATION - MEMBERSHIPS & FIELD TRIPS

YCC delegates are gifted a complimentary membership to the Wisconsin Natural Resource Foundation. Paperwork was sent in the mail detailing your membership.

In addition - you are also eligible to receive 20% off of Natural Resource Foundation Field Trips. If you haven't already looked into these field trips, please do. There are some amazing, one of a kind opportunities to learn about natural resources from experts around the state.

Information about the NRF Field Trips: <https://www.wisconservation.org/field-trips/> You will need your NRF paperwork (mailed to you) to locate your membership number and information.



YCC Senior Spotlight

Congratulations & best wishes to our graduating seniors.

Ben Moran
Sauk County



I will be attending UW Stevens Point to study Forestry in the fall. My advice for all YCC delegates is to have fun and enjoy the experience. One goal on my outdoor bucket list is to go elk hunting in Colorado.

Blake Gates
Calumet County



I am planning on attending UW-Stevens Point and am accepted into the Conservation Law Enforcement program.

My advice to YCC delegates is to surround yourself with as many people like yourself and of as many ages as possible, which means getting involved in organizations and clubs at local, state, and national levels. Involvement brings opportunity, to learn and to teach.

On my 5 year bucket list is to gain as many hunting, fishing, and outdoors experiences as possible between now and graduation from college in order to be an informed and well-rounded Conservation Warden. I feel that the best way to learn is to do and experience things first hand and enjoy sharing my experiences with others.

Sarah Hougard
Racine County



I will be attending the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point and plan on majoring in Wildlife Ecology. My advice for new YCC delegates would be to take every opportunity you get and get out in nature as much as possible. My outdoor bucket list includes harvesting a moose, going to Glacier National Park, and fly fishing in Montana.

Jacob Munson
Dane County



enjoyed it. For my bucket list, I would like to master fly fishing and fish the many streams in Colorado.

I plan on attending UW Stevens Point and majoring in Natural Resources with a concentration in fisheries. My advice for new YCC delegates is to take advantage of the programs offered even if you are not totally interested in the topic. I found that once I got involved with each program, I learned a lot and I really

Gavin Wright
Jefferson County



After Graduation, I plan to continue my education in the trades, more specifically, as an electrician.

If you are considering joining the YCC, do it! I like the format where everyone gets to teach and share what they love to do, and also learn about what other kids love to do in Wisconsin. There are so many opportunities available. As a senior, it's neat to see the new middle school kids at trap practice. It seems like yesterday to me, I was that kid and I remember how scared and intimidated I was of the upper classmen. Now I try to make time to talk to the younger shooters and help them out as much as I can. They will be the ones to carry on the winning tradition I have been a part of, and before they know it they will be upper classmen.

My outdoor bucket list for the next five years includes Opening Day Dove hunting with Dad, again. I want to go on a spring snow goose hunt with my God Father/Uncle. A Colorado Elk hunt or another bear hunt would be neat. I am almost done with my other bucket list item of harvesting a WI turkey with each gauge shotgun. I have harvested birds with the .410, 28ga, 20ga and 10ga. This year I plan to use the 16ga, and finish off with my Dad's 12ga.

Thank you YCC and WCC for all you have done for me over the years. I have truly enjoyed many great experiences and made many new friends through the years. I hope to continue to participate with the WCC in the future.

YCC *Senior* Spotlight

Congratulations & best wishes to our graduating seniors.

Destiny Hering
Douglas County



I am going to Vermillion Community College in Ely, Minnesota to play volleyball and further my education in Conservation Law Enforcement.

Some advice that I have for those in the YCC or wanting to become a part of the YCC is take all the information you can and extend your knowledge and love for the conservation world. If you get the opportunity to become a member of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress just do it, because the relationships you get to build with other kids, mentors, and yourself is incredible and life lasting.

Something that is on my bucket list is to either go back to Texas and go hog hunting again, or go to Canada and shoot a Moose. I have a huge bucket list of things I want to do related to hunting and fishing but those two options I want to do first within the next 5 years.

Olivia Halbach
Calumet County



My plan after high school is to attend UW Stevens Point to study Fish and Water Resources.

I encourage anyone to join the YCC. I really have enjoyed my time in the YCC. I really hope that more kids discover this program and take advantage of the programs offered. Don't let that fear of not knowing anyone or how to do anything scare you because everyone in this program wants to help out. The biggest thing is to just get out of your shell and try new things.

Within the next 5 years I hope to: •Spear a Sturgeon •Earn my Bear tag - and get a bear •Catch a trout •Catch a muskie

Gavin Ford
Washington County



I will be attending Indiana University to study Microbiology.

My advice to new YCC delegates is to get out there and try new things!

Within the next five years I hope to travel to a new country on every continent. I have already been to both North and South America.

Avery Lettman
Green County



I am currently in a Youth Apprenticeship program through my school where I work for a commercial electrical contractor. I enjoy doing electrical work but I wanted to something bigger so I applied and plan to attend Blackhawk Technical College for their Electrical Power distribution program after high school to become a Lineman.

Even though I am not carrying out a career in conservation, I encourage youth to get involved as I did. It is a very unique and rewarding experience to meet people all over the state and also learn more about the laws and resolutions that shape how we hunt, fish and recreate in the state of Wisconsin. Also, it can put in a possible career you might not have thought

perspective for you would have been out there for you.

Some things that are definitely on my bucket list is to go on a hunting or fishing trip out west. I have never been and I think it would be an amazing experience. Also, I have always wanted to go to the Boundary Waters. I've heard it is just beautiful so I plan to take a week long trip with a bunch of people and explore and go fishing up there.

Logan Christianson
Sawyer County



After graduation I plan to start my own business as a guide. I will also continue to make and sell lures. I encourage YCC delegates to learn as much as possible from everyone around them. One of the many things on my outdoor bucket list is to harvest a bear with a blowgun.



Seniors not pictured:

Kyle Jesse, Dane County

Jack Ziegeweid, Buffalo County

Senior Shoutout !

Frank Pratt shares memories about his time as a mentor to Logan Christianson

Logan Christianson will graduate from Northern Waters Environmental School (NWES) and the Youth Conservation Congress, in May 2022. He plans to continue in YCC as a mentor for new and current youth delegates. He wishes to get voted on the WCC for Sawyer County as a regular delegate as soon as possible. I sponsored a Resolution for Sawyer County at the 2022 Spring Hearing which is designed to facilitate such a transition, with Logan specifically, in mind.

Logan started schooling at NWES in 2015, as a middle schooler . The hands-on charter green school approach has been a perfect fit for his learning (and teaching) style. Logan lives and breathes everything “outdoors” and is already well-versed in all stages of hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, canoeing, kayaking, ATVs, tackle building and lure making, and just about anything else remotely related to the outdoor experience. He first showed up at one of my Musky Festival Kids Fishing Days at Shues Pond, in 2012, and has been a regular fixture in my local angler education program ever since. He is a certified angler mentor. So, he has been part of angler education program which has trained over 3000 real or potential anglers, made thousands of lures and flies, and donated 500 refurbished rod/reel combos for family fishing during his “tenure” in the Hayward area.

His first major contribution to fishery science was to document the occurrence of flathead catfish in the Namekagon River below Hayward. That was in February of 2016. The species has extended its Wisconsin range about 200 miles northward in 40 years. I have used this in my lecture series on the fisheries effects of climate change. The audience is always impressed by the local example: Local river, native son, arrival of a new warmwater species. Now, that resonates with instant credibility.

Logan has often emphatically stated that he wants to become a guide. I believe him. He has what it takes to be a great guide on an area that has produced a long legacy of Hall of Fame personalities. In fact, I believe that he will eclipse them, because he has the desire and ability to teach his clients which far surpasses the old time guide mentality of “get them to the lake - and let them sink or swim on their own”. Logan is real adept with hands-on, show and tell. I have seen him do it with new anglers at Shues Pond, and with lure making at the Fish Expo in early April of this year. (We had 600 people through the door and many of them made spoons or spinners with Logan). Logan has even designed and is producing his own custom brand of lipless crankbaits. Carved, by hand, from local cedar. Old time, Lauri Rapala style. And they do work and are virtual works of art. I put my redbtail chub away in a display box. Too precious to give away on a “cut off” to a toothy northern or musky. Too well-tuned, to handicap with a wire leader.

Last summer I bought a used rod winding machine, which was delivered to my house in pieces. I had no ideas how to put it together correctly. It was, obviously, very well designed and constructed and very, very intricate. Tough to figure out without the schematics. After I delivered the apparatus to the school, Logan went to work “reverse engineering”. He figured out how it all fit together and how to operate it. We are now repairing broken rods, and will be starting from scratch with new, custom rods next school year. I am hoping that Logan stays on as a mentor to help get the job done. Some people are doers, and lead by quiet example. Others are natural teachers. Logan is both. Please stay on in the WCC as a stage 2 mentor.

– *FBP April 2022.*



Logan and Frank at the 2021 Learn to Hunt Pheasant program.



Logan pictured in 2016 with the flathead catfish he found in the Namekagon River.

2022 YCC Ice Fishing Contest

The YCC virtual ice fishing contest was held December through March via the FishDonkey app. It is great to see so many YCC delegates getting outdoors in winter and enjoying time on the ice. Congratulations to those who made the leaderboard!

Now that the ice has melted, it's time for our Summer fishing contest. See page 7 for more details!



Largest Walleye: 27"
Olivia, Calumet County



Largest Crappie: 12.25"
Tommy, Vilas County



Largest Northern Pike 33"
Destiny, Douglas County



Largest Sunfish/Bluegill: 8.5"
Jacob, Dane County



Largest Bass: 17"
Logan, Sawyer County



Largest Perch: 9.5"
Olivia, Calumet County



Stringer of 3 Walleye: 65"
Olivia, Calumet County

FISH (Friends Into Spooner Hatchery) sponsored this event. Learn more about FISH:

www.spoonerhatchery.com



YCC Upcoming Opportunities

MAY

- 7th - 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.
- 12-14th - WCC Annual Convention, Wisconsin Dells.
- 18th-19th - Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo (MOHEE).

JUNE

- 4th-5th - Free fishing weekend in Wisconsin.
- 8th - YCC virtual gathering. Topic to be determined.
- 30th - YCC field trip to the DNR Science Operations Center & Fish Hatchery, Madison.
- YCC Oversight Committee meeting - date to be determined.

JULY

- 13th - YCC virtual gathering. Topic to be determined.

AUGUST

- 11th-14th - YCC Summer Program - Save the date!

ONGOING

- Statewide opportunity: volunteer to help with conservation workdays at State Natural Areas.
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/naturalareas/volunteer.html>
- DNR State Park System volunteer information:
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/volunteer>

2022 WCC CONVENTION

Wisconsin Dells, Thursday, May 12th through Saturday, May 14th.

This is the one time of year when WCC delegates from all 72 counties come together. The 2022 convention site is located at the Chula Vista Resort on property adjacent to the Wisconsin River.

YCC delegates are invited to participate in meetings, local field trips, hikes, and a campout at Devil's Lake.



YCC VIRTUAL SUMMER FISHING CONTEST

All YCC delegates are invited to join a summer fishing contest using the Fishdonkey app. There are various species, combo and “any other fish” categories.

Any kind or size of fish, caught anywhere could be recognized. Even if you catch nothing at all, you can follow the leader boards to see how everyone is doing.

This contest runs from Saturday, May 7 through November 11th.

You can join anytime throughout the contest.

- Download the FishDonkey app:
fishdonkey.com/app
- Tap: Fish in a Tournament
- Join: YCC
<https://tourney.fishdonkey.com/#/tournament-info/9361/details>

Watch a 1 minute tutorial on [How to Enter a Fish](#)

Watch a 1 minute video on [How to Measure a Fish](#)

Please read all rules. All fish must be entered through the FishDonkey app. **A photo of the fish (on a measuring board/tape) AND a photo of you holding the fish are required for the caught fish to be verified.**



FISH is sponsoring this event. Its absolutely free for you to join. Read more about the specific contest details. To learn more about FISH check out our web site at: www.spoonerhatchery.com

YCC CAREER FIELD TRIP

Thursday, June 30th, Madison

10:00-12:00 - DNR Science Operations Center

1:00-3:00 - DNR Nevin Fish Hatchery

YCC delegates have been invited to interact with staff at the Wisconsin DNR Science Operations Center. Through this tour, participants will learn more about careers in fisheries, wildlife disease, deer management, communications, database management, and citizen science with Snapshot Wisconsin.

In the afternoon, YCC delegates will tour the Nevin Fish Hatchery. This field trip offers information about careers, rearing and stocking fish, and conservation efforts.

Watch your email for additional details.