

Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update

January 2022

YCC delegates and mentors,

Wisconsin's lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and marshes are transformed each winter into icy travel corridors for animals and humans alike. Winter ice provides access to desirable locations that are only accessible by foot for a few months of the year. While you spend time fishing and exploring, always remember ice is never 100% safe.

Plan ahead and consider these safety tips from the Wisconsin DNR:

- Don't go alone. Head out with friends or family. Take a cell phone if available, and make sure someone knows where you are and when you are expected to return.
- Know before you go. Don't travel in areas you are not familiar and don't travel at night or during reduced visibility.
- Avoid inlets, outlets or narrow that may have current that can thin the ice.
- Look for clear ice, which is generally stronger than ice with snow on it or bubbles in it.
- Carry some basic safety gear: ice claws or picks, a cellphone in a waterproof bag or case, a life jacket and length of rope.

Learn more about ice safety and what to do if you fall through: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/Education/OutdoorSkills/IceSafety>

Enjoy your time on the ice and explore safely! ~Kyle Zenz, YCC Coordinator

Outdoor Adventures



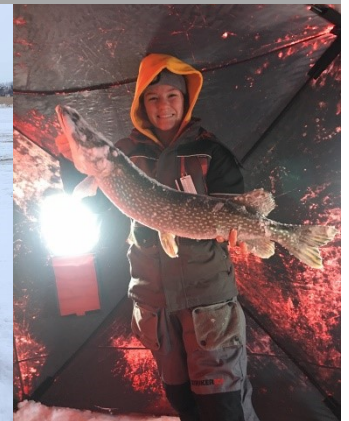
Caleb, YCC delegate from St. Croix County enjoyed pheasant hunting with his dog.



Sarah, YCC delegate from Racine County and mentor, Trent Tonn checked the Snapshot WI camera at the Burlington School Forest.



Gabby, Lowell and Gavin are delegates from Jefferson County. They welcomed the New Year on the shooting range together.



Destiny, YCC delegate from Douglas County was first to post a fish on the YCC virtual Ice Fishing Contest leaderboard!



Wisconsin Youth Conservation Contacts

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

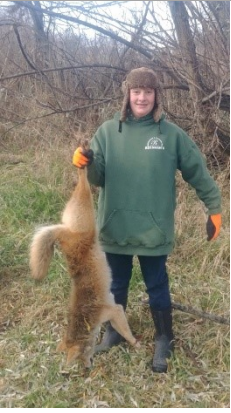
YCC Oversight Committee Vice Chair: Reed Kabelowsky (920) 242-3144 / r.kabelowsky@sbcglobal.net

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

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

WCC Liaison: Kari Lee-Zimmermann (608) 266-0580 / Kari.LeeZimmermann@Wisconsin.gov

Outdoor Adventures



Shawn, YCC delegate from Racine County has been learning about and practicing trapping. He recently was successful with this coyote.



Sarah, YCC delegate from Racine County learned about pheasant ecology and helped release pheasants at Richard Bong State Recreation Area.



Gabby, YCC delegate from Jefferson Co has been practicing the skills she learned from trapping camp with this muskrat.



Gavin, YCC delegate from Jefferson Co spent the last morning of goose season hunting with his dad and mentor, Lowell.

Trail Camera Feature



YCC delegate, Caleb from St. Croix Co. shared these photos from the trail cam his family monitors in Rusk Co. Photos include: a curious porcupine, a large black bear, and two bucks head to head during the rut.

Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine - Winter 2022

Check out the latest issue of the DNR's quarterly magazine, starting with a cover story on how to beat the winter blues. Getting outdoors is good for the soul, especially in winter. Wisconsin has an adventure for everyone.

From ice phenomena, tips for visiting Door County, to day trips to cure cabin fever, the winter issue spotlights plenty of Wisconsin's beautiful state properties to explore.

Readers will also find a variety of outdoor recreation inspiration, including what to bring to go ice fishing, activities to take in winter's beauty and family-friendly events throughout the state.

Curl up with this issue's stories of Wisconsinites paving the way for more inclusivity in outdoor spaces, hardy Lake Michigan surfers and women who hunt. Travel back in time to learn about why Wisconsin is known as the birthplace of snowmobiles.

Readers will also meet James Beard Award-winning chef Tory Miller who is dedicated to cooking up locally-sourced dishes, including his Rainbow Trout chowder. Also check out the new features to keep both kids and adults entertained.

Find all this and more in the Winter print issue of *Wisconsin Natural Resources* and online at dnrmag.com. Grab four print issues for \$8.97 by subscribing online or calling 1-800-678-9472.



<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/dnrmag/2021/Winter/e-Edition>

Featured YCC Delegate



YCC
SPOTLIGHT

Destiny is pictured with a shark she caught while fishing in the Atlantic Ocean.

“Destiny is a young woman with an incredible love of everything outdoors. Her interests are only limited by the amount of time she has available to spend on each one of them. I sent her Aldo Leopold’s book “Sand County Almanac”, and she enjoyed the stories and the connections he lived and shared with the wildlife and environment around him. She listened in on several CDAC meetings we held and had questions about some of what we covered in regards to quota setting and the process by which we came to the decisions we made. We went over interview processes and the value of open-ended questions vs. closed questions to direct conversations and elicit information from the interviewer. I found Destiny to be open to opportunities and possessing a strong desire to find a career in some aspect of wildlife and or law enforcement. She is respectful, curious, and focused on anything to do with wildlife and the outdoors. I believe she will reach her goals of finding a place within those areas that will bring her success and happiness in the future.”

~Al Horvath, WCC mentor to Destiny

Name: Destiny Hering

County: Douglas

School: Superior Senior High School, Senior

WCC Mentor: Al Horvath

Years involved in the YCC: 1

What is one of your most memorable outdoor experiences?

One of my most memorable outdoor experiences is my first time shark fishing on the Atlantic Ocean. Fishing on the Great Lakes (Lake Superior especially) is nothing compared to the ocean.

Share something you learned from your mentor.

One thing that I have learned from Al is all the different connections that I get to make with local DNR workers. Not only that, but a lot is going to change over these next couple of years and I can't let that stop me from doing what I want to do.

What school or personal activities do you participate in?

I participate in a few different activities. I am a part of the HOPE Squad at my school which is a suicide prevention program. I am also in band and I do marching/ pep band as well. I am on the archery team at my school. I also play high school and club volleyball.

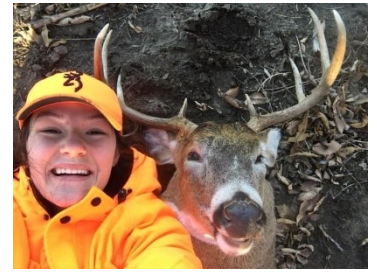
What are your plans following high school graduation?

Following high school graduation I plan on going to college and playing volleyball while I get a degree in Conservation Law Enforcement to become a Game Warden.

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

Something that I would say to encourage someone to joining the YCC is to just do it. Especially if you are looking to extended your knowledge on the outdoors and partake in some many cool opportunities that not a lot of people get. It is a great way to learn more about the outdoors, make new friends, and give back to the conservation world.

The YCC has taught me so many things and I absolutely love talking about the YCC to others.



2021 deer hunting season



YCC Summer Program, diversity of fish from electro shocking demonstration



YCC Summer Fishing Contest, largest Northern Pike



Lake Superior adventures on her dad's charter boat

Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress



Winter Activity - Ice Fishing

Saturday, January 15th, 9:00am to 3:00pm Lake Petenwell, [Petenwell County Park](#)

Timeline:

8:45 - Meet at [Petenwell County Park](#), 2004 Bighorn Drive - Arkdale, WI.

Check in with Kyle at the park office building.

9:00 - Set up on the ice. A DNR Warden will meet with our group to talk about regulations and ice safety. We will also talk to a DNR Fisheries Biologist about specific ecological characteristics of the lake.

12:00 - We will provide hot dogs to grill on the ice and water/soda. Please bring your own snacks and additional food and drinks that you would like throughout the day.

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

Please plan ahead for weather and road conditions and aim to arrive promptly at 8:45.

If you have to cancel at the last minute, or have questions prior to the event or day of event, please contact Kyle Zenz (YCC Coordinator) at 715-299-0925 (call or text)

What to bring:

Some spending money

The fee for entrance to the park has been waived for the FREE Fishing Weekend, but you may want to bring some cash to buy snacks in the park office.

Live bait

We will provide some bait. The closest bait shop is the Big Horn Store, near the park.

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)

If you are new to ice fishing, don't worry we will provide training and all equipment.

A bottle of water for the day and snacks/additional food

(hot dogs and beverages will be provided for lunch)

A backpack or bag

We will be heading out on the ice a short distance from where we park, a backpack will be helpful to carry food, water, and fishing gear.

Activity Consent Form - all participants under 18 need to fill out this form.

Email/text it to Kyle prior to event or bring with you.

See you on Saturday, January 15th

YCC Upcoming Opportunities

JANUARY

- 12th - YCC Virtual Gathering 7:30-8:30pm. Learn about Chronic Wasting Disease in the WI deer population. Presentation by DNR Biologist, Tim Marien.
- 15th - YCC Ice Fishing Event, Lake Petenwell.
- 15th - 16th - Free Fishing Weekend in Wisconsin. <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/anglereducation/freeFishingWeekend>

FEBRUARY

- 9th - YCC Virtual Gathering 7:30-8:30pm. Learn all about maple syrup production, including forest management, collection methods, and processing.

MARCH

- 5th - YCC Oversight Committee Meeting, UW-Stevens Point.

APRIL

- 12th - YCC Virtual Gathering 7:30-8:30pm. Learn more about Snapshot Wisconsin and how you can host a camera on your property, or volunteer to monitor a camera on public property.

SAVE THE DATE:

May 12-14 - WCC State Convention, Wisconsin Dells

YCC Virtual Ice Fishing Contest

The YCC Committee and Friends Into Spooner Hatchery (FISH) invite all YCC delegates to join in an ice fishing contest using the Fishdonkey app. Even if you catch nothing at all you can follow the leader boards to see how everyone else is doing.



This contest is free and runs from December 1st - April 1st. You can sign up anytime during the contest period.

Download the FishDonkey App on your phone or smart device. (You do not need cell reception to record fish – they can be recorded on the app and uploaded when you have wifi or cell reception). You must take a photo of the fish on a measuring board or tape AND a selfie with the fish for the entry to be valid. This photo needs to be taken with the FishDonkey app camera feature.

Search for the contest: YCC Ice <https://tournament.fishdonkey.com/#/tournament-info/8222/details>

YCC VIRTUAL GATHERING - Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Overview



Wednesday, December 8th 7:30-8:30pm

Learn about Chronic Wasting Disease in the WI deer population. Presentation by DNR Biologist, Tim Marien.

Watch your email for a zoom link.



SAFETY CLASSES

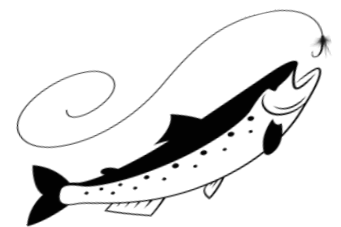


Snowmobile safety classes are now available. Learn more about In person and online classes: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/Education/OutdoorSkills/safetyEducation>

To search for in-person classes, click on the “course type” and “statewide” <https://gowild.wi.gov/customers/safetyedclass>

TROUT EARLY CATCH AND RELEASE SEASON NOW OPEN

Early catch-and-release season for trout and salmon opened January 1 and will run until May 6.



Anglers can now catch and release fish in most inland waters for trout and salmon. All license and regulations apply so [check the 2021-2022 trout regulations](#).

Fish are very fragile in cold-air temperatures (particularly their eyes and gills), so they should not be exposed to the elements for long periods of time. Release them gently as soon as possible. By [releasing your fish responsibly](#), you are providing other anglers the opportunity to catch the same fish.