

Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update

May 2023

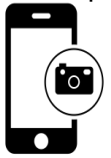
YCC delegates and mentors,

Congratulations to our YCC delegates who are wrapping up their senior year. Exciting new adventures and endless possibilities await you.

I know many of you have a full summer calendar. However, please consider joining a few or all of the upcoming YCC activities. There many great opportunities planned for YCC delegates over these next few months. For example, you can learn about and see endangered species (Karner Blue Butterflies), crawl through a cave, band ducks, fish in a virtual contest, practice archery and trap shooting, learn about waterfowl hunting, fish on Lake Winnebago, construct a wood duck box, volunteer with the DNR and SO much more.

I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming YCC program!
~Kyle Zenz, YCC Coordinator

We want to feature YCC delegates in our monthly newsletters. Email or text outdoor pictures of yourself to: kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov or 715.299.0925



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



Outdoor Adventures



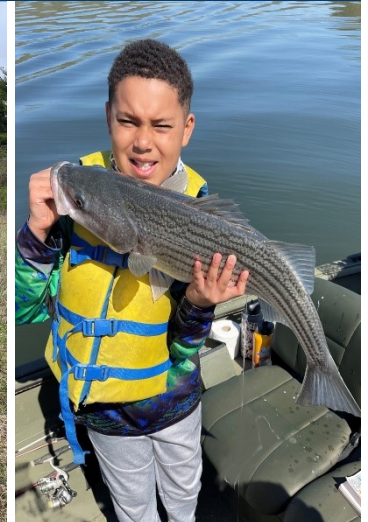
Olivia, YCC delegate from Chippewa Co. obtained her certificate to be a Junior Hunter Safety Instructor. She is pictured with her mentor, Don Dukerschein.



Shawn, YCC delegate from Racine Co. was the first delegate to enter a fish in the YCC summer virtual fishing contest.



Ava, YCC delegate from Racine Co. (right) discussing the Burlington School Forest's Arbor Day transplanting project with Governor Evers. Ava helped to supervise and instruct middle school students on the transplanting process.



Lawson, YCC delegate from Kenosha Co. enjoyed a trip to the Smokey Mountains. He caught this striped bass on Cherokee Lake with his family.



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



Breyson, YCC delegate from Kenosha Co. caught this striped bass on Cherokee Lake in Tennessee while on spring break.



Caleb, YCC delegate from St. Croix Co. visited the Chippewa Moraine Visitor Center. He enjoyed learning about the area and seeing live animals at the visitor center.



Tommy, YCC delegate from Vilas Co. made the most of opening weekend. In addition to this crappie, he caught walleye and perch.



WCC delegate, Reed Kabelowsky from Manitowoc Co. mentored his grandson during the youth turkey hunt. Congrats on a successful hunt!



Anna, YCC delegate from Racine Co. enjoyed getting out for a day of fishing.



Ari, YCC delegate from Jackson Co. caught rainbow trout during the fishing opener.



Caleb, YCC delegate from St. Croix Co. was successful with his turkey hunt. He also saw a black bear about 40 yards away.



WCC delegate, Larry Damman runs the YCC virtual fishing contest. Make sure to sign up and enter your fish.

WOOD DUCK NEST BOXES



Emma, YCC delegate from Chippewa Co. spent time with mentor, Don Dukerschein constructing wood duck and bluebird nest boxes.



Brooke, YCC delegate from Dodge Co.



Kane, YCC delegate from Racine Co.

YCC SENIOR SPOLIGHT - CONGRATULATIONS!

Madison Odenbach
La Crosse County

After I graduate high school, I will be working as a backpacking and canoeing Trek Leader at a Scout Adventure Base in Alaska for the summer. In the fall I will be attending the University of Montana to major in Wildlife Biology as a Presidential Leadership Scholar.

My advice for new YCC delegates is to get as involved as possible and make as many connections as you can. The YCC is a great opportunity to meet like-minded professionals and students from around the state.

In the next five years I would like to visit Tanzania or the Patagonia region of Chile and Argentina, hike on the Pacific Crest Trail, and graduate.



Abby Leis
Vernon County

Following high school, I will be attending the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point with a major in Environmental Science and Management.

I urge new YCC delegates to get involved in your local community and organize events at your school to encourage others to be environmentally aware. By impacting your community and implementing environmental habits you could inspire other communities in your area.

In the next five years, I would like to hike the mountains and streams of Montana, influence positive change in local governments, and travel to Europe.



YCC CAREER DAY - SANDHILL WILDLIFE AREA

Thursday, June 22
10:00-3:00

Sandhill Wildlife Area, Babcock, WI



All YCC delegates are invited to attend the YCC career day. We will be learning about special characteristics about the property, wildlife management objectives, current and past research, educational outreach, endangered species, recreation management, and all of the careers and support that are necessary to operate a state property like Sandhill.

We will take a wagon ride on the Trumpeter Trail, and stop at various points along the way. During this property tour, we will see the bison herd, learn about endangered Karner Blue Butterflies, discuss deer management, search for wildlife using radio telemetry, talk about

heavy equipment & habitat management, learn about hiking trail maintenance, and much more!

Sandhill Wildlife Management Area is managed by a team of Wisconsin DNR wildlife technicians, a wildlife biologist, a forester and the property supervisor. This unique property is surrounded by a 9' deer-proof fence, providing the perfect environment for wildlife research.

Don't miss out on this amazing day. If you need a ride to Sandhill, please reach out for carpool options.

Watch your email for sign up information and additional details.



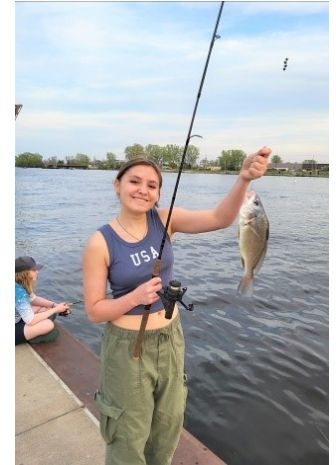
2023 WI Conservation Congress Convention



15 YCC delegates gathered in Oshkosh for the WCC Convention. In addition to joining WCC delegates for some of the meetings, the YCC participated in field trips and nightly socials.

Highlights included:

- Fishing on the Fox river. Some enjoyed early morning fishing and didn't mind the rain. Plenty of fish were caught and released, but a few (huge ones) got away!
- Learning about fish population surveys. The DNR staff at the Asylum Bay Fish Shop demonstrated electro fish shocking techniques and talked about population survey techniques on Lake Winnebago.
- Discussions on the social, economic, and ecological impacts on fish management.
- Jig-making, fly-tying, snack-eating, trivia-guessing, bucket-raffle-wishing, friendship-creating, lots of learning, and lots of fun!



YCC delegate perspective: *“An interesting aspect of the WCC Convention in my opinion, was sitting in the convention. It teaches us how many people from many different backgrounds come together to give their opinion on the importance of our natural resources. It also is teaching us what problems are going on in different counties and how we may be able to fix them. It shows us what our future could look like if we are part of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress too.”*



YCC Upcoming Opportunities

MAY

- 6th - 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 11-13 - WCC Convention, Oshkosh.
- 17th-18th - Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo (MOHEE).

JUNE

- 3rd-4th - Free fishing weekend in Wisconsin.
- June 22, YCC career day field trip, [Sandhill Wildlife Area](#), Babcock, WI.

JULY

- 12th - YCC virtual gathering, 7:30-8:30 pm. Discuss plans for the YCC Summer Program.

AUGUST

- August 10-13, YCC Summer Program, Calumet Co.
- August 26, Volunteer at the Youth Zone - [Waterfowl Hunter's Expo](#), Oshkosh.

SEPTEMBER

- 13th - YCC virtual gathering, 7:30-8:30 pm. Topic to be determined.

OCTOBER

- 11th - YCC virtual gathering, 7:30-8:30 pm. Topic to be determined.
- October 14, YCC Oversight Committee meeting. YCC mentored hunt program.

LEARN TO HUNT DEER - SANDHILL

The Wisconsin DNR is accepting applications for the 2023 Learn to Hunt Deer program at [Sandhill Wildlife Area](#).

The youth program is open to young hunters aged 12-15, and the adult program is for hunters age 16 and older with no previous experience hunting deer with a firearm. A mentor must accompany all hunters. Applications for both programs are due July 1, 2023. The registration fee is \$40.

Both programs will include workshops held on Aug. 23 and 25-26, and will end with a one-day hunt on Nov. 4, 2023 at Sandhill

[Apply for the 2023 Sandhill Learn to Hunt program on the application webpage](#). The application deadline is July 1, 2023.

YCC SUMMER PROGRAM

Thursday, August 10th -
Sunday, August 13.

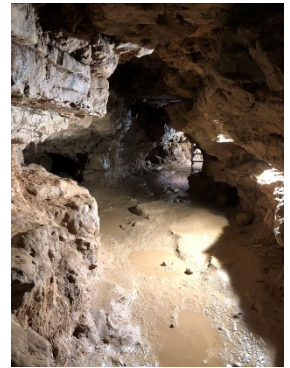
The YCC Summer Program will be held in Calumet County. The group will be camping at Calumet County Park on Lake Winnebago.

Activities and lessons will include cave exploration, bat ecology, survival skills, duck banding, fishing, hiking, trap shooting, archery and much more.

Plan to arrive Thursday evening, and depart Sunday at noon. YCC delegates under 12 will need to have a guardian stay with them. Parents or relatives are welcome to attend with YCC delegates, but space is limited.

If you have a friend interested in attending, please encourage them to join the YCC. This is a YCC-only event.

Stay tuned for additional information, details and an itinerary.



We will explore caves at Ledgeview Nature Center.



Plan for early morning duck banding.

VIRTUAL FISHING CONTEST

All YCC delegates are invited to join a summer fishing contest using the Fishdonkey app.

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 6 through November 1st. You can join anytime throughout the contest.

Categories: Stringer of 5 for following species: (bass, bluegill/sunfish, crappie, inland trout, northern pike, perch, walleye/sauger) **and wildcard (ANY other fish).**

- Download the FishDonkey app: fishdonkey.com/app
- Tap: Fish in a Tournament
- Join: YCC

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.**