**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

| 10/22/2020 | 6:30 pm | Zoom Virtual Meeting |

## I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

### A. CALL TO ORDER

- **Meeting called to order by**: Trent Tonn at 6:32 pm

### B. ROLL CALL

- **ATTENDEES**: Larry Damman, Don Duckerschein, Jim Heffner, Mark Conradt, Kevin Smaby, Jason Brazzale, Tara Reuth, Jessica Tomaszewski, Tashina Peplinski, Reed Kabelowsky, Scott Lettman, Rob Bohmann, Trent Tonn, Kyle Zenz, Kari Lee-Zimmerman, Falon French, Brent Alderman, Frank Pratt, Terri Roehrig
- **EXCUSED**: None
- **UNEXCUSED**: Katie James, Robert McNeil, Kyle Walker
- **GUESTS**: Samantha Hammel, Olivia Clark, Payton Reuth, Sarah Hougard

### C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

- **DISCUSSION**: None
- **ACTION**: Motion to approve Rob Bohmann, second Kevin Smaby, motion carries

### D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

- **DISCUSSION**: None
- **ACTION**: Motion to approve current wording Jim Heffner, second Scott Lettman, motion carries

### E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- **DISCUSSION**: None
- **ACTION**: None

## II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

### III. Citizen Resolutions

- **DISCUSSION**: None
- **ACTION**: None

### A. YCC Coordinator Yearly Report

**Kyle Zenz**

- **DISCUSSION**: Kyle welcomed all the youth delegates in attendance and invited them to join in on the meeting whenever they would like. Kyle reviewed her annual report after her first year as coordinator, youth involvement and outreach, and a map of YCC Representation around the state. (see attachments) Discussion of some possible things to look into for the upcoming year.

### B. Review and discussion of the first draft of the YCC mentor manual / handbook

**Kyle Zenz**
### Discussion

Review of the draft handbook (see attachment)

Discussion on when / how to review this and move forward

Will continue working on it and asked members to review and send changes to Kyle for review at our next meeting.

### Action

**Person(s) Responsible**
Kyle Zenz & Tashina Peplinski

**Deadline**
Get draft to committee by Thanksgiving

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#### C. YCC photo displays for TOW trailers and conferences

**Discussion**

Review of the rough draft for the proposed roll-up sign.

Requested input from the youth delegates on the design and layout.

Decided to let Kyle and Tashina finalize the draft of the banner and send to committee for any input. Then present the draft to the DLC meeting in December.

**Action**

**Person(s) Responsible**
Kyle & Tashina

**Deadline**

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#### D. Discuss and development of monthly virtual youth connections

**Discussion**

Discussed possible things that could be arranged such as a virtual tour of UW Stevens Point or instructional videos created by the youth delegates.

Discussion on ideas for videos and when we want to schedule this and how to schedule it.

Motion to create a poll for the youth delegates to pick monthly meeting dates for virtual gatherings by Rob Bohmann, second by Frank Pratt.

**Action**

**Person(s) Responsible**

**Deadline**

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#### E. Discuss potential of YCC youth committing to an annual project

**Discussion**

Discussion of the concept and some ideas on what to do and how to implement it. (see attachments)

Youth delegates recommended calling them "opportunities" rather than a "project". They felt that calling it "project" might deter someone from joining the YCC. Another youth delegate felt that anyone that would be put off by having to do "projects" might not be someone interested or active enough, and we could free-up positions for other kids who want to be more active.

Motion to allow Kyle to proceed with putting this idea forward to the youth for this coming year by Kevin Smaby, second by Frank Pratt. Motion carries.

**Action**

**Person(s) Responsible**

**Deadline**

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#### F. Discuss and set recruitment goals for the committee members for coming year

**Discussion**

Discussion on how to attract more youth delegates. In reviewing Kyle’s map, we would like to find kids for all the counties that have delegates interested in mentoring.
Trent asked the committee to consider committing to that by the March meeting. Discussion on whether we should be finding delegates for them, or if they really want to be a mentor should we be encouraging them to find their own youth to join.

Discussed how difficult it can be to get kids interested.

Sam recommended that we look into getting a booth at the FFA State convention as a great place to get the word out to a lot of kids that would likely be interested in getting involved with the YCC.

Asked Kyle if she could reach out to the delegates interested in mentoring and giving them some guidelines and recommendations for how to go about finding kids.

G. Discussion of future events and programs

**DISCUSSION**

1. January ice fishing event for youth, family, mentors, and fellow delegates with a February back-up date
   Trent asked the committee if we wanted to try to set this up again for this year.
   We are looking at the free fishing weekend January 16th or 17th and the last weekend in February as a back-up date.
   Tashina suggested that we ask anyone signing up to be sure to leave both dates open just in case the weather doesn't cooperate.
   Rob suggested we look at a spring lean to turkey hunt event and a trout fishing event. This was agreed to be discussed at the March meeting

2. Milwaukee Sports Show - helping Mark LaBarbera with TOW trailers
   Trent requested that we have more kids and more delegates volunteering to help promote the YCC and the WCC.
   Usually 1st weekend in March.

3. Plan a coin cleaning weekend or have as part of the March meeting
   Mark LaBarbera and OHEC donated buckets of coins from wishing wells to the YCC, but we have to clean them before the banks will accept them.
   Trent is asking for some time around March to have the kids help clean these coins so we can get them deposited and available for funding programs.
   Decided to try to find a process to clean and then reach out to the kids to plan something.

4. Begin discussions around youth activities for the annual meeting in Stevens Point
   Discussed rough ideas for Stevens Point.
   Trent asked the committee to reach out to our contacts and come back with some ideas for our March meeting.

**ACTION**

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE**

**DEADLINE**

H. Future committee Meetings

**DISCUSSION**

Looking at March 13th for the next meeting, hopefully in Stevens Point.
That seemed to be an acceptable date for everyone.

**ACTION**

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE**

**DEADLINE**

IV. MEMBERS MATTERS

**DISCUSSION**

Olivia thanked us for putting all this together and putting the effort in to organize all these events and opportunities for them. [the kids]

Mark thanked us for welcoming him to the committee and that he's glad to be here helping out, and he has a lot of
contacts and resources that he's looking forward to sharing with the YCC.

Frank talked about how his youth delegates have been very active despite the COVID difficulties and how inspiring it is.

Many thanks to the youth delegates for being at the meeting and participating today.

Reed asked about starting to think about some summer programs also. Possibly looking into UWSP’s summer camp, and if we could have a YCC day? Jessica thought that might be possible.

Tashina asked about looking into a program to continue youth participation after High School at the March meeting.

**ACTION**

Motion to adjourn by Kevin Smaby, second by Scott Lettman

### V. ADJOURNMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEETING ADJOURNED</th>
<th>9:12pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUBMITTED BY</td>
<td>Tashina Peplinski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
<td>10/22/2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
October 2019-October 2020
Youth Conservation Congress Coordinator

Recruitment:

- Created information packet with application to download. Found on the WCC/YCC website.
- Designed poster and handouts with YCC information.
- Developed powerpoint presentation about the YCC and WCC.
- Presented to High School classes (Biology, Wildlife Management, Agriculture). 8 classes, 205 students reached. Follow up communications with 3 students who are interested in joining the YCC. (5 presentations were in person prior to COVID, and 3 presentations have been virtual)
- Planned engagements with adults and youth at public events (Sports shows, fishing tournaments, DNR OutWiGo events, archery/trap state tournaments, community events, partnering with TOW trailers, etc.)
  - Due to 2020 cancellations, the only event held was the Milwaukee Sport Show. Kyle communicated directly with 60 adults, and 25 youth about the YCC. A YCC promotional flyer was created and distributed at the Sport Show. WCC delegates and YCC delegates also spent time at the show promoting the YCC.
- Phone calls to WCC County Chairs and other WCC delegates to recruit additional mentors and YCC delegates.
- Emails to biology and agriculture teachers, conservation club advisors, FFA advisors.
- YCC logo was created and voted on. Logo T-shirts were provided for each YCC delegate and paid for through the Friends of the WCC with funds raised by OHEC (Mark La Barbera) during the Milwaukee Sports Show.
- YCC featured on Dan Small Radio program (Trent Tonn, Sam Hammiller, Kyle Zenz)
- YCC video planning started. Contacted DNR Communications Department. Initial discussion included filming at the Convention. Potential footage of YCC/WCC interactions, DNR volunteer projects, trap shooting, mentoring connections, youth leadership, fishing and outdoor recreation. Project will be re-visited and script will be written.

YCC Activity/Event Planning:

- January: Ice fishing event (during free fishing weekend) at Lake Petenwell. Worked with Adams Co. parks department to plan event at Petenwell Co. Park. Set up meeting space with the town of Monroe. Developed schedule for the day, including presentations from a DNR warden, DNR fisheries biologist, DNR angler education specialist. The goal was for YCC delegates to learn new tips and techniques from mentors, professionals and peers.
  (Canceled due to severe weather)
• March: YCC Oversight Committee meeting was planned at UW-Stevens Point. Worked with Jessica Tomaszewski to set up a behind the scenes tour of the College of Natural Resources, learn about majors, careers, research, student organizations, etc. Also planned to tour the Herpetology Society’s vivarium. (Canceled due to COVID)

• May: WCC Convention. Worked with DNR staff to set up hands on trout habitat restoration project, planned and developed youth engagement opportunities at the convention. (Canceled due to COVID)

• August: Coordinated three YCC delegates to attend the Future Trappers camp in Eagle River, WI. (Canceled due to COVID)

• October: Worked to plan a pheasant hunt, talked with Poynette Game Farm about securing pheasants for a youth hunt. Talked with Pheasants Forever about partnering together to host a field day hunt. (Canceled due to COVID)

YCC Program Support:

• Created a guide for: Academic Credit Option for the Youth Conservation Congress Program.

• Developed a draft Code of Conduct for YCC activities and overnights.

• Conducted background checks on mentors.

• Acknowledged graduating seniors with a certificate of recognition, and a feature in the newsletter.

• Continuing to edit and expand a statewide volunteer database for YCC related opportunities.

• Set up a Google form online database to track individual hours spent on YCC related activities, projects and volunteer opportunities.

(10 YCC delegates self-reported hours):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours spent at WCC meetings</th>
<th>39</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hours spent at YCC event – hunting upland birds</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hours spent with mentor - hunting/fishing/trapping</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours spent volunteering with the DNR</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours spent promoting the WCC/YCC</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours spent with other organization - hunting/fishing/trapping</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours spent volunteering with other conservation related event</td>
<td>19</td>
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</table>
YCC Delegate/Mentor Outreach:

- Developed a draft Mentor Handbook.
- Connected with mentors and YCC delegates via phone call to check in during the early spring and later in the summer.
- Published monthly newsletters
  - YCC spotlight, focusing on individual delegates
  - Pictures of youth engaged in outdoor activities
  - Upcoming opportunities
  - Statewide information
- Sent 24 weekly emails – March through August, suggesting articles to read, videos to watch, ideas to connect, places to explore, podcasts to listen to, and more.
- Set up a text message program for YCC delegates and parents – “Remind” app
### Current list of YCC delegates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>First</th>
<th>Last</th>
<th>Mentor</th>
<th>Graduation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D1</td>
<td>Eau Claire</td>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>Schaffer</td>
<td>Rob Lombard</td>
<td>2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>D1</td>
<td>Frisco</td>
<td>Ezekiel</td>
<td>Romanske</td>
<td>Mike Wade</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D1</td>
<td>Sawyer</td>
<td>Logan</td>
<td>Christianson</td>
<td>Frank Pratt</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D1</td>
<td>Sawyer</td>
<td>Chance</td>
<td>Lee</td>
<td>Frank Pratt</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D1</td>
<td>Washburn</td>
<td>Layne</td>
<td>Olson</td>
<td>Larry Damman</td>
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<tr>
<td>D2</td>
<td>Chippewa</td>
<td>Olivia</td>
<td>Clark</td>
<td>Don Dukershein</td>
<td>2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D3</td>
<td>Vilas</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>Burr</td>
<td>Jim Heffner</td>
<td>2026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D5</td>
<td>Eau Claire</td>
<td>Jack</td>
<td>Ziegewiec</td>
<td>Terri Roeheig</td>
<td>2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>D5</td>
<td>Vernon</td>
<td>Claire</td>
<td>Morgan</td>
<td>Tim Morgan</td>
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<tr>
<td>D5</td>
<td>Vernon</td>
<td>Zach</td>
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<td>Tim Morgan</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Rueth</td>
<td>Tara Rueth</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Calumet</td>
<td>Jesse</td>
<td>Christenson</td>
<td>Keith Propson</td>
<td>2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D8</td>
<td>Calumet</td>
<td>Blake</td>
<td>Gates</td>
<td>Keith Propson</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D8</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Ethan</td>
<td>Brehmer</td>
<td>Tashina Peplinski</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D8</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Gavin</td>
<td>Ford</td>
<td>Tashina Peplinski</td>
<td>2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>D9</td>
<td>Sauk</td>
<td>Ben</td>
<td>Moran</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Gavin</td>
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<tr>
<td>D10</td>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>Gabby</td>
<td>Wright</td>
<td>Lowell Wright</td>
<td>2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>D11</td>
<td>Facine</td>
<td>Samantha</td>
<td>Hammilie</td>
<td>Trent Tonn</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D11</td>
<td>Facine</td>
<td>Evan</td>
<td>Richmonc</td>
<td>Trent Tonn</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D11</td>
<td>Waukesha</td>
<td>Zachary</td>
<td>Yiannias</td>
<td>Jeff Hintz</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What does it mean to be a mentor for the YCC

All youth involved with the Youth Conservation Congress (YCC) will be matched with a current Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) delegate from their county or a nearby county. For the purpose of our program we will call this matched relationship a “mentor”.

Since this program is a youth extension of the WCC, it is a natural fit that the mentor will be a WCC delegate.

The purpose of the mentor relationship is 3 fold:

1. To help youth learn more about the role and history of the WCC, the importance of citizen advocacy for conservation in Wisconsin, to engage in policy making, and to help grow the next generation of conservation leaders in Wisconsin through participation in the WCC.

2. To continue to build sporting heritage in Wisconsin through hands on educational opportunities (hunting, fishing, trapping, silent sports, etc.). Mentors will help train youth to be safe, ethical and responsible.

3. To facilitate opportunities for youth to gain field experience. Mentors will help youth learn more about wildlife, fisheries, forestry, air, water, and recreation resources in the state. This is accomplished by youth volunteering with the DNR, exploring career opportunities, job shadowing, connecting with local conservation groups, and learning from local leaders.

Why be a mentor?

As the YCC grows, we need more WCC delegates to serve as mentors. All individual delegates within the WCC bring a unique set of skills, knowledge and a personal conviction of why they serve on the WCC. You don’t have to be a teacher, a youth development professional or have any formal training to be a mentor.
Who will I be a mentor to?

Your mentee most likely will be a youth from within your county. Sometimes mentors are asked to support a youth in a nearby county if other WCC delegates aren’t available. If you have a relative or family friend in a different part of the state, you can mentor that youth.

YCC delegates are typically of high school age, but there are no minimum age requirements. Youth can participate in the YCC through the end of the summer following their senior year of high school.

Mentors can be assigned more than one youth. Some mentors have reported that it works well to have two delegates at once.

How are mentors supported

Mentors are supported by the Youth Conservation Congress Oversight Committee. This Committee works in cooperation with the YCC Coordinator to plan activities, events, and support the YCC delegates.

Monthly newsletters are sent out to mentors and YCC delegates. The intention of these newsletters is to provide details regarding WCC meetings and events, YCC opportunities, general natural resource information, and ideas for YCC delegates and mentors to get together.

What is the process for becoming a mentor?

1. Find a youth who is interested in joining OR you may be contacted to see if you are willing to serve as a mentor.
2. An application form* will need to be filled out and submitted by the youth.
3. A mentor and activity form* will need to be filled out and submitted – signed by youth, youth parent/guardian and mentor.
4. Application forms and mentor forms will be reviewed by the YCC Coordinator.
5. A background check will be performed on the mentor.
6. The YCC Coordinator will conduct a short interview with the perspective YCC delegate to learn more about their interests, experiences, and goals for joining the YCC program.
7. Mentors will receive contact information and details regarding their mentee.
8. Both mentor and YCC delegate will begin receiving communications from the YCC Coordinator regarding YCC opportunities and upcoming activities.

*An informational packet with application forms can be found at: https://dnr.wi.gov/about/WCC/Documents/YCC/2020_YCC_Info_Packet.pdf
What is my role as a mentor?

Connect youth to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and discuss the role of citizen input.

Invite youth to attend meetings with you. Talk to them about your involvement and why you became part of the WCC. Encourage them to be informed on natural resource issues across the state.

Connect youth with opportunities.

As a mentor, you don’t have to be an expert. You can help seek out and facilitate unique experiences with outdoor professionals. Many mentors will invite youth to hunt, fish or trap, but you can also consider a multitude of other ways to engage youth in outdoor and conservation activities. Consider:

- Taking a class together about outdoors skills such as fly tying, archery, edible wild plant ID, etc.
- Touring a fish hatchery.
- Visiting a taxidermy shop and setting up a behind the scene tour.
- Participating or being a spectator in a fishing tournament.
- Learning about wildlife photography or setting up and monitoring remote cameras.
- Working to remove invasive species on public or private land.
- Sharing hunting, fishing, trapping, and outdoor magazines after you have read them.

Show up and show interest.

You don’t have to have extensive experience working with youth. You also don’t have to spend all of your precious free time as a mentor. We know you are undoubtedly already busy. Every mentor/mentee situation will be unique. Over the course of a year you could consider:

- Bringing youth to at least one WCC meeting.
- Sharing information about local events and sporting tournaments in your county or district.
- Participating in hunting/fishing/trapping or other outdoor activities 2-4 times a year.
- Checking in with youth by phone, text or email once a month or every other month.
- Talking to youth about their future plans and show interest in their passions.

The biggest role for the mentor is to connect the YCC delegate to the WCC and show interest in helping them achieve their goals as a YCC delegate.

Check in with your delegate on a monthly basis. Ask if they read their newsletter, see if there are any activities you can participate in together or any upcoming meetings you can encourage them to attend.
What activities could I initiate as a mentor?

Meetings

- Invite your mentee to attend a WCC meeting with you (District meetings, CDAC, committee).
- Encourage your mentee to attend the WCC yearly convention. Details related to youth activities and a schedule for the youth will be provided by the YCC Coordinator.
- Invite your mentee to attend other local conservation related meetings with you (Trout Unlimited, County wildlife organizations, Sporting clubs, etc.)

DNR volunteer opportunities

- Volunteer with local DNR staff to learn more about wildlife, fisheries, forestry, lands, etc.
- Throughout the year, there are many activities or surveys for youth to volunteer. A list of volunteer opportunities will be made available to mentors.
- Youth 16 and over can volunteer without an adult chaperone. A Volunteer Agreement form* must be completed, including a parent’s signature, along with written permission from their school if they are missing class time.
- Youth under 16 must be accompanied by a parent/legal guardian and fill out a Volunteer Agreement form*.

Local activities

- Connect with local conservation groups to find out what meetings, field days, or events are taking place.
- Do sporting clubs exist in your county? Check to see if they offer youth hunts or events.

Statewide activities

- Midwest Outdoor Heritage Expo at DNR MacKenzie Center – May.
- OutWiGo, DNR activity days across the state.

Visiting State properties

- Search all available activities on state properties: https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/outdoorrecreation/

Encourage education classes

- Traditional hunting, archery, trapping, duck hunting
- ATV
- Boating
- Snowmobile
Hunting

- Invite your mentee to hunt with you.
- Provide information about hunter safety classes.
  - Youth can also serve as Junior Volunteer Instructors.
- Opportunities to participate in youth hunts: https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/youth.html
- Visit shooting ranges in Wisconsin: https://dnr.wi.gov/education/outdoorskills/shootingranges/RangeLocations.html#I
- Attend field days through: Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Turkey Federation.

Fishing

- Invite your mentee to fish with you and share information and stories about your fishing experiences.
- Talk about ethics of fishing and review Wisconsin fishing regulations.
- Introduce opportunities to fish for new species of fish.
- Explore opportunities for YCC to learn more about fish biology, watershed health, and fisheries management.
- Encourage youth to join a school fishing club.
- Is there a Trout Unlimited chapter in your area? They often welcome volunteer help for group work days.

Trapping

- Wisconsin Trappers Education Courses
  - Online options or in person learning
- Connect with the Wisconsin Future Trappers
  - Summer Trapping Camp

Hiking

Wisconsin has two National Scenic Trails

- Ice Age Trail https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/iceagetrail
- North Country Trail https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/northcountrytrail

Hiking is a great seasonal activity.

- Early spring: search for deer sheds, look for turkey activity, and take notice of changing vegetation as the snow melts.
- Spring: observe new flowers, forage for morel mushrooms or spring wild edible plants.
- Summer: forage for berries, observe wildlife activity, and go birding.
- Fall: observe nut trees – has it been a good mast (nut) year? Nuts are an important food
source for wildlife. Search for buck rubs.

- Winter: fresh snow provides great tracking conditions.
  - Consider snowshoeing or cross country skiing.

Citizen Science

- Visit: [https://researchguides.library.wisc.edu/citizen_science/opportunities](https://researchguides.library.wisc.edu/citizen_science/opportunities) to connect to a comprehensive list of citizen monitoring activities.

How do we contact DNR staff and find partners?

- The YCC Coordinator, Kyle Zenz can help facilitate connections with DNR staff and partners. Kyle will also provide assistance and support with the mentoring relationship. Contact: 715-299-0925, kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov

- Contact sheets will be created with information for county-specific DNR staff, County resource managers, local conservation and sporting clubs and more. This project will be on-going and we could use your help adding to these lists.
Youth Conservation Congress
Mentor Code of Conduct

Mentors will:

- Work with youth delegate to put them in touch with people in the youth delegate’s area of interest in their local area.
- Train and advise to the youth delegate needs and wants
- Seek out opportunities in the community for youth delegate to participate in
- Conduct themselves in a professional manner and act responsibly at all times
- Display strong emotional intelligence
- Be patient, flexible, relatable, safe, knowledgeable, encouraging, and positive
- Accept constructive input from youth delegate
- Provide constructive input to the youth delegate
- Follow all program policies, procedures, guidelines
- Instruct and represent with integrity, passion, and dedication
- Guarantee a safe and comfortable learning environment
- Lead by example
- Present factual and objective information allowing students to form their own opinions and conclusions
- Maintain a professional and respectful attitude at all times
- Train youth delegate to be safe, ethical and responsible
- Be aware of personal space and what could be perceived as improper touching
- Take responsibility to notify Kyle or Kari of changes to the youth delegates status and/or involvement with the YCC.

Mentors will not:

- Impose personal preferences on youth delegate or act in a confrontational manner
- Use offensive language
- Allow arguments or rude behavior to take place among mentors and youth delegates
- Use their mentor position as a means to promote their personal opinion

Code of conduct effective 4/1/18
Revision: 1
YCC Annual Individual “Focus Project”

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 current interests, or a topic/field youth want to explore further.

Why: Youth participating in the YCC focus project 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 which identifies individual:

- Learning goals
- Potential projects
- Partners
- Desired Outcomes
- Skill sharing avenues to present to peers and to the WCC

Following 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 be based on the interest and availability of each youth.

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.

October – Project proposals and plans submitted to the YCC Oversight Committee

November through April – YCC delegates will gather information, meet with partners, complete hands on learning activities, participate in field days, and ultimately plan a virtual 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 display or video.
### Youth Conservation Congress - Individual Focus Project Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Goal (examples)</th>
<th>Potential Projects</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Desired Outcomes</th>
<th>Skill Sharing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learn about a career as a wildlife biologist</td>
<td>Job shadow with wildlife biologists (deer aging, pheasant release, duck banding, etc.)</td>
<td>DNR Wildlife biologists/technicians, Staff from: Pheasants Forever, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Turkey Federation, etc.</td>
<td>Expand knowledge related to daily operations of a wildlife biologist, participate in field work, learn about desired education and skills needed for a career.</td>
<td>• Student partners with local wildlife biologist to host a regional field day. • Record experiences with pictures and video to share at WCC convention.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understand the impacts of invasive plants on ecosystems</td>
<td>Help work with property managers (local, county, state) to remove buckthorn, garlic mustard, etc.</td>
<td>Property managers, park managers, foresters, biologists, educators.</td>
<td>Learn more about the negative implications invasive species have on ecosystems. Network with professional land managers and biologists. Help make an impact on removal of invasive species.</td>
<td>• In conjunction with a property manager, YCC delegate will host a field day to remove invasive species and educate peers. • Create a poster for WCC convention and share lessons learned.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learn about deer ecology in your county and factors that affect deer population</td>
<td>Participate in CDAC meetings. Spend time with a wildlife biologist to learn about deer sampling techniques.</td>
<td>DNR wildlife biologists, CDAC committee members, local wildlife chapters.</td>
<td>Learn how scientists can contribute to local natural resource management through thoughtful discussion and debate.</td>
<td>• Virtual skill sharing presentation to YCC delegates about CDAC meetings, and how to become involved. • Create display board related to CDAC data in county, share historical and harvest information, and current recommendations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learn about trapping as a management and harvest tool</td>
<td>Complete trappers education class, attend future trappers camp, learn how to build and maintain traps.</td>
<td>DNR wildlife biologists, WI Trappers Association, Future Trappers of WI, trapping mentors.</td>
<td>Learn about the history of trapping, become familiar with regulations, trapping ethics, animal habits/biology, and trap maintenance.</td>
<td>• YCC delegate and Future Trappers to host a regional field day for peers. • Create a video or poster display for the WCC convention showing skills learned.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learn about pheasant ecology and hunting techniques</td>
<td>Assist the UNR or private sporting clubs with pheasant releases, attend a field day to learn more about pheasant hunting and field dressing.</td>
<td>UNR wildlife biologists, Pheasants Forever local chapters.</td>
<td>Participate in a field day to learn hands-on skills related to hunter safety, hunting techniques, field dressing, and wild game cooking.</td>
<td>• Help plan a YCC pheasant hunt field day. • Share a poster or video at the WCC convention about lessons learned related to pheasant hunting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learn more about coldwater streams and trout habitat</td>
<td>Work with DNR staff on streambank habitat projects, visit fish hatcheries to learn about fish rearing and release.</td>
<td>DNR fisheries biologists, Trout Unlimited local chapters, WCC mentors.</td>
<td>Learn about coldwater streams, trout fishing techniques, and fisheries management.</td>
<td>• Help plan a fishing field day for peers. • Share a poster or video at the WCC convention about lessons learned.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teach other youth about hunter safety, boating/ATV/snowmobile safety</td>
<td>Become a junior volunteer instructor and help teach safety education courses.</td>
<td>DNR Safety Instructors</td>
<td>Gain experience as a junior volunteer instructor, and learn proper teaching, coaching, and mentoring skills.</td>
<td>• Encourage other YCC delegates to become junior instructors and share information through a virtual presentation. • Set up a display informing WCC delegates about the junior instructor process.</td>
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</table>