



Join today!

WISCONSIN

Youth Conservation Congress

Advocate

for the future direction of natural resource management alongside the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. Learn about the policy making process in Wisconsin at the local and state level.



Grow

your knowledge related to Wisconsin's diverse natural resources. Participate in hands on field days, job shadowing opportunities, citizen based science programs, and meet natural resource professionals.



Engage

locally with mentors, conservation groups, and community organizations. Participate in opportunities to learn and enhance sporting skills related to hunting, fishing, and trapping.



GET INVOLVED

Join the Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress and become part of a group of youth across the state advocating for Wisconsin's natural resources. Gain incredible experience working with professionals, learn how to make your voice heard, and kick-start a career in natural resources.

Visit: <https://dnr.wi.gov/about/wcc/ycc.html> for application forms and more information. Questions? Contact the Youth Conservation Congress Coordinator: Kyle Zenz, 715-299-0925, Kyle.Zenz@wisconsin.gov



Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress



Goal:

Effectively engage, educate, and involve youth in the management and protection of our natural resources and foster a conservation ethic through participation on the Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress.

Objectives:

Teach youth delegates about:

- Natural resource management and careers through a variety of service-learning opportunities throughout the year and field days held across the state
- The process by which Wisconsin’s natural resource policy is determined, the role and history of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC), a statutorily created citizen advisory group

Provide youth delegates with the opportunity to:

- Strengthen valuable problem-solving, communication, teamwork, and leadership skills through working with other Youth Conservation Congress delegates, WCC delegates, and DNR staff
- Network with youth from around the state that are interested in natural resources and DNR professionals and policy makers
- Work with the Conservation Congress county delegation and district councilors to introduce a resolution at the annual Spring Hearings, which they can follow through the WCC process
- Create and present an oral and/or poster presentation on their service-learning project at the annual Wisconsin Conservation Congress convention
- Engage in break-out sessions at the annual WCC convention in May to discuss current natural resource issues facing the state



For more information on how to participate in the YCC

Contact: Kyle Zenz,
YCC Coordinator
(715) 299-0925

kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov

Wisconsin Youth Conservation Contacts

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

YCC Oversight Committee Vice Chair: Rob Bohmann (262) 498-4605 / rob.bohmann@att.net

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

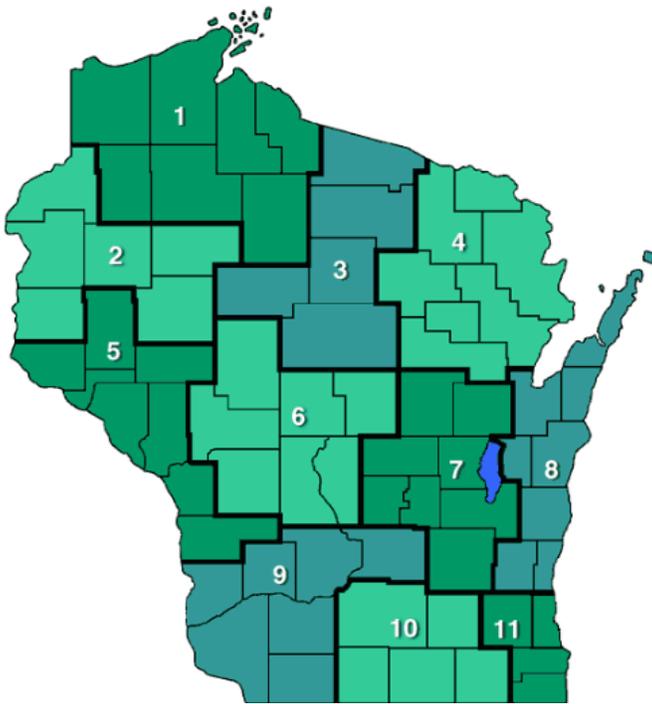
WCC Liaison: Kari Lee-Zimmermann (608) 266-0580 / Kari.LeeZimmermann@Wisconsin.gov



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Wisconsin Conservation Congress?

Created in 1934, the Conservation Congress is the only statutorily-created citizen advisory body to the Natural Resources Board. (Citizens elect delegates to represent their county interests and advise the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on the management of Wisconsin's natural resources.



Wisconsin is divided into 11 Districts for the Conservation Congress. Each of the 72 counties have five delegate seats on the WCC for a total of 360 delegates.

How does the Wisconsin Conservation Congress support youth conservation?

In 2009, the Natural Resources Board (NRB) asked, "Would you support the concept of establishing a Youth Conservation Congress?" on the Spring Hearing questionnaire. The question passed overwhelmingly. With favorable input from the citizens, the NRB asked the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) to proceed with getting a Youth Conservation Congress established that would function under the umbrella of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. The WCC undertook this charge with support from the DNR.

What is the Youth Conservation Congress Initiative?

The goal of the program is to effectively engage, educate, and involve youth in the management and protection of our natural resources and foster a conservation ethic through participation on the Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress (YCC). The YCC purposes to give young people a voice and instill a sense of ownership, civic pride, involvement and advocacy as future stewards of our state's natural resources and sporting heritage. The YCC intends to be a hands-on opportunity to involve youth in natural resource management, citizen-based science, and provide them an avenue to engage in policy making.

What do Youth Conservation Congress delegates get to do?

YCC delegates will have the opportunity to preferentially work with DNR staff on a wide variety of volunteer opportunities (depending on youth interests, season and opportunities available) such as fish netting or wildlife surveys, tagging or marking fish at a hatchery facility, assisting with habitat assessments, air monitoring, ride-alongs, or water quality sampling. In addition, YCC delegates will have a complimentary membership in the Natural Resources Foundation. YCC delegates will attend Conservation Congress meetings with their mentor and learn about the policy making processes.

What are the benefits of participating?

YCC delegates will be exposed to various career options in natural resource related fields and will also be able to participate in typical work done by natural resource professionals. Participants can strengthen valuable problem-solving, communication, teamwork, and leadership skills through working with other Youth Conservation Congress delegates, Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) delegates, and DNR staff. This program will offer youth opportunities to strengthen core competencies sought by employers and will provide resume building experiences. Youth delegates will also work together to mold and shape the YCC program moving forward. The Youth Conservation Congress may fulfill independent study requirements or service-learning hours/credits for some schools.



Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is required of me as a Youth Conservation Congress delegate?

YCC delegates will be expected to attend and participate in WCC meetings including two district meetings per year, the Spring Hearings and the annual convention. Field days, DNR opportunities and mentored activities will be planned across the state for the YCC delegates. Youth involvement in these additional opportunities will be dependent on youth interest and availability. Support from the WCC and DNR will be provided to all youth. It will be up to each youth to make the most of the program opportunities.

What is the time commitment?

The district meetings and spring hearings are typically held on weekday evenings, while the annual convention and any advisory committee meetings will be full day commitments. The time commitment for service learning activities will vary depending on the opportunity.

When will the YCC activities take place?

YCC group activities, field days and service learning opportunities will take place throughout the year. The WCC district meetings will take place in March, the Spring Hearings are the second Monday in April, and the WCC's annual convention is in May.

What mentoring activities are available?

Youth delegates will be paired with an adult mentor from the WCC. Typically these mentors will be in the same county as the youth. All mentors possess different skills and knowledge. Mentored activities could include: hunting, trapping, fishing, trail camera monitoring, silent sports, nest box building, visiting a fish hatchery, and countless other outdoor experiences.

How do I find a WCC mentor?

YCC applicants can initiate contact with the WCC delegates in their county to find a mentor, or the Wisconsin Conservation Congress also has a committee that will work with you to find a mentor within the five-person delegation in your county.

Who can apply to participate in the YCC?

There are no specific age requirements, however the program is typically geared toward youth that are of high school age. Some DNR volunteer activities are only available for youth ages 16 and up. Youth can participate in the YCC through the end of the summer following their senior year of high school.

How do I get independent study credit for participating in the YCC?

Youth should work with their school to determine if this program will fulfill the requirements for independent study credit.

Can more than one student from my school participate?

Yes, absolutely!

Is there a deadline to apply?

Applications for the program are accepted and reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Is there a cost to participate?

There is no cost to participate in the YCC program outside of the inherent costs to travel to the meetings, field days, and service learning opportunities.

How do I apply for the YCC?

The YCC application and consent form can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/ycc.html>.





Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress



Youth Conservation Congress Application

Name of youth applicant: _____ Date of application: _____

Gender (circle one): Male Female Other Date of birth ____/____/____

Address: _____ County of residence: _____

Grade level: _____

Youth cell phone: _____ if applicable Graduation year: _____

Youth email: _____ Name of school: _____

Preferred method of contact for youth? Circle all that apply: text on cell phone / phone call / email

Parent/guardian name: _____ Parent/guardian email: _____

Parent/guardian cell phone: _____ Parent/guardian work phone: _____

Emergency Contact:

Name _____ Phone _____ Relationship to participant _____

Additional comments/concerns; (ie. Allergies, special accommodations, diet, etc.): _____

How did you hear about the Youth Conservation Congress? _____

Will your participation in the YCC be used for independent study, school credit, or volunteer hours? Yes No

If yes, who is your advisor / teacher? _____ email address: _____

Please indicate your areas of interest:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Endangered Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste and Remediation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fisheries | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement | <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | |

Briefly explain why you are interested in participating in the Youth Conservation Congress. Please include the outdoor activities in which you participate and your involvement in outdoor or conservation organizations:

I, _____, affirm that the information provided above is accurate and truthful.
(Print name of applicant)



Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress



Youth Conservation Congress Application

_____ has indicated an interest in participating in the Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress.

(Print name of applicant)

Participation in the YCC is being done with the goal of developing and mentoring future conservation leaders. The parent and/or legal guardian (signed below) has given their permission for the minor to attend and participate in WCC functions such as study committee meetings, the Annual Convention, Spring Hearings, district meetings, and other WCC functions.

The parent and/or legal guardian understands that the above named minor may be offered the opportunity to participate in conservation-related activities with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources staff. Activities may include, but are not limited to, field days, fish netting or wildlife surveys, tagging or marking fish at a hatchery facility, assisting with habitat assessments, and boating activities associated with fisheries management. The parent/legal guardian understands that such activities may involve physical activity and may take place outdoors. The parent/legal guardian understands the risks involved with participation and has given their permission for the minor to participate in such activities.

The parent/legal guardian agrees to assume full responsibility for the minor's participation in any such activities. The parent/legal guardian hereby agrees to release, hold harmless, and waive any and all claims against the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, its employees and agents, and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and its delegates for any bodily injury, accident, illness, death, loss or damage to personal property, or other claims related to the minor's participation in such activities.

The parent/legal guardian consents to the reproduction and use of my likeness by the State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources / Wisconsin Conservation Congress in all manners, including advertising, display, exhibition and art purposes in perpetuity. And the parent/legal guardian consents to the use of the minor's photograph by any nominee or designee of the State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources/ Wisconsin Conservation Congress including any publisher or agency, and such picture of me may be used for all of the aforesaid purposes without any limitation or reservation.

I, _____, authorize _____ to participate in
(Parent/legal guardian printed name) (Youth participant printed name)

Department of Natural Resources/Wisconsin Conservation Congress/Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress meetings and activities. I further consent to the photo release for the applicant as described above.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: _____, Date: _____

Applicant Signature: _____, Date: _____

All Youth Conservation Congress delegates will be assigned a Conservation Congress adult delegate mentor from their county or a nearby county. Do you already have a mentor? Yes No

If you already have a mentor, please fill out and include the mentor form with this application. If you do not have a mentor, we will help match you with a WCC delegate in your area.

Mail this application to: Kyle Zenz, DNR Service Center
910 Hwy 54 E, Black River Falls, WI 54615

Your application will be followed up by a short phone interview.



Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress



YCC Mentoring Program Activity Consent Form

Complete and send in this form in when YCC delegate has been matched with a mentor

Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Participant:

First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip Code _____

Birth date (month/day/year) ____/____/____ Age _____

Dates and locations of meetings YCC participant may attend with WCC mentor/sponsor:

Emergency contact during activity:

Name _____ Phone _____ Relationship _____

Name _____ Phone _____ Relationship _____

WCC Mentor/Sponsor Contact Information:

First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip Code _____

Telephone Number _____

Birth date (month/day/year) ____/____/____ required for background check

Relationship to YCC participant _____

_____ has indicated an interest in participating in the Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress. Participation in the YCC is being done with the goal of developing and mentoring future conservation leaders. The parent and/or legal guardian (signed below) has given their permission for the minor to attend and participate in WCC functions such as study committee meetings, the Annual Convention, Spring Hearings, district meetings, and other WCC functions listed above. The minor will be accompanied by the WCC member, (signed below), who will act as his/her mentor/sponsor throughout the YCC participant's term.

The parent and/or legal guardian understands that the above named minor may be offered the opportunity to participate in conservation-related activities with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources staff. Activities may include, but are not limited to, field days, fish netting or wildlife surveys, tagging or marking fish at a hatchery facility, assisting with habitat assessments, and boating activities associated with fisheries management. The parent/legal guardian understands that such activities may involve physical activity and may take place outdoors. The parent/legal guardian understands the risks involved with participation and has given their permission for the minor to participate in such activities.

The parent/legal guardian agrees to assume full responsibility for the minor's participation in any such activities. The parent/legal guardian hereby agrees to release, hold harmless, and waive any and all claims against the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, its employees and agents, and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and its delegates for any bodily injury, accident, illness, death, loss or damage to personal property, or other claims related to the minor's participation in such activities.



Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress



YCC Mentoring Program Activity Consent Form

(Continued from previous side)

Parent/Legal Guardian Printed Name _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

I understand & agree to abide by all WCC Code of Procedures & be an active participant.

Youth WCC Participant Printed Name _____

Youth WCC Participant Signature _____ Date _____

The minor has been given permission by the following parent or legal guardian as stated above, to attend and participate in Wisconsin Conservation Congress functions and be accompanied by _____,
(WCC Mentor)

As the WCC Mentor, I agree to be responsible for the transportation, supplies and/or provisions necessary for the minor to participate in and attend WCC functions. I also understand that participation in this activity is entirely voluntary and requires participants to abide by any and all applicable rules and standards of conduct, to include the WCC Code of Procedures. Therefore, I will assure that the minor behaves in a proper, respectable, and safe manner.

WCC Mentor/Sponsor Printed Name _____

WCC Mentor Signature _____ Date _____

Please include this mentored activity consent form with your YCC application and mail to:

Kyle Zenz
DNR Service Center
910 Hwy 54 E
Black River Falls, WI 54615