

Resolution 131320

End Killing Contests in Wisconsin

Every year in Wisconsin killing contests are organized in towns such as Sauk City, Sparta, Cambria, Bundy, Hixton and Somerset. Contestants compete for prizes, typically cash or weapons, for slaughtering the most or the largest animals within a specific time period. The species targeted vary from coyotes to raccoons to crows (a bird known for its intelligence and ability to problem solve). Wildlife killing contests taint the image held by the general public of the whole hunting community.

Such contests teach a lack of respect for life, ignoring the importance each species within an ecosystem plays in the complex web of life and the social dynamics affecting each member within the animal's family structure. Killing contests create instability and chaos in the family structure of the animals who are killed. In the case of coyotes, this creates a void resulting in more coyotes reproducing and can increase conflict with livestock and people.

Hunting is about the wildlife conservation principle of taking an animal to be used in some way (for meat, fur pelt, etc.), as well as sportsmanship, fair chase and respect for the environment, not killing for money or prizes.

Be it resolved that the Conservation Congress work with the DNR and the Legislature to end killing contests in Wisconsin as proposed in SB30.

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