

# Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress Update

## August 2023

YCC delegates and mentors,

Each month the YCC hosts virtual programs covering a variety of topics including: career opportunities, leadership, hunting, environmental protection, volunteer programs, fishing, water quality, wildlife ecology, local conservation programs, and much more.

Topics are currently being finalized for the next 12 months. Is there anything specific you want to learn more about? Or hear from a specific individual? Please reach out with ideas, or connections to dynamic presenters.

As the school year starts, consider sharing information about the YCC with your teachers, and classmates. Many science and agriculture teachers would welcome a short talk about your experience with the YCC. If you are interested in this, please reach out, a YCC power point presentation is available for you to share.

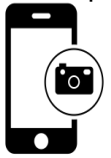
Make the most of these final days of August!

~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](mailto:kyle.zenz@wisconsin.gov)  
or 715.299.0925



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



## YCC Delegates in Action



Madison, YCC Alumni is spending the summer working at a camp in Alaska.



Lawson, YCC delegate from Kenosha Co. caught this 14" bass with his grandpa on Long Lake in Manitowoc Co.



Liv, YCC alumni is attending UW-Stevens Point's Treehaven summer program for students in the College of Natural Resources. This summer program focuses on field study of all natural resources disciplines. Liv is pictured on the far left in a soil pit with her "crew".



### Wisconsin Youth Conservation Contacts

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



Welcome

We are excited to welcome new delegates to the YCC:

Andrew, Fond Du Lac Co.  
Easton, Marquette Co.  
Colton, Marquette Co.



## DUCK BANDING



Madison, YCC delegate is pictured with both of her mentors, Keith and Nicole



Madison helped DNR staff with the duck banding process. This is an early-morning activity starting before the sun rises.



Madison and mentor, Nicole



USDA also tested birds for Avian Influenza

## ARCHERY CAMP

YCC delegate, Ava from Racine County attended the [Raised at Full Draw](#) camp in Shawano. Ava won a full scholarship to attend this camp, donated by YCC Committee member, Mark Conradt.

"I learned so much about how to hunt: valuable lessons in shot placement, anatomy, how to shoot a bow, tracking, how to use calls, and how to improve my shooting form. I had never shot before I went to camp, but by the time I left I had a great knowledge of the ins and outs of bow hunting. All the instructors were wonderful, teaching lessons on the various intricacies of bow hunting. The content was engaging, fun to learn, and I know the lessons they taught will stick with me for life. I loved the focus on ethics/respecting the animals we hunt, and I even finished the class with my bow hunting safety certificate!!

I would definitely recommend the camp for anybody interested in bows, bow hunting, target shooting, or just how to be a better outdoorsman."



## 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. **This contest runs from Saturday, May 6 through November 1st.**

**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](https://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.**

## WATERFOWL HUNTERS EXPO—EXPANDED YOUTH ZONE!

The WCC & YCC will be hosting a “[youth zone](#)” hands-on learning area at the [Waterfowl Expo](#) on Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> in Oshkosh. This area will be an interactive, hands-on, family friendly area. There will be learning stations, trivia, prizes, YCC information, and much more!

This year a [shooting event](#) is featured for teens, ages 14-18. Please consider signing up to participate and bring a friend!

The [Youth Zone](#) will feature many hands-on learning stations including:

**Art Zone** (decoy painting, fly tying, lure making, duck stamp creations), **Duck Nest Box Assembly** (adopt a nest box and learn how ducks use them during the nesting process), **Waterfowl Biology/ID Challenge** (fun facts, question and answer station), **Pellet Gun Shooting, Archery Shooting, Decoy Demonstrations** (decoy/blind simulations), **Call Assembly** (learn how to build and use a call), **Waterfowl Guide Display, Outdoor Heritage Educational Center Trailer** (interactive and educational wildlife display), and SO much more!

All YCC delegates are encouraged to bring friends and family to this educational, exciting, family friendly (and dog friendly) event!

We are still looking for volunteers for this event. If you are interested, please [provide your availability and contact information](#).



## LEARN HOW TO PROCESS DEER

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hosting several workshops to teach new and experienced hunters how to process a deer.

Professionals or experienced home processors will lead these inclusive workshops. These workshops will include a step-by-step demonstration of how to break down a deer. Experts will also share tips on hanging a deer at home, discuss how to remove lymph nodes for CWD testing and explain the best practices for storing your venison by canning or freezing.

Workshops will take approximately 3 to 4 hours. Participants should come prepared to help skin, quarter, cut, trim and package venison. All supplies will be provided, and participants will be able to take venison home.

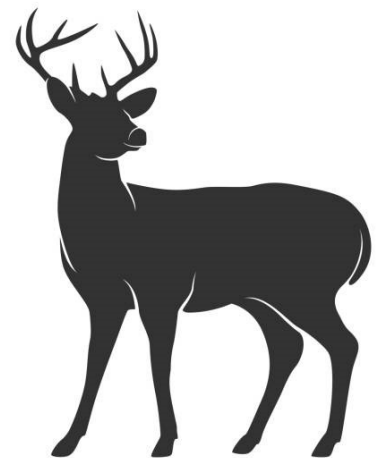
For more information on deer processing, registration details and updates about other Learn to Hunt events, visit the [Events page](#) of the DNR website. Additional workshops will be posted throughout the season as they are scheduled.

### WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:

- **Mackenzie Center:** [Poynette](#) – Sept. 9
- **Peninsula State Park:** [Fish Creek](#) – Oct. 7
- **Devil's Lake State Park:** [Baraboo](#) – Oct. 15
- **The Meat Shop:** [Tomah](#) – Oct. 22

For more information on deer processing, registration details and updates about other Learn to Hunt events, visit the [Events page](#) of the DNR website. Additional workshops will be posted throughout the season as they are scheduled.

More tutorials are available on the [Wisconsin DNR's Youtube page](#), including a deer processing guide. Click here for [Part 1](#) or [Part 2](#).





# YCC Upcoming Opportunities

## AUGUST

- August 1-17th - [WCC district meetings](#).
- August 10-13th - 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.
- 16th - Archery season opens for deer hunting.

## OCTOBER

- 11th - YCC virtual gathering, 7:30-8:30 pm. Waterfowl Hunting overview, Todd Schaller, Wisconsin Waterfowl Association.
- October 21st - YCC Oversight Committee meeting at Sandhill Wildlife Area
- October 21-22nd - YCC mentored hunt program at Sandhill Wildlife Area

## NOVEMBER

- 13th - YCC virtual gathering, 7:30-8:30 pm. Topic to be determined.
- 18th - 26th - Wisconsin gun-deer season.

### DNR SAFETY COURSES

Hunter/archery education safety classes are being held across the state. Search for classes near you: <https://gowild.wi.gov/customers/safetiedclass>



### HUNTING INFORMATION

Looking for hunting dates, regulations, hunting locations and more information?

Check out: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Hunt>

### FISHING INFORMATION

Looking for fishing hook and line season dates?

Check out: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Fishing/SeasonDates2324.pdf>

### YCC MENTORED WATERFOWL HUNT

October 21-22

Sandhill Wildlife Area, Babcock

All YCC delegates are invited to participate in a mentored waterfowl hunt. New and experienced hunters are encouraged to attend. Even if you aren't interested in waterfowl hunting, you are welcome to participate and learn about the process.



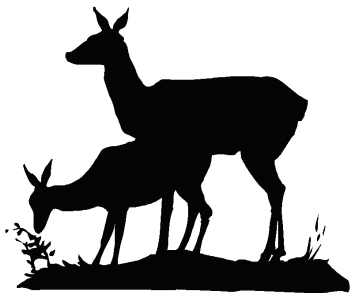
Overnight accommodations are available in the dorm building at Sandhill.

Save the date! Additional information will be provided.

This hunt will be held in conjunction with the YCC Oversight Committee Meeting on Saturday, October 21st.

### CITIZEN SCIENCE

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking the public's help in collecting crucial deer and game bird management data. The data will be collected starting Aug. 1 through the [Operation Deer Watch Survey](#) and the [Game Bird Brood Observations Survey](#).



These surveys are designed to measure the reproductive status of deer and game birds. Data from public observations is used to collect crucial deer and game bird management data, including a fawn-to-doe ratio for deer and a poult-to-hen ratio for game birds. These ratios are then compared to data from previous years to estimate how productive this year's deer herd/game birds are.

The deadline to submit bird observations for the Game Bird Brood Survey is Aug. 31. The deadline to submit deer observations for the Operation Deer Watch Survey is Sept. 30.

Participation in both surveys is simple. It doesn't require registration and can be done using a mobile device. If in a vehicle, participants should only record sightings when their vehicle is stopped, not while driving.

[Learn more](#)