

Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network



Creating the Next
Generation That Cares™



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Staff Report November 2015

FYCCN Vision

To provide a statewide network of sustainable places where youth and their families can participate in traditional outdoor activities and safely share experiences that inspire lifelong support for fish and wildlife conservation



FYCCN Basic Concepts

- A statewide “network” of sites, activities, and opportunities to connect youth with the traditional outdoor recreational activities
- Focus on programs/activities that have greatest potential to instill conservation values in kids and keep them coming back to the “wild outdoors”
- Curriculum based lessons that are correlated to Educational Standards
- Keep costs down; leverage existing sites, facilities and programs to fullest extent



FYCCN Traditional Outdoor Recreational Activities



- Fishing - Freshwater and Saltwater
- Shooting Sports - Shotgun, Rifle, Muzzleloader
- Youth Hunting Program - Youth Hunter Education Challenge
- Archery - Olympic Target and 3D
- Boating - Kayaking, Canoeing, Sailing and Motor Boating
- Wilderness Trails - Hiking, Biking, Horseback Riding
- Wildlife Discovery - Viewing, Photography
- Overnight Camping





FYCCN Conservation Adventures Education Curriculum

- Incorporates hands-on experiences in four core areas: fishing, boating, shooting sports, and wildlife viewing
- Conservation is woven into recreation skill areas with stewardship behaviors and conservation literacy concepts
- Correlated to Florida's educational standards
- Multiple programmatic tracks including school field experiences and weeklong camp programs



CONSERVATION EDUCATION
The Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network provides a variety of hands-on conservation education programs for students.

SCHOOL FIELD EXPERIENCES

<p>Field Day Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Day - 1 hour instruction • Single recreation skill topic • Contacted by 408.643.0000 	<p>Day Use Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Day - 8 hours instruction • 1 recreation skill topic - 2 hours each • Contacted by 408.643.0000
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OVERNIGHT FIELD SAMPLES

<p>1 Day - 8 to 12 hours instruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 recreation skill topic - 2 hours each • Contacted by 408.643.0000 	<p>WEEKEND MINI-CAMPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Day - 14-20 hours instruction • Single recreation skill topic + evening program • 1 recreation skill topic - 2 hours each • Contacted by 408.643.0000
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WEEK-LONG FIELD SAMPLES

- 1 Day - 40 hours instruction
- 1 recreation skill topic - 2 hours each
- Contacted by 408.643.0000

WEEK-LONG SINGLE SUBJECT EXTENSION PROGRAMS

- 1 Day - 40 hours instruction
- Single skill topic program
- Contacted by 408.643.0000 for pre-arranged transportation
- Program materials will not only be provided already used

Boating Program Instruction, boating, fishing program
Shooting Sports Program Instruction, shooting sports program

Supported by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network, and the Florida Department of Education.



Everglades Youth Conservation Camp

- American Camp Association (ACA) accredited
- Dining hall renovations, new water treatment plant and well, waste water plant upgrades, demo of old structures and roof repairs to cabins complete
- Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida fundraising campaign underway
- 14/15 – FCO funding for ADA bathhouses and FWFF funds for classroom and dining hall repairs





Suncoast Youth Conservation Center Apollo Beach

- Phase 1 – classroom construction underway with projected completion date of March 2016
- Lead Educator on site
- Phase 2 – design and permitting underway for fishing pond, kayak storage, pavillion and Florida Aquarium's animal holding facility



13/14 - \$2M Fixed Capital Outlay (FCO) appropriation was received to construct an 8,000 square foot facility to provide conservation education and outdoor skills programs for youth in Apollo Beach. The center will be part of a larger Conservation and Technology Park created through an innovative partnership with Tampa Electric Company (TECO), the Florida Aquarium, and FWC. FWC has entered into a 30 year agreement with the Florida Aquarium and TECO to build the facility on the property. Construction started in March 2015 with expected completion in Fall 2015.

14/15 - \$3M FCO received to construct Aquaculture and Animal Care facilities to be managed by the Florida Aquarium. An outdoor classroom pavilion and storage building for kayaks and paddling equipment will occupy an additional 1,000 square feet. A number of recreational and educational elements will mesh seamlessly with the youth center programming including canoe/kayak trails, a wildlife viewing tower, wetlands boardwalks, fishing ponds and exhibits associated with coral restoration and marine animal rescue and rehabilitation.



FYCCN continues to expand throughout the state and has partnered with 266 sites as of August 2014. We created the FYCCN in December of 2010 with 43 partners and have been growing ever since.



Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida Fundraising



Donations received 2011-2015:

- \$1,000,000 - Commissioner Richard Corbett
- \$491,000 - William H. Flowers Foundation
- \$55,000 - Beau Turner/New Mexico
- \$100,000 - Guy Harvey Foundation
- \$10,000 - Sportsman's Adventures
- \$65,000 - Easton/Archery Trade Assoc
- \$150,000 - The Mosaic Company



The Wildlife Foundation of Florida (WFF) administers funds from outside sources. Since December 2011, \$1,670,000 in grants and donations have been received to support the FYCCN.

Bay County FYCCN Expansion

- Bay County – Commissioner Guy Tunnell
Bay County Shooting Range – Hunter Safety, Hunt Camp, Archery Camp,
Youth Hunter Education Challenge
- Bay County Sheriff's Office
"Wilderness Camp" – Archery Camp, Explore Bowhunting program
- Bay County School District
Dean Bozeman High School - Outdoor Education Program
Project WILD in K-12 and Bay Base afterschool programs
- Panama City Beach Parks and Recreation
Frank Brown Park – Kids Fishing Day, Freshwater Fish Camp,
Archery Camp, Explore Bowhunting program



Bay County FYCCN Expansion

- Florida Forest Service
Pine Log State Forest – Family Canoe the Creek event, Kids Fishing Clinics,
Family kayaking event in cooperation with Operation Outdoor Freedom
- Science and Discovery Center of North Florida
Summer Camp programs – Saltwater Fish Camp, Archery Camp
- Girls Incorporated of Bay County
Afterschool Archery, Project WILD, Paddling programs
- Camp Treetop
Summer youth camp host, Kids Fishing Clinics, Shooting programs
- Quail Run
Youth Hunting Program of Florida





We are creating the next generation that cares about Florida's fish and wildlife resources. We continue to seek partners in this effort – programming partners, sponsors and donors, and people to spread the word. Please visit our website, www.fyccn.com, to get more information or to sign up to help.