

Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network



Creating the Next Generation That Cares™

September 6, 2013





FYCCN continues to expand throughout the state and is now 220 partners strong. We created the FYCCN in December of 2010 with 43 partners and have been growing ever since. Due to our rapid growth in the past year, we are having to step up our efforts to have a presence at each partner site. Right now, 40% of our partners provide FYCCN programming, from summer camp programs like Fish and Hunt Camp to educational programs like Project Wild and Hunter Safety classes. We are working with all FWC Divisions and Offices to find ways to assist FYCCN partner sites in identifying and implementing FWC youth programs. The FYCCN is an agency-wide initiative and I am proud to report that staff are stepping up to get involved and help our partners “Create the Next Generation that Cares” about fish and wildlife conservation.



**Fishing and Hunting
Summer Camp Programs**

Freshwater Fish Camp	43 weeks -- 850 campers
Saltwater Fish Camp	25 weeks -- 600 campers
Hunt Camp	19 weeks -- 400 campers
Archery Camp	10 weeks -- 200 campers

Trained for camps:
 NASP/USA Archery Level 1 – 18 partner sites, 35 people
 HOFNOD – 8 partner sites, 30 people
 Paddlesports ACA - 14 people
 Using FYCCN curriculum in camps – 10 partners
 Partners training partners - 7





The cornerstone of our summer camp programs are the week-long, single subject, comprehensive camps. Long-term evaluations from twelve years of Freshwater Fish Camp shows the following:

- Over 93% of campers with no previous fishing experience continued to fish each year after attending their first Fishing Camp.
- Of campers who showed some level of fishing activity before attending Fishing Camp, nearly two-thirds increased their fishing activity following Camp.
- All campers maintained or strengthened very positive aquatic stewardship attitudes and their confidence in going fishing by themselves with little or no help from an adult.
- A search of Florida's fishing license records showed that just over 53% of previous Fishing Camp participants, 16 years of age or older, had purchased a Florida fishing license.

In the last four years of Fish Camp expansion, camp availability has increased from two locations with the potential to reach 80 children, to currently being offered in 15 locations across the state with a potential to reach 900 children. These locations have been established at rural and urban sites across the state in cooperation with state agencies, county parks and recreation and city leisure services departments, YMCAs, and other not for profit organizations.

Based on the success of the Fish Camp program, we have expanded the format to saltwater and shooting sports. While these camp programs are newer offerings, organizations are recognizing their impact and are requesting our assistance in providing these camps. In order to meet the demand, we are turning to FYCCN partners for help. Archery is the most popular programming request at this time and we have trained 35 instructors at 18 partner sites –7 of whom are Level 2 Instructors who now travel to other partners to certify camp staff. We also have 14 volunteers who have received American Canoe Association's Kayak/Canoe Instructor certification which allows them to oversee youth paddlesports programs at partner sites. We are growing a network of like-minded people and organizations who desire to see youth involved in these traditional outdoor recreational activities and the passion is strong. People helping people, partners sharing programming, volunteers moving amongst partners, equipment being shared – the network is working!



This promotional poster outlining the Saltwater Fishing Camp statistics and highlighting the personalized Guy Harvey camp logos of the eight host partners was used at the Guy Harvey Foundation press conference earlier this summer. Our Saltwater Fishing Camp program was spotlighted as one of the grant recipients funded by the proceeds from the Guy Harvey lottery ticket.

- Week-long comprehensive saltwater fishing and marine education camp
- 8 FYCCN partner sites hosted camp
- 25 weeks total
- Over 600 youth participated
- Infused the sport of fishing with conservation ethics and stewardship behaviors
- Developed the next generation of responsible anglers




Navarre Beach Science Station



The mission of the Navarre Beach Marine Science Station is to promote the appreciation, conservation, and understanding of the marine ecosystem of coastal Florida through education and service. Located at the Navarre Beach Park in Santa Rosa County, the center is the focal point of marine, natural resource and watershed education for Northwest Florida K-12 students, visitors, and the community.



The Navarre Beach Science Station was one of three North Florida locations to offer the Saltwater Fishing Camp.

In late 2008, marine science students held a town hall meeting and led several presentations for the Santa Rosa County Board of Commissioners and the SRC School Board about converting an empty, unoccupied ranger station into an environmental center. After overwhelming positive response from the community, students succeeded in obtaining the site in March 2009. Over 2,000 community service hours later the students, under faculty supervision had created what is now the Navarre Beach Marine Science Station. Since its official opening in August 2009, the Station has been host to well over 4,000 students and community members for programs concerning the local marine environments. The programs provide hands-on, feet-wet curriculum that educates and challenges participants from ages 3-33+ on how to be stewards of our marine environment. New programs have expanded to now include two high schools of dual-enrolled students (through Pensacola State College and Santa Rosa County Schools), field experiences for K-8 school children, Saturday programs for K-8 students, over-night programs for 3-8th graders, public open houses for visitors to Navarre Beach, summer camps, and programs geared for both pre-K students and their family and for students with special needs. At the Navarre Beach Marine Science Station, highly qualified teachers and high school students will teach younger students about the Gulf of Mexico in action packed, standards-driven two hour festivals to include learning stations focused on fishing limits, marine debris, casting skills, and various topics of study. All of the programs are designed to leave participants with a new found understanding and respect for their nearby marine ecosystems, as well a desire to protect and conserve the delicate habitats of Florida.



Navarre Beach Science Station hosted two weeks of Guy Harvey Saltwater Fishing Camp this summer. Over forty youth attended and participated in the following activities:

Santa Rosa Sound, Inside & Underneath Science Station

- Introduction to your education center, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) FYCCN and Fish Camp
- Shore Fish and Wade fish, pull seine net, kayak fishing, catch & release techniques
- Tackle - rod & reel assembly, types of tackle, types of knots, how to select tackle for specific species of fish, maintenance of tackle.
- Fish Facts - fish identification, distinguishing characteristics, marine habitats, feeding preferences, bag limits.

Gulf Side Beach

- Casting - how to cast several types of reels, casting clinic and competition.
- Bait - types of live bait, how to catch bait (cast net, dip net, seine net), artificial bait.
- Fishing - how to fish (species specific), catch & release techniques, fish stringers and cooler use, hands-on fishing.
- How to reel in a fish with several types of reels and techniques
- Boating safety - Wildlife Officer Presentation of boating and water safety, review boating safety workbook.

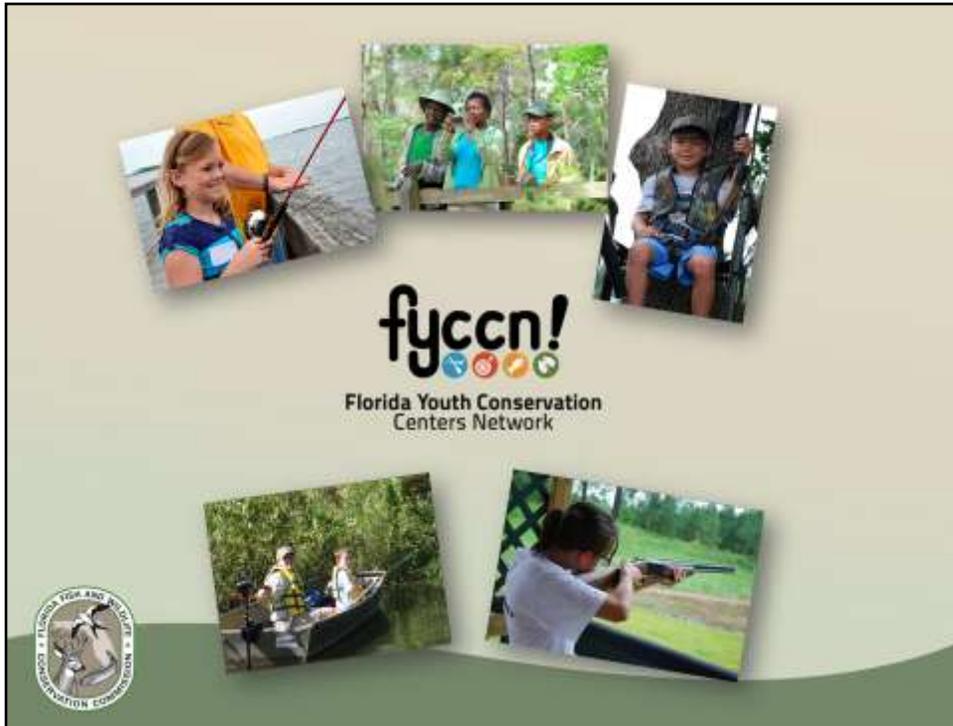
Chartered Fishing Trip Aboard The 65' Entertainer on Pensacola Beach

Participants will be able to identify different species of fish they will possibly catch

- Water & Boating Safety and Maintenance; identification & navigation of travel on the water
- Identification of Land Points of Interest, Tides
- History of fishing within the Pensacola area, Fort Pickens, and surrounding areas.
- Fish cleaning & Dissection - scaling, skinning, filleting, Fish preparation and cooking
- Gyotaku Fish Printing
- Local fisheries projects, Artificial Reefs & Deadman's Island, Extension Service; Careers within Fishing & Boating
- Cast nets - techniques and practice sessions.
- Aquatic food chain - use seine nets for collection of organisms for magnifier box and stereoscope observation,

aquatic plant identification, wading birds, and reptiles.

- Review of fishing knowledge - safety, tackle, techniques, skill.
- FISH FRY @ Navarre Pier (parents and family invited).



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.