

# Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network

Creating the Next Generation That Cares<sup>SM</sup>



**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**  
Staff Report February 2014






## Conservation Adventures in Hardee County

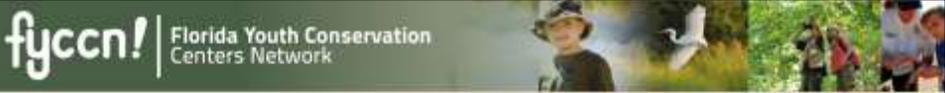


- Conservation programming in Hardee County public schools
- Teacher trainings and certifications
- Archery curriculum and equipment in each public school
- Local field trip coordination with traditional outdoor recreation components



The Mosaic Company has awarded FYCCN a \$150,000 grant for youth conservation programming to students in the Hardee County public school system. FYCCN will provide the Conservation Adventures curriculum and training for teachers, programmatic supplies and equipment for traditional outdoor recreational activities, and field trip opportunities to Hardee County natural areas for students to participate in conservation education programming tied to recreational activities. FYCCN staff will oversee integration of programming into schools and Hardee County field trip sites, stakeholder involvement, teacher training and certifications, field trip coordination and educational needs. FWC fish and wildlife professionals will participate in youth programs as needed.

Students will participate in traditional outdoor recreational activities such as fishing, boating, archery and wildlife viewing which are engrained with conservation concepts and stewardship opportunities. Students will be taught the skills necessary to enjoy the recreational activities and the responsible actions necessary to keep natural resources healthy and available for public use. All public schools in Hardee County - five elementary, one middle, and one high school - will be provided National Archery in the School (NASP) programming and equipment. Units of study meet state and national educational standards and are designed for inclusion in Physical Education curriculum but can be delivered in history, language, art, and even Spanish classes. Lead coaches and teachers will be certified as NASP® Basic Archery Instructors.



## Archery Expansion

Partnering with the Archery Trade Association and Easton to expand archery opportunities at FYCCN partner sites

- Explore Bowhunting curriculum and programming supplies
- Staff and partner training in USA Archery or NASP
- Provide archery equipment packages to partners







ATA and Easton Foundation have furthered their commitment to our archery expansion goals by providing a combined \$65,000 in funding that has allowed the following:

- USA Archery Level 2 training to seven FYCCN staff - allows us to offer USAA Level 1 training to our partners that are interested in establishing archery programming at their sites.
- Explore Bowhunting curriculum for summer programming at partner sites - ATA provided 100 sets of personalized curriculum packets and 15 Explore Bowhunting equipment kits to be placed at partner sites that have been trained to provide the EB program.
- Hubs stocked with two sets of “loaner” archery packets - partner sites that have certified staff can borrow this equipment for their programs.
- Beginner archery equipment kits placed at 9 partner sites.

Currently, 43 partner sites offer archery programming and/or training. We are working closely with these partners and volunteers to identify people who are willing to become more involved and help train other partner sites. In the past year, we have trained staff from 23 FYCCN partner sites, over 40 individuals, to be Level 1 trainers for either NASP or USAA. We have also facilitated Level 2 USAA training for 10 individuals at 4 partner sites. These newly trained people will help train new partners and expand our reach.

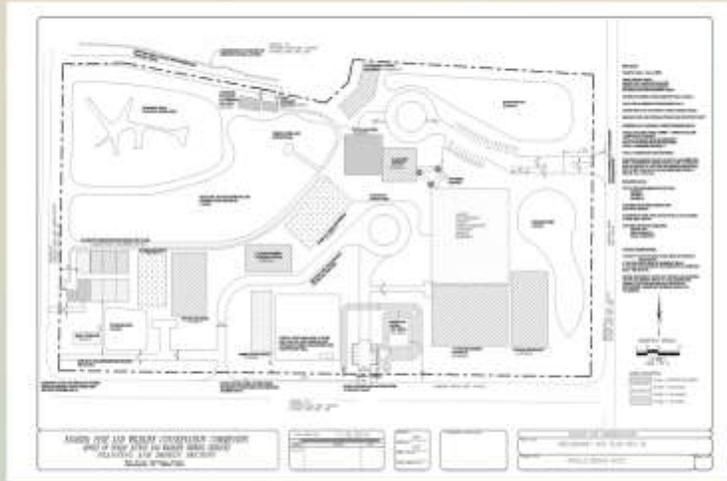


FYCCN has received a \$50,000 Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation grant for 13/14 Saltwater Fishing Camp programs. This grant will allow continuation of the Guy Harvey Saltwater Fishing Camp program created last year using the 12/13 Guy Harvey Foundation grant of \$50,000.

Building on the success of the Guy Harvey Saltwater Fishing Camp program, we plan to expand this camp to additional FYCCN partners with suitable coastal sites. Grant dollars will be used to provide partner sites with curriculum, staff training, basic programming supplies, and camp sets of equipment such as seines and cast nets, dissecting equipment, water sampling kits, dehooking and venting tools, gps and compass kits, etc. These startup supplies will allow partners to provide a sustainable camp where registration fees will cover fishing equipment that each camper takes home with them after camp. The goal of camp is to have each child leave camp equipped to fish, with both the knowledge and the gear.

Saltwater Fishing Camp sites will be selected from existing FYCCN partners who have requested programming and from identified organizations that are struggling to provide fishing programs. Many requests for participation in the Saltwater Fishing Camp have been made and we have numerous new partners located along the coast that can be recruited to start programs.

## Florida Conservation and Technology Center



\$2,000,000 in FCO spending authority from the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund has been received to construct an 8,000 square foot facility to provide conservation education and outdoor skills programs for youth in Apollo Beach. Outdoor support facilities, including an outdoor classroom pavilion and small storage building for paddling equipment, will occupy an additional 1,000 square feet. The proposed center will be the first marine-focused location in the FYCNN, and 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. TECO and the Florida Aquarium are creating a number of recreational and educational elements for the Center that will mesh seamlessly with the proposed 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. The proposed facility will consist of a central building with multipurpose classrooms as well as outdoor structures to support hands on activities. FWC has entered into a 30 year agreement with TECO and the Florida Aquarium to build the facility on TECO property.

Hispanic Outreach  
Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation  
Walt Disney

- Five year campaign to raise participation in fishing and boating
- Texas and Florida
- Kick off events – Spring 2014
- Target cities – Tampa, Orlando, Miami






## Wildlife Foundation of Florida Fundraising

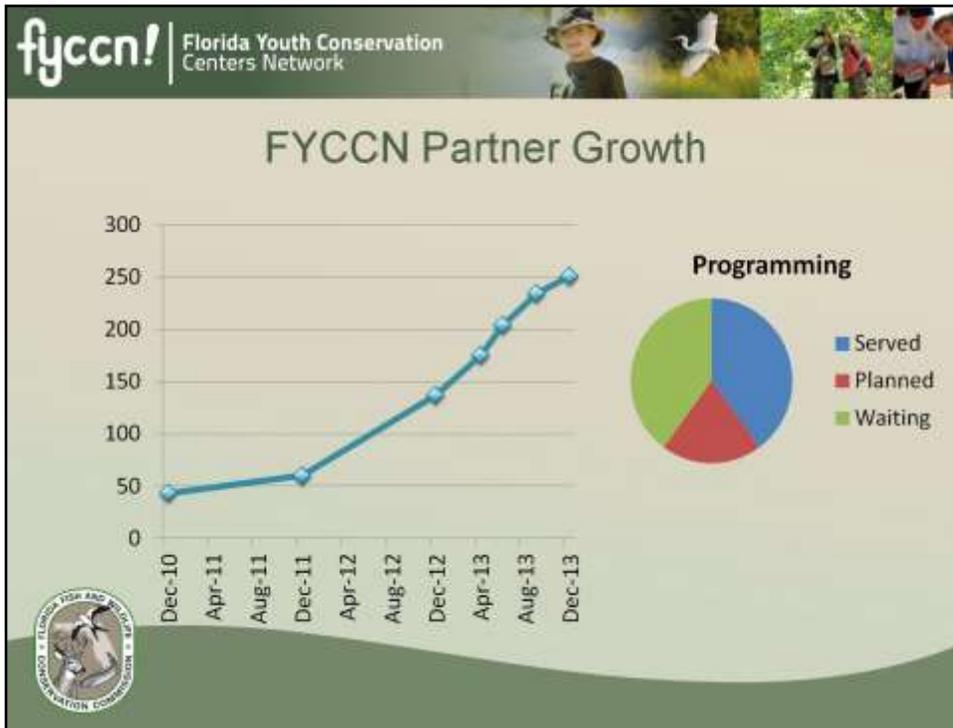


**Donations received 2011-2013:**

- \$1,000,000 - Richard Corbett
- \$390,000 - 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, \$1,770,000 in grants and donations have been received to support the FYCCN.



Total partner sites – 251

Partner site programming:

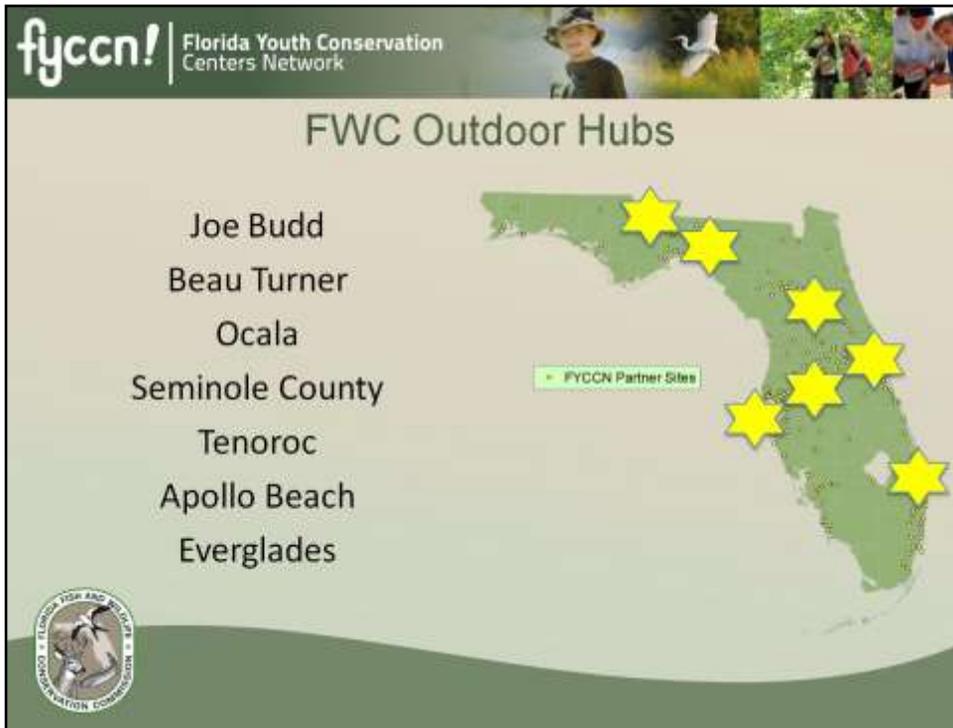
40% - offer FYCCN programming

20% - needs have been identified and programming planned

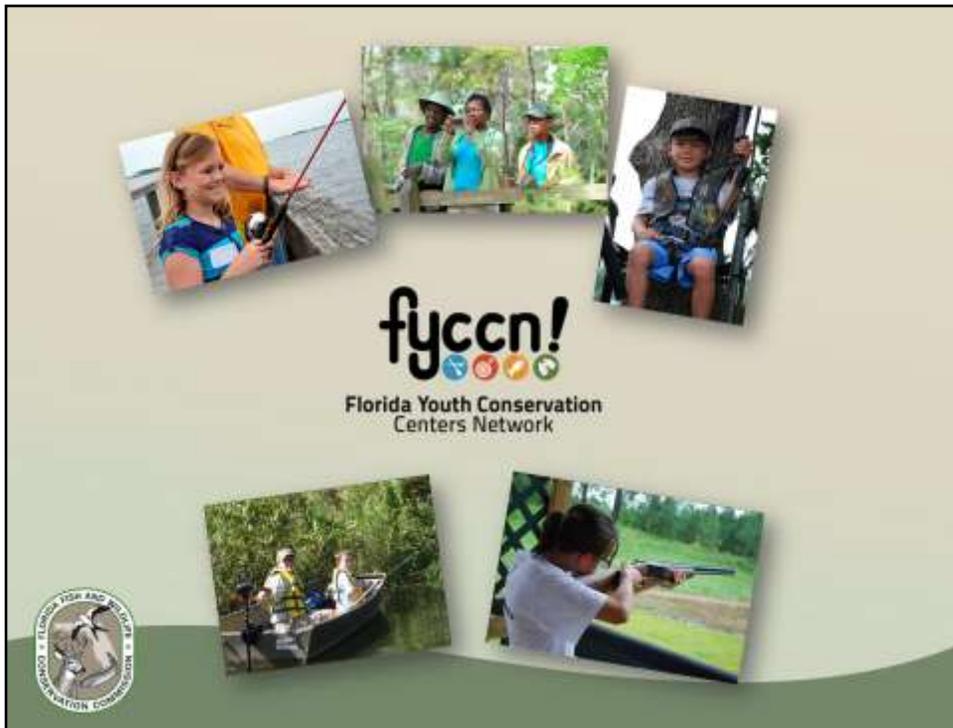
40% - have unidentified needs



FYCCN continues to expand throughout the state and has partnered with 251 sites as of January 2014. We created the FYCCN in December of 2010 with 43 partners and have been growing ever since. All FWC Divisions and Offices are working to assist FYCCN partner sites in identifying and implementing FWC youth programs. The FYCCN is an agency-wide initiative and everyone is stepping up to get involved to help our partners “Create the Next Generation that Cares” about fish and wildlife conservation.



FWC both owns or is a major partner at seven outdoor hub locations. Ocala and Everglades Youth Camps offer overnight experiences while the others provide day programming. Other Outdoor Hubs such as Weedon Island, Marine Discovery Center, and Gilchrist Club are part of the Network with support from FWC.



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](http://www.fyccn.com), to get more information or to sign up to help.