

Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network

Creating the Next Generation That CaresSM



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Staff Report September 2014



August 14, 2014

Rae Waddell



Everglades Youth Conservation Camp

- FWC assumed operations as of June 1, 2014
- Dining hall renovations, new water treatment plant and well, waste water plant upgrades, demo of old structures underway
- 14/15 LBR for \$483K recurring and \$450K FCO
- 2014 Summer Camp – six weeks, 425 youth
- American Camp Association (ACA) reaccredited with 100% compliance



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Apollo Beach Youth Conservation Center Florida Conservation and Technology Center

- Apollo Beach YCC project is underway with architectural plans at 90%
- 14/15 - \$3M FCO for construction of Aquaculture and Animal Care Facilities, fishing pond, boardwalks and water treatment plant




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. Outdoor support facilities, including an outdoor classroom pavilion and small storage building for paddling equipment, will occupy an additional 1,000 square feet. 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. Expected completion – Fall 2015.

14/15 - \$3M FCO received to construct Aquaculture and Animal Care facilities to be managed by the Florida Aquarium. 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.

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FYCCN Youth Advisory Council

- Youth Leadership Summit held at the Boone and Crockett Club's Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch in Dupuyer, Montana
- Travel made possible by a generous donation from Mr. & Mrs. C. Martin Wood, III
- Week-long conservation camp experience
- Youth interacted with conservation professionals and learned about conservation issues on a national scale





Youth Advisory Council (YAC) participant requirements:

- High school student – 2014/15 school year
- Participation in FWC/FYCCN comprehensive conservation summer program (Fish Camp, Hunt Camp, Boating Camp, Ocala YCC, Everglades YCC)
- Completion of at least 75 hours of conservation community service
- Ability to participate in bi-monthly conference calls
- Ability to periodically review and comment on issues
- Ability to attend yearly Leadership Summit

Currently we have eleven members and plan to advertise for an additional nine. Information and applications will be distributed to FYCCN partners in late September and current YAC members will participate in the selection of new members.



Boone and Crockett Camp Activities

- Architects of Conservation
- Wildlife Management Techniques
- Fly Fishing and Fly Tying
- Lay of the Land/Geology
- Paleontology
- Wilderness Survival
- Animal Communication
- North Fork Hike/Orienteering
- Glacier National Park Day Trip

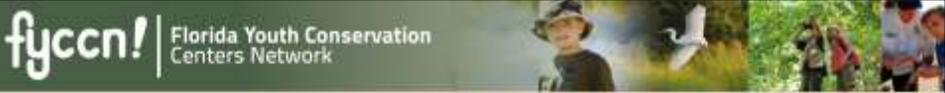




FYCCN Youth Advisory Council Goals and Objectives

- Strengthen FYCCN messaging by providing youth perspectives on outreach and education materials, social media, and web presence
- Provide guidance and advice on the development of youth conservation programming
- Become actively involved in conservation stewardship opportunities and influence community support for conservation
- Develop leadership skills and gain experience in working with councils, government, and professional organizations
- Work in partnership with peer group to identify conservation issues and seek solutions on a local and statewide level



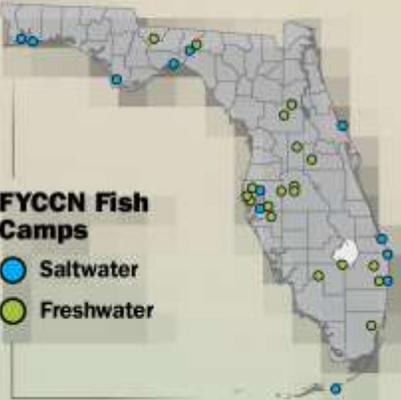


Summer Camp Expansion

- Fish Camp Expansion
49 weeks of Freshwater – over 950 youth
28 weeks of Saltwater – over 550 youth
- 2014 FYCCN Summer Camps
5000 total participants
- 13/14 FWC Youth Programming
115,000 participants

FYCCN Fish Camps

- Saltwater
- Freshwater





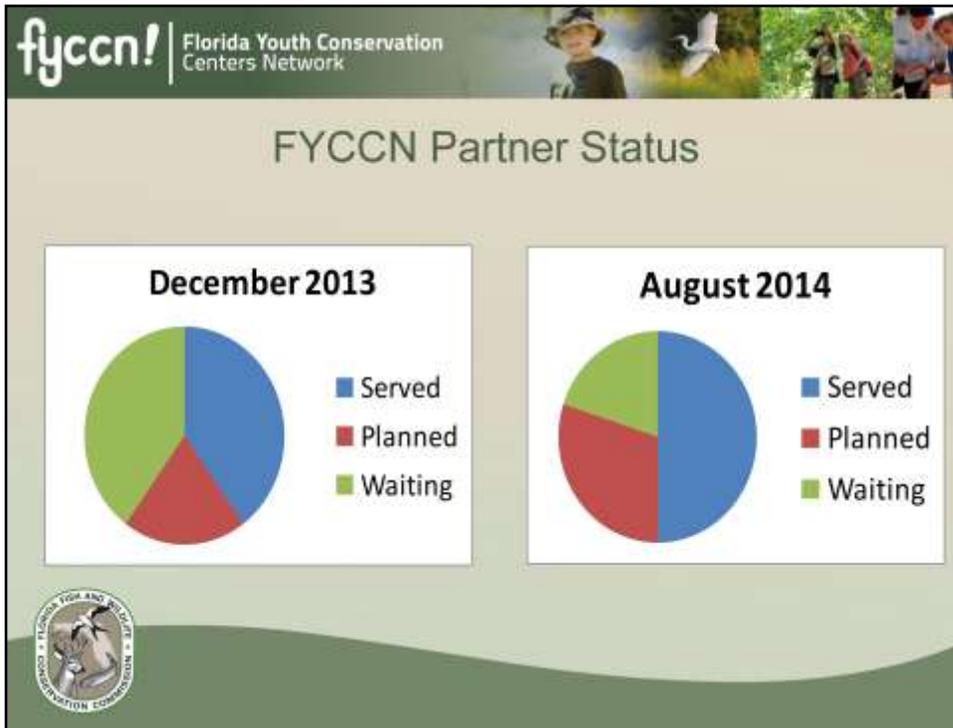
FYCCN received a \$50,000 Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation grant for 2014 Saltwater Fishing Camp programs. This grant allowed continuation of the Guy Harvey Saltwater Fishing Camp program created last year using the 12/13 Guy Harvey Foundation grant of \$50,000.

Building on the success of the Guy Harvey Saltwater Fishing Camp program, we plan to continue expansion of 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.



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.



As of August 2014 – 266 partner sites

Partner site programming:

50% - offer FYCCN programming

30% - needs have been identified, programming planned and staff training underway

20% - waiting for evaluation

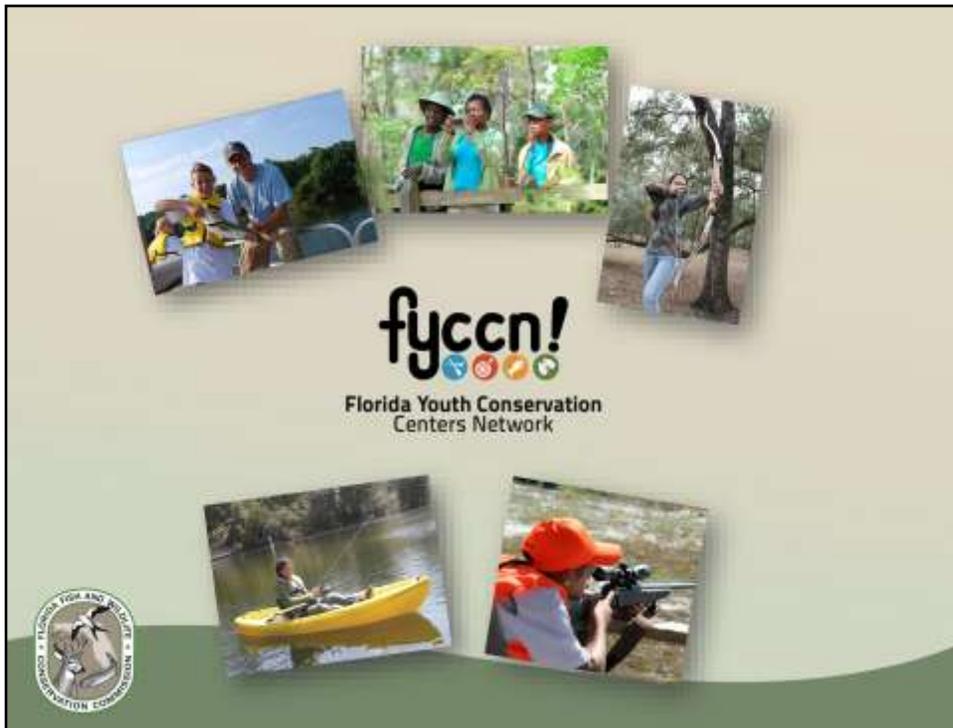
December 2013 – 251 partner sites

Partner site programming:

40% - offer FYCCN programming

20% - needs have been identified, programming planned and staff training underway

40% - waiting for evaluation



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.