

Youth Newsletter

Izaak Walton League of America

March 2020

The Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) youth program teaches local youth how to safely handle firearms in a hunting environment. The main focus of the program is safety and education. When the group meets, the practices are lead by coaches who teach in various categories of shooting and hunter safety training. The members of the program practice and train all year to compete in the Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC). This competition tests eight different categories including rifle, archery, muzzleloader, shotgun, orienteering, hunter safety exam, hunter safety trail and wildlife identification. The youth athletes better themselves and their communities everyday.



Youth Athlete of the Month



Grant Lohr is 13 years old and a part of the Izaak Walton Frederick chapter's youth team in addition to being a part of the Oakdale varsity football team, the Skip Wizards jump rope team, and his family circus. Grant currently attends Monocacy Valley Montessori public charter school but will be transferring to Oakdale Middle School at the end of the semester. His favorite food is mac and cheese and he enjoys learning about science. Grant competed as a part of the Izaak Walton's junior team in last year's YHEC competition. Grant is still relatively new to shooting but exceeded expectations by placing 5th in the wildlife identification event and 3rd in the hunter responsibility exam. In his first year of competition he already has impressive accomplishments with many more to come.

Schedule

Sunday, March 8th	12:00-4:00	Food: Rick T.	Shotgun
Sat.-Sun., March 21th-22th	Boy Scouts	9:00-2:00	Seniors encouraged to help
Sat.-Sun., March 28th-29th	Girl Scouts	9:00-2:00	Seniors encouraged to help

Wildlife ID

In the YHEC competition the category of wildlife identification tests the athletes skills in identifying different species of Maryland wildlife. Every athlete will walk along a path of 30 different stations. Each station will have an identifying feature of an animal. After viewing an article, every participant will choose from a word bank of animals on their sheet and then move on to the next station. This is very valuable skill that a hunter can have to identify a type of game.



Coaches Corner

Coach Ben Kelkye has been a part of the Frederick Chapter Izaak Walton League since 1991. He has coached for over 45 years in different fields. One of those fields is soccer, where he played for a national team. In the past, he was known for his historic renovations. Coach Ben loves to hunt and fish whenever he can. This includes places throughout Europe, Africa, and North America. He has taught NRA courses at every level and is only one of three Master Training Counselors in the world. He is the current head coach for the youth team and runs the muzzleloader event at the Maryland State YHEC.

