



Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Conservation and Recreation Division

Hunter Education & Shooting Sports 2013 Annual Report



Table of Contents

Shooting Sports

[Scholastic Pistol Program](#)

[National Archery in the Schools Program](#)

[Iowa High School & Scholastic Clay Target Program](#)

Shooting Ranges

[Public Shooting Ranges](#)

[Range Grant Program](#)

Hunter Education

[Program Highlights](#)

[Camps and Workshops](#)

[Mentored Hunts](#)

[Hunting Incidents](#)

Partner Programs

[Community Outreach Grants](#)

[4H Shooting Sports](#)

[Pheasants Forever](#)

[Iowa Outdoor Expo](#)



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

Scholastic Pistol Program

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) hosted its first Scholastic Pistol Program (SPP) demonstration/recruitment event Sunday, August 11th. Nearly 60 pistol coaches and interested parties converged on the Dragoon Chapter (Ankeny) Izaak Walton League range in Elkhart, Iowa, to learn about the program. These individuals will take what they learned back to their home ranges and clubs to form SPP teams. This event is the largest state-supported SPP recruitment effort to date and was organized by IDNR's Ben Berka and Rachel Ladd. Assisting SPP staffers; Scott Moore (SPP National Director) and Tammy Mowry (Program Manager), was local Izaak Walton members Scott Arnburg and Ray Morley. Founding Partners GLOCK and Smith & Wesson sent Ed Fitzgerald (GLOCK) and Tom Yost (S&W) who provided the free loaner handguns and instruction.



SPP and its sister program the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) are youth shooting sports programs administered by the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation (SSSF). The IDNR serves as Iowa's state advisor for both programs. "Introducing youth and families to the shooting sports is essential to providing Iowans with more recreation opportunities while at the same time supporting wildlife conservation and recruiting new hunters and target shooters," said Ben Berka of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). "We believe the Scholastic Pistol Program (SPP) is another fun, safe and family-friendly sport which will complement our current youth shooting sports programs."

"Iowa DNR is one of the more progressive state agencies in the country when it comes to building youth shooting sports programs," said Scott Moore, SPP National Director. "We are excited about the bright future SPP has in the Hawkeye State."



Additionally, Iowa hosted an SPP coach training on November 13-17. High level pistol coach trainers from around the country came to the Dragoon Chapter Izaak Walton League near Ankeny and in the process, certified 28 new Iowa SPP coaches. Iowa will host its first state championship SPP event June 21-22, 2014 at the Dragoon Chapter Izaak Walton. The tournament will have capacity of close to 200 competitors.

National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP)

The **National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP)** is a joint venture between state Departments of Education and Wildlife. Several archery equipment manufacturers and organizations are also partners. The program promotes student education and participation in the lifelong sport of archery. The program's focus is to provide International style target archery training in physical education classes, for grades 4-12.

NASP and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources:

The National Archery in the Schools Program in Iowa is coordinated through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Currently there are over 200 Iowa schools participating in the program. The Iowa DNR provides NASP Basic Archery Instructor (BAI) training throughout the state to teachers and archery program organizers. BAI training is provided at no cost to teachers conducting NASP programs as part of a 2 week in-school course. The Iowa NASP Program also has an after school component that allows students to participate in a competitive league amongst other schools with a state shoot to end the season typically held the first Saturday in March. During the 2012-2013 Iowa NASP Season there were 1,564 participants with 819 participating at the state shoot.

National and World Competitions:

At the **2013 NASP National Competition** in Louisville, KY, several Iowans had great performances. Tymbrie Snobl (Alburnett) and Josh Ohlert (Bellevue) each won \$7,500 scholarships; Tymbrie and Josh finished second in their respective overall male/female categories; and they were also named to the NASP All-American Team who competed in South Africa last July.

In addition to his impressive performance at nationals, Josh Ohlert won the overall title at the **2013 NASP World Championship** in St. Louis, MO, beating the best archers from 22 states and two Canadian provinces.

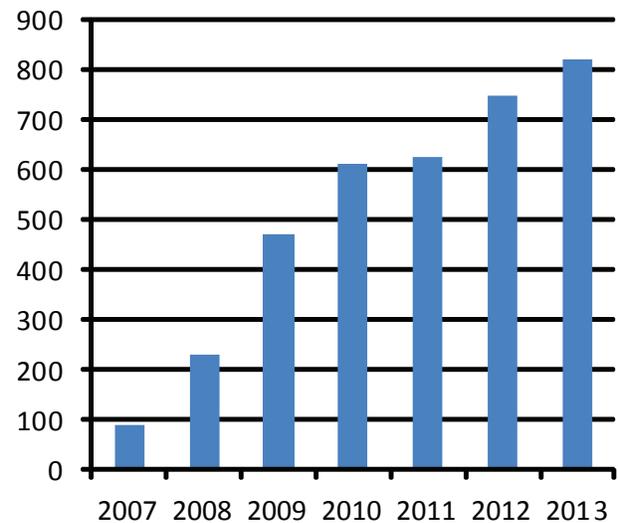


2013 NASP Registered Teams and Affiliated Schools

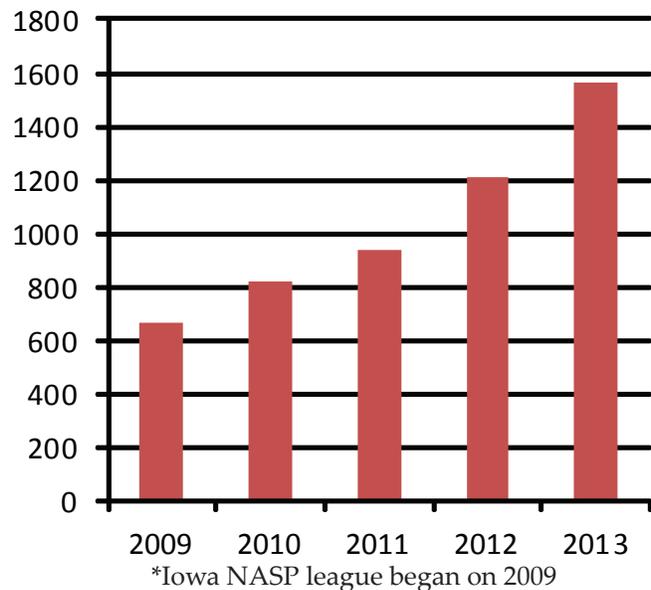
After School Program and State Shoot Teams

- ADM (Adel)
- Alburnett
- Anamosa
- Bellevue
- Bergman Academy (Des Moines)
- Cardinal (Ottumwa)
- Center Point Urbana
- Central City
- Central Decatur (Leon)
- Diagonal
- Eddyville
- Grundy Center
- Iowa Christian Academy (West Des Moines)
- Johnston
- Jordan Creek (West Des Moines)
- Marion
- Marquette (Bellevue)
- Mount Ayr
- Mount Vernon
- North Mahaska (New Sharon)
- Solon
- Spencer
- Springville
- Stilwell (West Des Moines)
- Valley High School (West Des Moines)
- Wapsie Valley (Fairbank)
- Washington

State Participants



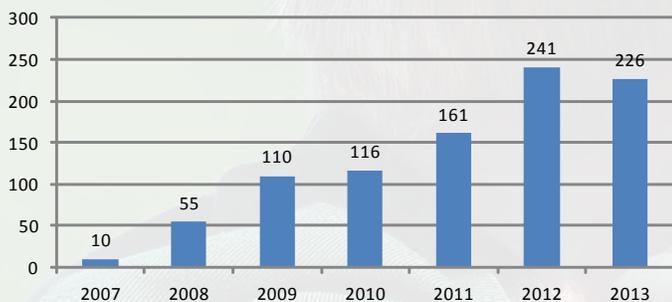
League Participants



Iowa High School and Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP)

The High School and Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) is a team-based clay target shooting program that is changing the lives of grade, middle and high school students nation-wide and in Iowa. Through organized clay target shooting, kids are learning lifelong skills such as gun safety, teamwork, respect for self and others, mental focus, and self-discipline. Sponsored by the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation and the national governing bodies of each sport, SCTP has >10,000 participants nationwide. In Iowa, the Scholastic Clay Target Program has joined forces with the strong tradition of Iowa high-school trapshooting programs to establish a spring shooting season for organized trap, skeet and sporting clays. Starting in March, teams are lead by certified coaches, practices are conducted, and local matches are held with neighboring teams. All of these activities lead up to the Iowa High School and SCTP Championships in May and June. High School and SCTP programs can be either club or school based but high school team competitions are strictly between teams whose squad members are all from the same school.

Iowa High School and SCTP Statewide League Events April 1 through May 18, 2013



Note: Season was reduced by one week. Several cancellations due to an extremely cold, wet spring.

Competition Target Breakdown

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Trap League | 614,450 |
| State Trap Events | 315,900 |
| SE Conference League | 53,905 |
| Sporting Clays League | 22,250 |
| State Sporting Clays | 14,000 |
| Skeet League | 15,050 |
| State Skeet | 14,000 |
| Total Competition Targets | 1,047,355 |



2013 Iowa High School and SCTP Registered Programs

Northwest Zone

Algona High School Trap Club
Alta-Aurelia Warriors
Belmond-Klemme FFA
Bishop Garrigan High School
Boyer River Clay Dusters
Emmetsburg High School Hot Shots
Humboldt Wildcat Trap
Ida County Trap Team
Lakes Area Youth Trap Club
North Iowa Trap Team, Buffalo Center
Rice Lake Ikes Trap Team, Lake Mills
Rock Valley Clay Crushers
Sioux Central
Storm Lake High Trapshooters
The GTRA Bullseyes
West Bend-Mallard Wolverines

Northeast Zone

AGWSR, Ackley
Cedar Falls High
Central Springs Panthers
Delaware County Trap Team
Denver Trap Club
DNH Wolverines
Don Bosco
Garner-Hayfield-Ventura High School
Hampton-Dumont Bird Busters
Horton Shooters
Jefferson J-Hawks
Kennedy Trap Club
Maquoketa Cardinals

Maquoketa Cardinals Intermediate
Mason City High School Trap Team
Nashua Fish and Game Club
New Hampton Trapshooting
North Iowa Area Community
College (NIACC)
North Scott Trap Club
Northwood-Kenesett Vikings
Osage Trap Team
Red Cedar Shooters, Cedar
Riceville Trap Club
Solon Spartans Trapshooting Team
South Hardin Trap Team
South Winn Trap Team
Turkey Valley Trapshooting Team
Waterloo West
Waverly-Shell Rock
Xavier High School

Southwest Zone

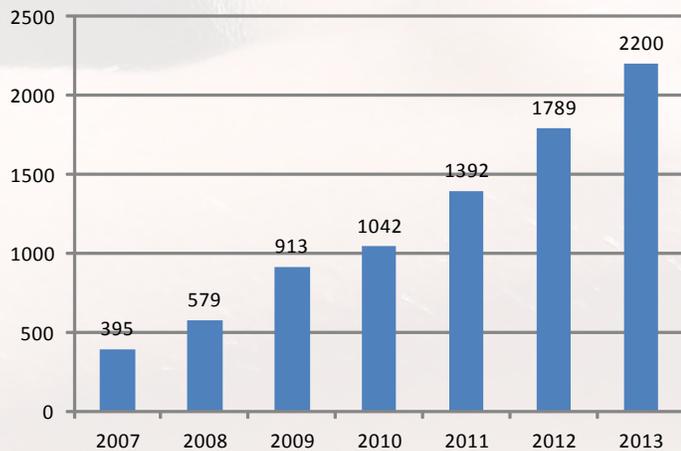
Anita Sporting Clays Shooting Team
Ankeny Hawks
CAM High School, Anita
Carroll Area Trap
Des Moines Clay Crushers
Gilbert Clay Commanders
Glenwood Trap Team
Glidden Ralston
Harlan FFA
IKM Manning
Indianola Trap Team
Logan Magnolia Panthers

Madison County Clay Crushers
Missouri Valley Lead Launchers
Roland-Story Norse Clay Busters
Southeast Warren Trap Team
Treyner Trap Team
Tri-Center Full Choke
Twin Cedars Shooters
Underwood
West Central Valley Trapshooters

Southeast Zone

Albia High School Trap Team
BGM Shotgunners
BHS Trapshooting Club
Centerville High School
Clear Creek Amana
Davenport Youth Trap
Ft Madison Clay Crushers
Grinnell Sure Shots
Highland Shooting Sports Club
Iowa City West Trap Club
Knoxville Shooting Club
Motezuma Shooting Sports Club
Mount Pleasant Panthers
Newton Trap Team
North Mahaska Shooting Sports
Oskaloosa Shooting Team
Pella Christian Eagles
Pella Shooters Club Inc
Sigourney Savages Trapshooting
Southeast Iowa Skeet Team

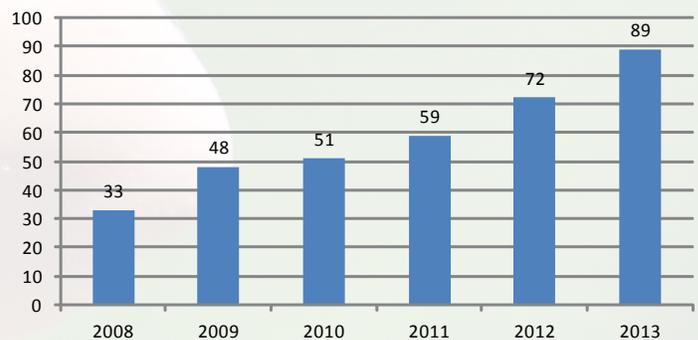
High School and SCTP Registered Athletes



2013 Participants

-501 Rookie/Intermediate Athletes
-1,676 High School Athletes
-23 Collegiate Athletes

**High School and SCTP
Registered Teams**

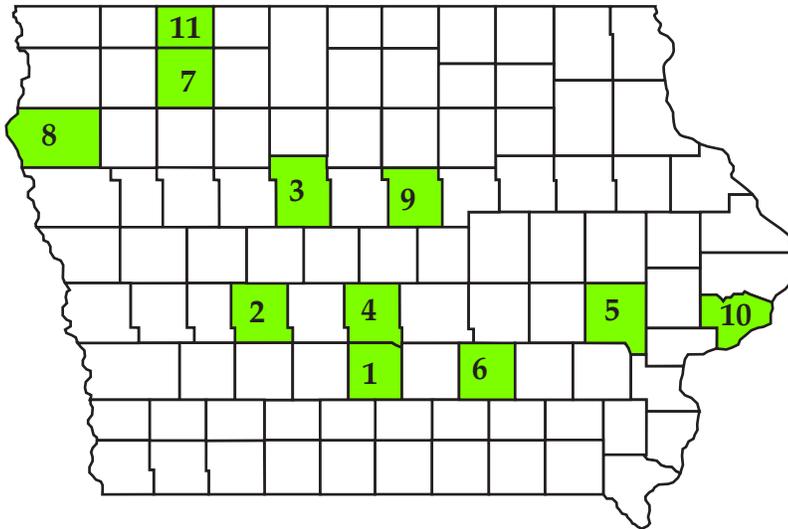


2014 Projections

-105 Teams
-2,640 Athletes

Public Shooting Ranges

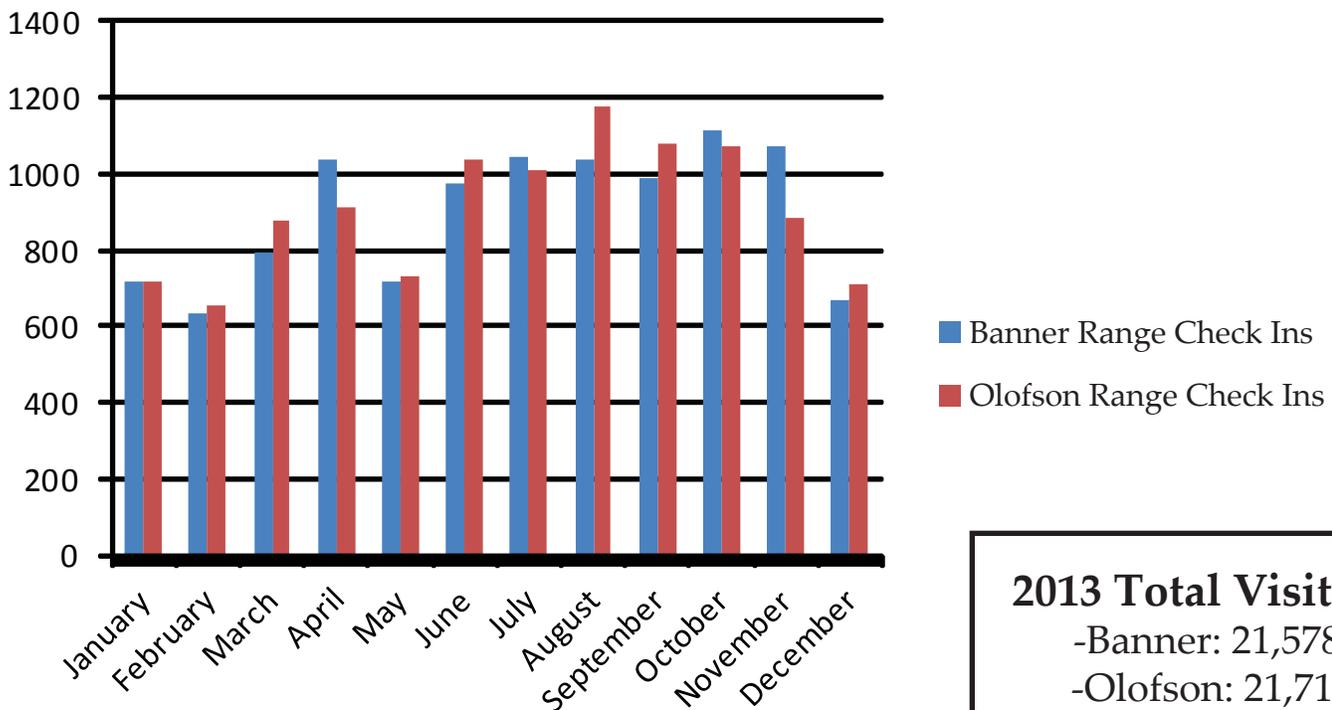
The Iowa DNR manages 11 public shooting ranges throughout Iowa. These ranges are all open to the public, and you can find out more information about each range on the [Iowa DNR's website](#).



1. Banner Range - Warren Co.
2. Bay Branch Range - Guthrie Co.
3. Brushy Creek Range - Webster Co.
4. Olofson Range - Polk Co.
5. Hawkeye Range - Johnson Co.
6. Hull Range - Mahaska
7. Ocheyedan Range - Clay Co.
8. Oyens Range - Plymouth Co.
9. Pine Ridge Range - Hardin
10. Princeton Range - Scott
11. Spring Run Range - Dickinson Co.

Two of the most widely used public shooting ranges in Iowa are Banner Shooting Range and Charles "Butch" Olofson Shooting Range. Both of these ranges are fully staffed and have certified Range Safety Officers on site during all operating hours. Banner Shooting Range is owned and operated by the Iowa DNR, while Olofson Shooting Range is owned by the Iowa DNR and operated by Warman Management Company. In addition to Olofson and Banner, the Iowa DNR also have a seasonal Range Safety Officer at Princeton and Hawkeye ranges during peak hours. Princeton Shooting Range is currently the DNR's busiest public range in the state, seeing an average of 350-400 shooters per weekend.

2013 Banner and Olofson Range Usage (by month)



2013 Total Visitors
 -Banner: 21,578
 -Olofson: 21,718

Range Grant Program

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources created the Shooting Sports Program Grant Program in 2009 to encourage the development and improvement of shooting ranges throughout Iowa. The Department provides grant funds from the Trust Fund (license sales) and federal dollars (Pittman-Robertson Act).

Shooting Range Grant Program Goals:

- (1) Developing ranges in areas of the state where the need for public shooting facilities is greatest.
- (2) Providing an environment for public enjoyment and expansion of the shooting sports that emphasizes safety, hunter and shooter education, firearms and archery, and public safety training, plus recruitment of junior shooters.
- (3) Ensuring all ranges are operated in a safe, sound manner that promotes environmental stewardship and positive community relations.

2013 Grant Recipients

AVAD Hunt Club received a \$27,225 grant to develop two high school trap ranges and a bunker trap system which is the first in Iowa.

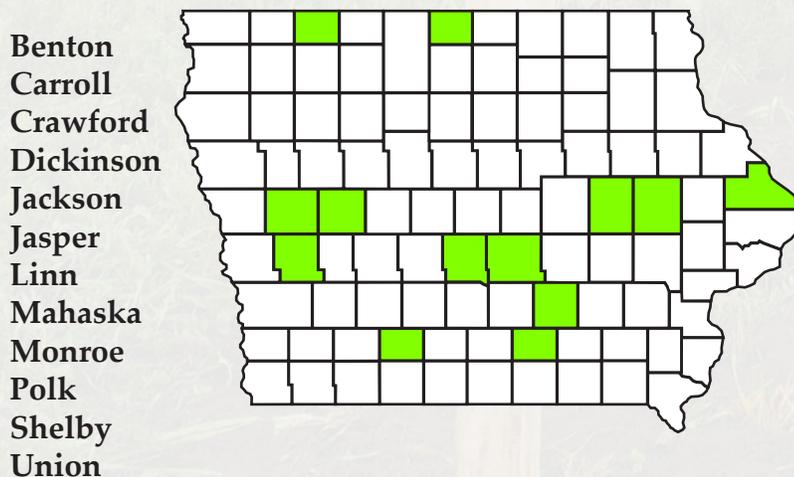
The Crawford County Shooting Sports Association, Inc. received a \$4,875 grant to construct a new trap and rifle range east of Denison. When completed, the range will be open to the public.

The Waltonian Archers of Linn County received a \$2,945 grant to add handicapped parking spots for their new indoor range.

\$23,682 was awarded to the city of West Des Moines for the Raccoon River Park Archery Facility. It will be the first of its kind in Iowa, and it will serve a growing number of archers in the Des Moines metropolitan area.

High Lakes Outdoor Alliance received a \$23,862 grant for their Three Mile Shooting Sports Complex in Union county. The money will be used to improve their shotgun, rifle, and pistol ranges.

Previous Grant Recipients (by county)



To date, the Iowa DNR has awarded **\$306,657.35** through the Range Grant Program.

Since the inception of the Range Grant Program, the Iowa DNR has supported **27** range development and improvement projects.

Hunter Education

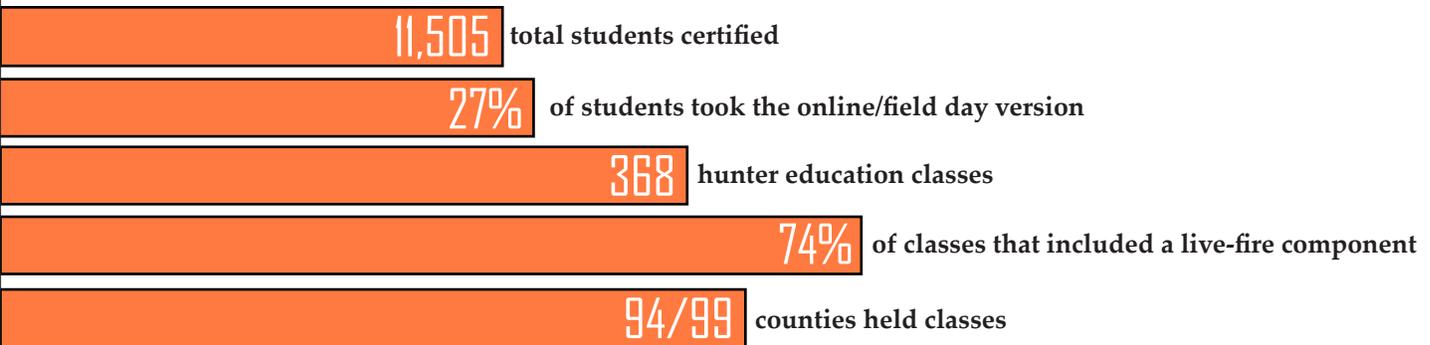
Hunter education is a mandatory program that is designed to introduce students to several life-long skills that are important to the many different types of outdoor recreational opportunities. The course teaches students basic survival and first aid skills, water safety, wildlife identification, and the basics of wildlife management, hunting laws, and firearm/archery safety. Hunter education also stresses the importance of individual responsibility and outdoor ethics.



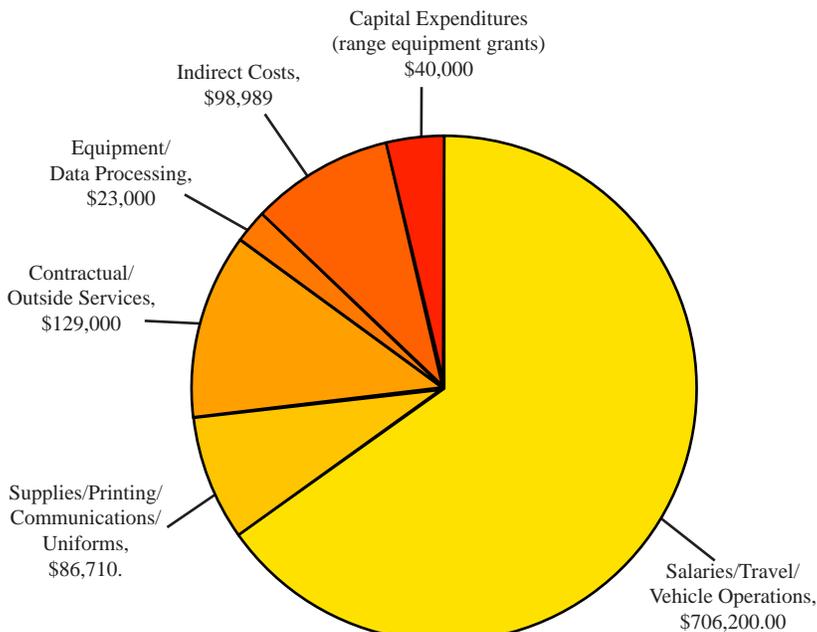
Iowa law requires that anyone born after January 1, 1972 must be certified in hunter education before they are eligible to purchase an Iowa hunting license. The minimum number of hours to complete the class is 10. Typically there is no charge for the course, unless lunch is furnished or room rental is required. Iowa recognizes hunter education certificates issued by another state and some foreign countries.

A person who is 11 years old or older may enroll in a course, but those who are 11 and successfully complete the course shall be issued a certificate which becomes valid on that person's 12th birthday. Iowa residents under the age of 12 can be issued a deer or turkey license; however, a licensed adult hunter must accompany each youth hunter.

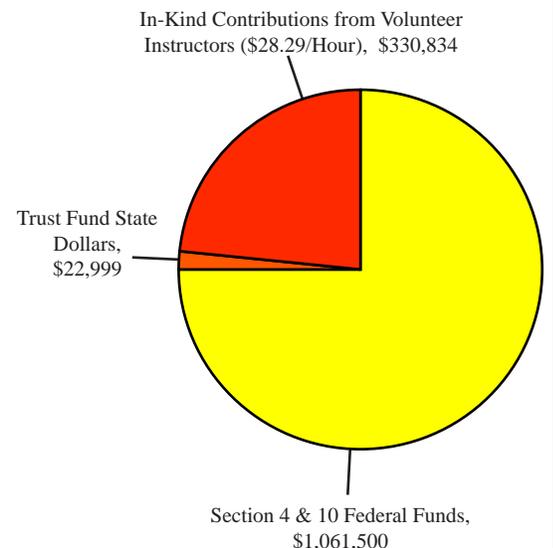
Here's a look at some of the statistics from this year's classes (July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013):



FY 13 Program Spending:



FY 13 Program Dollars:



Hunter Education

This year we held 20 Certified Instructor Workshops and 6 New Instructor Workshops during the month of March. The workshops consisted of program updates, incident recaps, training on the new online registration system, and honoring our volunteers by presenting incentive and attendance awards for their accomplishments. The New Instructor Workshops also consisted of additional training on instructor requirements and policies along with teaching techniques and some live fire exercises. 600 new and certified instructors attend these very important annual workshops.



*Bob Bellmer, 2013 District 4
Instructor of the Year*

Bowhunter Education

Although this course is not required by Iowa law, it is required in a number of other states including South Dakota, Nebraska, and Montana. The Department of Natural Resources encourages bowhunters to enroll in this course, especially first time hunters. The program is designed to teach bowhunters safe and ethical hunting techniques and to instill responsible attitudes toward people, wildlife and the environment.

The course is based on the National Bowhunter Education Foundation's publications and is administered by the Department of Natural Resources. The course covers topics such as responsibilities of a bowhunter, knowledge necessary before hunting, shot placement, tree stand safety, blood trailing, and game care.

We continue to see a consistent trend of participation in Bow Hunter Education. In FY13, we had 212 total students complete either the online/field day Bow Hunter Education course or the traditional Bow Hunter Education classroom course.

Fur Harvester Education

Fur Harvester Education is not-mandatory in Iowa in order to hunt or trap. This course is designed to give participants the knowledge, skill, attitude, and judgment to selectively and responsibly trap furbearing animals for the many benefits it provides.

Participation continues to stay consistent in the Iowa Fur Harvester Program. In FY13, 47 students completed the course for certification. We also had several other informational seminars conducted around the state on trapping but student information was not collected since certificates were not provided to participants. In FY14 we will begin collecting participation data on non-certification seminars as well so we have a better grasp on the number of students/participants receiving instruction/information on trapping in Iowa.

Participants who attend a hands-on Iowa Fur Harvester Education Workshop receive instruction on:

- ⊗ History and heritage of the fur trade;
- ⊗ Biology and management of Iowa furbearers;
- ⊗ Wildlife regulations and their purpose;
- ⊗ Ethics and responsibility;
- ⊗ Fur harvesting equipment;
- ⊗ The basics of harvesting Iowa Furbearers;
- ⊗ Marketing Furbearers;
- ⊗ Public relations; and
- ⊗ The basics of outdoor safety and survival.



Wingshooting Education



The Wingshooting Education program was designed to teach our hunters how to become more effective wingshooters. The workshops provide wingshooters with the necessary information to decrease wounding loss while hunting waterfowl and upland birds. Workshops also teach wingshooters about the responsible hunting practices required to ensure the future of our sport. Finally, each seminar will discuss the benefits of steel shot or non-toxic alternatives and provide instruction on shooting steel shot or a non-toxic alternative.

In FY13, there were three workshops and 37 total participants. The workshops were held at various locations including New Sharon, Coon Rapids, and Riverside, Iowa throughout the months of June and August 2013.

Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow

Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLfT) is a professional development program designed for student and professional leaders within the natural resource sciences. CLfT focuses on hunting awareness and conservation education among academic programs and government agencies. CLfT consists of 4-day workshops that blend interactive classroom discussion with field experiences. Workshop participants engage with leading natural resource professionals and conservationists in a highly interactive educational setting.

In 2013, there were three agency personnel programs, one instructor training, one committee meeting, and one student program.

The program worked closely with Iowa State University to host a Natural Resource Ecology and Management (NREM) weekend event. Over 40 students participated and 28 earned hunter education over the weekend. Outside of Iowa, four ISU students attended the Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow training held at Ringneck Ranch in Tipton, Kansas.



Outdoor Journey

2013 was another great year for the Iowa DNR's youth camps. Outdoor Journey (OJ), the DNR's outdoor skills camp for young ladies ages 12-15, hosted 145 participants at three camps. Participants experienced various outdoor activities including: canoeing and water safety, basic orienteering, fish and wildlife identification, archery, firearm safety and basic shooting, camping and outdoor survival, game care, fishing and preparing the catch.

OJ also offers the full, classroom version of Hunter Education, and upon successful completion of the exam, all participants typically receive their hunter education certificates.



The Iowa DNR, Pheasants Forever, and Iowa Women in Natural Resources work together to host Outdoor Journey each year.

Hunting and Conservation Camp

Hunting and Conservation Camp (HACC), is the DNR's outdoor skills camp for young men ages 12-15, saw 169 participants at two separate camps. Participants experience various outdoor skills including: shooting (shotguns, rifles, archery, and muzzleloaders), trapping, dog training, hunting skills improvement, gun care/cleaning, game calling, and conservation.

HACC offers the full, classroom version of Hunter Education, and upon successful completion of the exam, all participants typically receive their hunter education certificates.



HACC is sponsored by the Iowa DNR and Pheasants Forever.



Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC)

Iowa's Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC) is a weekend-long event that takes place each June. This past year, YHEC was held at Wesley Woods Camp near Indianola. Youth from all over Iowa came to compete in eight events, learn about the outdoors, and have fun with other youth and adults with similar interests. The events include:

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| archery | muzzleloader rifle |
| shotgun | small-bore rifle |
| wildlife identification | orienteeing |
| hunter safety trail | written exam |

Most participants compete as part of a team of five from their area, but you can register as an individual, as well. There are two age categories, Junior (ages 12-14) and Senior (ages 15-18). The following counties were represented by YHEC teams in 2013:

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Adams County | Boone County |
| Clinton County | Mahaska County |
| Linn County | Warren County |

There were 78 participants at the 2013 State YHEC Event.

Iowa State Fair Archery Booth

At the Iowa State Fair in 2013, the Iowa DNR's archery range had great attendance. Volunteers were a crucial part of this year's success. They came from all over Iowa to help the Iowa DNR run a safe and successful archery range.

In 2013, an average of 630 participants shot archery each day at the State Fair!

We know for many it was their first time picking up a bow and arrow. One participant, Tatum (age 11 from Stratford, IA) shot archery for the first time at last year's state fair in 2012, and she immediately went home and bought a bow! Now she shoots into a hay bale on her farm whenever possible.

Hosting archery at the state fair is a great opportunity to reach new audiences and encourage a free and easy trial experience. With the help of our volunteers, we see smiling faces year after year at the archery range.



Mentored Hunt Program

In 2013, the Iowa mentored hunt program continued to promote hunting opportunities across the state.

Over half of the Iowa DNR's conservation officers (60 in all) helped introduce new hunters throughout Iowa. As a group, our officers contributed over 1,617 hours towards mentored hunts in their counties.

Officers often host their own hunts or work with conservation organizations to provide educational seminars, shooting instruction, or laws and ethics classes to participants.



A unique development for the program was the hiring of Iowa's Outreach Coordinator. The position was created by a partnership between the Iowa DNR and Pheasants Forever.

In order to help promote mentored hunts across the state, the Iowa DNR started collecting information from conservation organizations and Iowa DNR staff. This information was compiled and posted on the [Iowa DNR's mentored hunting website](#). This page will continue to be updated and advertised to promote hunting opportunities across Iowa.

Looking forward, we are looking to improve the program in two key ways:

1. Increase statistic gathering ability for both DNR-organized hunts and conservation organization hunts by creating a funnel for participant registrations. This information will be used in future annual reports, grant requests and program success measurements.
2. Promote mentored hunting opportunities through website, social media, email, direct mail, and advertising campaigns. Our increased ability to gather statistics will feed our ability to promote opportunities to targeted groups and areas.



Community Outreach Grants

Research by the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) on hunter and shooter recruitment and retention highlighted the importance of social support in fostering new hunters or shooters. By working with local partners such as county conservation boards, city parks and recreation departments, and community colleges we have seen the impact of targeting groups with an existing social structure. We have been able to reach future hunters/target shooters/anglers, provide them with training and opportunities, and connect them with other recreational users in their area. All of this networking and education will build their local support network and help them continue participating for years to come.



Through our community outreach grant program, we look to provide skill development opportunities for young or novice hunters, anglers, and shooters and their families. In partnership with the Aquatic Education section, we select partner organizations based on demand for programming, availability of financial resources and personnel, and willingness to work with partners.

In 2013, the Iowa Hunter Education Program gave over \$11,500 to Benton County, the City of Davenport, Jasper County, Muscatine County, and Woodbury County. This money was used at the local level for programming including:

- ⊙ wildlife conservation and ethics
- ⊙ wildlife identification
- ⊙ wild game cooking
- ⊙ mentored hunting
- ⊙ trapping basics
- ⊙ basic archery
- ⊙ first aide

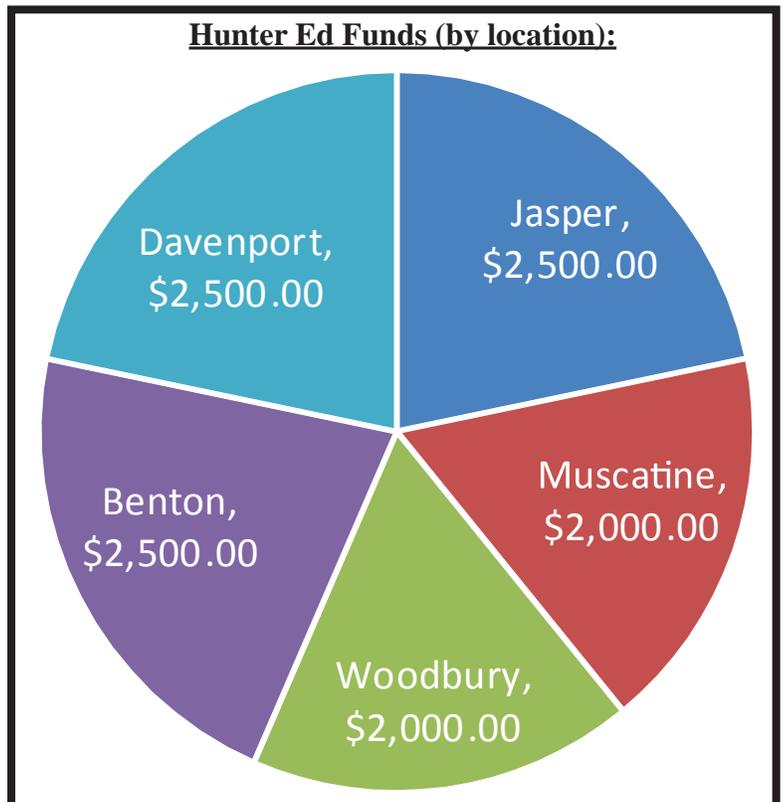
Resulting Number of Programs:

98

Resulting Number of Participants Reached:

3,201

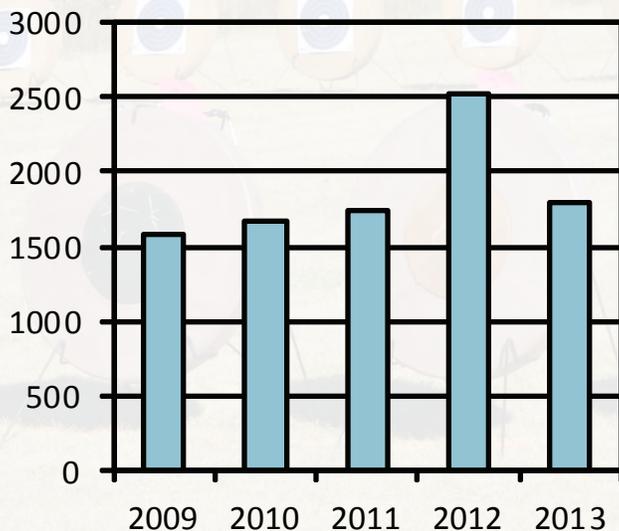
Hunter Ed Funds (by location):



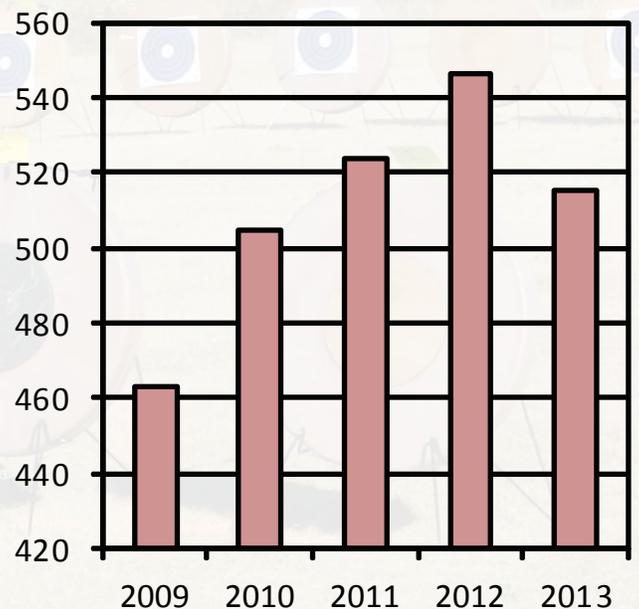
4H Safety and Education in Shooting Sports (SESS)

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources continued our partnership with Iowa State University 4-H Extension and Outreach to assist with the cross promotion of the two shooting sports programs. The Iowa 4-H Safety and Education in Shooting Sports (SESS) provides activities at all levels throughout the state to meet the overall goal to “empower youth to reach their full potential working and learning in partnership with caring adults through a shooting sports related activity.” 4-H members participate in their county or regional programs to develop their skills and then have the opportunity to participate on a larger scale as they become more proficient. Many counties and regions collaborate to offer fun shoots and competitions while the Iowa DNR hosts the state tournament. The Iowa 4-H Shooting Sports Programs offers their own 4-H Shooting Sports certification for volunteers who wish to become involved or start a shooting sports club in their county. The course is a 3-day, 2-night training held at the 4-H Camp in Madrid, IA.

SESS Youth Participants

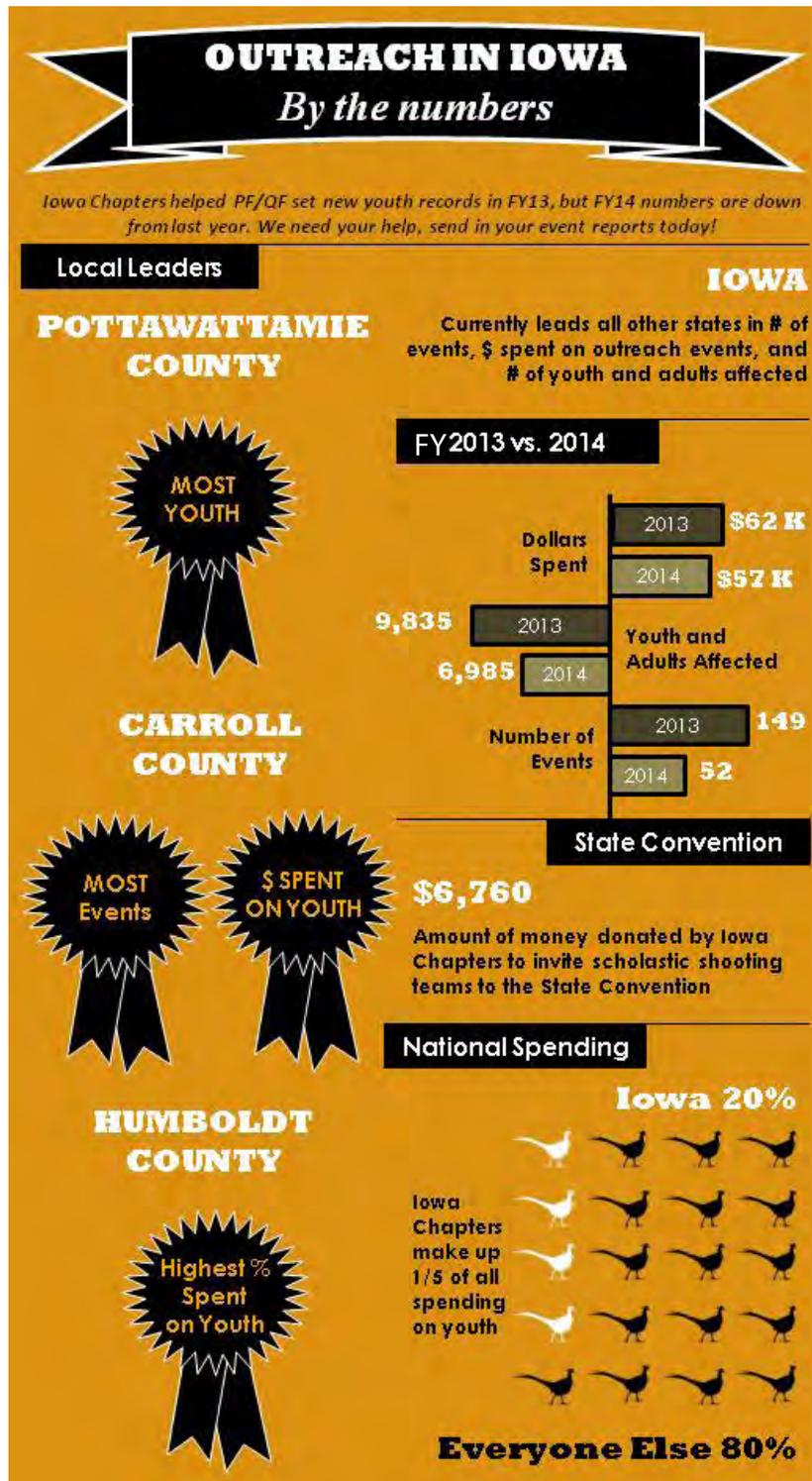


Instructors



Pheasants Forever

As part of a new partnership between the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Pheasants Forever, the Iowa DNR hired their very first Iowa Outreach Coordinator.



The coordinator position is focused on working with NGO conservation groups to increase hunting opportunities and promote hunting and shooting opportunities to new audiences.

The Iowa DNR looks to build lasting community based support systems and improve outreach campaigns and programs.

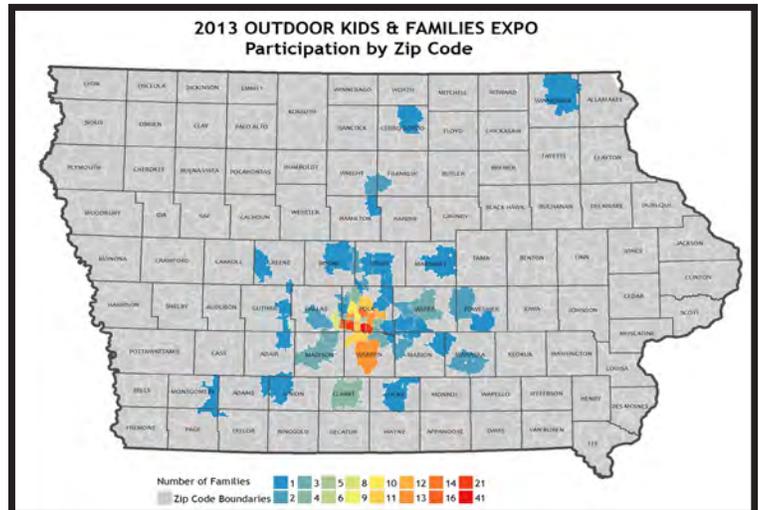
Additionally, the position will enable the Iowa DNR to promote the programs and resources of Pheasants Forever to other organizations.

Over the past year, volunteer chapters in Iowa established themselves as leaders in youth and family outreach programs. They set record numbers in every category of measurement (money spent on youth programs, youth affected, adults affected, events held, etc.)

Additionally, Pheasants Forever chapters have begun creating meaningful partnerships with scholastic shooting teams across Iowa. Over \$70,000 was donated to shooting teams through Pheasant Forever's Adopt-A-Team fundraiser program! These shooting teams give back to their local chapters by helping at banquets, volunteering at Young Guns events, and becoming Pheasants Forever members.



Iowa Outdoor Expo



In its 5th year, the Iowa Outdoor Expo continues to provide a free event for families to learn, explore, and rediscover outdoor recreations. Our vision has and continues to open the outdoors to kids and families through hands on activities, giving the public an opportunity to learn an activity that will take them outside for the rest of their life. While doing this, we are creating outdoor stewards who respect our natural resources and have a passion to share it with others. The Iowa Outdoor Expo is held on the fourth weekend of September each year, which is National Hunting and Fishing Day.

The Iowa Outdoor Expo is supported by a partnership between the Des Moines Izaak Walton League, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Polk County Conservation Board, Mid Iowa Bass Masters, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Iowa Hunter Education Instructors Association, Friends of the National Rifle Association, Sportsman's Warehouse, and Northern Lights Pizza.

In 2013, over 4,700 visitors (2,800 were kids) were introduced to archery, fishing, BB guns, trap shooting, hunter ethics, wildlife identification, canoeing/kayaking/paddleboarding and primitive living with the Buckskinners' encampment. We also started two new partnerships with the Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge in Prairie City, IA and Milo Meat Locker from Milo, IA.

This year, 41% of visiting families consider themselves hunters, and 73% of visiting families consider themselves anglers.

Additionally, 69% of families identified themselves as campers, 58% were bicyclists, 35% were canoe/kayakers, and 40% were archers.

The Iowa Outdoor Expo continues to reach new audiences, as 61% of our visitors said it was their first time attending, and 39% were returning visitors.



Iowa Outdoor
EXPO
For Kids and Families