

What is Conservation Camp?

The South Dakota Wildlife Federation, in cooperation with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks, sponsors a one week outdoor educational camp for 120 girls, and boys.

The camp is held each year at Camp Bob Marshall in the Black Hills in early June. The camp was originally authorized by the South Dakota Wildlife federation at it's convention in 1963, while the first camp was held in the first week of June, 1964 with 63 boys in attendance. Girls began attending in 1972 and camp has continued to to be held annually.

Over the years, thousands of South Dakota youth have experienced the importance of a variety of outdoor activities. Camp participants are housed in rustic cabins with modern bathrooms, an eating facilities.

The camp is staffed by volunteers.



“Who may attend?”

Any student who has completed 8th grade, or is currently in the 9th, 10th, or 11th grade in high school, and is interested in conservation, hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities.

“How do I apply?”

Reservations for camp will be accepted from March 1st to May 1st via online, or physical application complete with payment mailed in. After May 1st, reservations will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis until the camp quota is filled. For a priority reservation, apply directly through SDWF.org/camp, a local affiliate club, or local Soil Conservation District Office. These organizations screen applicants as to eligibility and provide financial assistance to participants when possible. Sponsorships for camp may be available!

Contact the camp director for additional information. Transportation to and from camp is included in the camp fee.

Camp registration fee is subject to change. Confirm with camp directors or camp contacts for current year's camp fee.

Camp Contacts

SDWF Youth Conservation Camp

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Aberdeen, SD 57402

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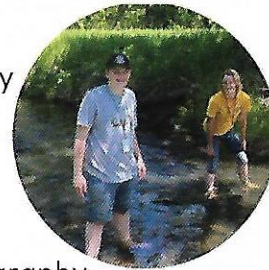
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Sample Sessions Offered

A variety of conservation and outdoor recreation activities are offered, such as:

- Archery
- Fish Netting/Lake Survey
- Stream Ecology
- Lake/Stream Fishing
- Wilderness Survival
- Outdoor/Wildlife Photography
- Dutch Oven & Outdoor Cooking
- Birding Basics
- Boating Safety
- Fly Tying & Fishing
- Shooting Skills
- Conservation Officer Investigations
- Hiking in Custer State Park
- Lighting Ceremony at Mt. Rushmore
- and MORE!



Awards

There are a total of four awards presented at the camp each year:

- “Doc McClellan Award” recognizing the outstanding staff member during camp.
- “Swede Larsen Award” recognizing the outstanding efforts of an individual who promoted the camp.
- “Bob Erdman Award ” recognizing the outstanding male camper.
- “Ervin Roher Award” recognizing the outstanding female camper.

Thank You's

"Thank you for all you do for the conservation camp. I had an absolutely marvelous time. I really enjoyed the activities that we were able to participate in at Custer State Park. I know that you put a lot of time into getting everything ready, and I really appreciate it. I learned a lot and met a lot of new people, it was a great time.

Thanks for all you do, and I hope to see you next year."

- a happy camper



"Thank you very much for opportunity for my daughter to attend the Conservation Camp. It was one of the best educational experiences she has ever had, and she really enjoyed everything about it. We sure appreciate everything you are doing for kids - keep up the great work"

"Hayden absolutely LOVED it last year! He is a typical boy teenager and doesn't say much to his parents, but oh my goodness he got off that bus last year and wouldn't stop talking for two hours! He loved the classes, the atmosphere, the food, everything...if you are the one who put the classes together - You are doing a wonderful job - A big THANKS to you. He loved how the instructors talked about their real life experiences and how they seem to inspire kids to "get involved" in the world around them. I could go on forever, but mainly wanted to say you are doing a Great job and Thank You!"

- Lisa

Camp Information

Website: sdwf.org/camp

Facebook: SDWF Youth Conservation Camp

Follow us on Instagram!



Additional Information

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With help from our many friends in the organizations, businesses, government agencies, and private donors who support, or assist this camp, we are able to provide this wonderful opportunity for the youth of South Dakota.

We thank them for their support!