

SEVEN SAUK COUNTY YOUTH RECEIVE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year the Sauk County Land Conservation Committee offers scholarships to area youth to attend conservation camp. This year they awarded seven students scholarships. At the July Land Conservation Committee meeting, the scholarship recipients gave presentations regarding their camping experiences.

Through the annual conservation camps, children acquire a better understanding of our natural resources, learn various outdoor skills and subject matter including wildlife ecology, soil science, forestry, lake and stream studies, and how those resources are managed. These camps are designed to introduce middle and high school youth with an interest in conservation to contemporary natural resource issues and expose them to potential careers in natural resources. Conservation camps also offer unique opportunities to make new friends from around the state and enjoy hiking, swimming, canoeing, and camping.

Samual Kendall, a sixth grader at St. Peter's Lutheran School in Reedsburg, was awarded a scholarship to attend Sand Lake Conservation Camp. Samual is the son of Michael and Dawn Proctor and John Kendall. The camp was held from June 19-21 at the Camp Bird Youth Camp near Crivitz.

The following students were awarded scholarships to attend the Wisconsin Land and Conservation Camp at Trail's End Youth Camp near Ladysmith from June 17-20: Haley

Bonilla, daughter of Shannon Bonilla, an eighth grader at Jack Young Middle School; Rachel Perkins, daughter of Deb Zeman, a Baraboo High School freshman; Madison Hartup, daughter of Barry Hartup and Merri Lindgren, a Baraboo High School sophomore; Maia Persche, daughter of Beth and Todd Persche, a Baraboo High School freshman; Steph Wilcott-Otto, daughter of Fred and Jennifer Otto, a Baraboo High School junior; Ashley Brockman, daughter of Tina Brockman, a Baraboo High School junior.

Steph Wilcott-Otto admitted that she cannot canoe but had lots of fun canoeing at the camp. She said “I learned that one invasive falling in the water can produce 500 algae plants! Also, check your boat for invasives because bringing it into a new body of water can cause an invasion.”

Scholarships included registrations, meals, and lodging. Land Conservation Education Coordinator Penny Pohle said, “It is important to encourage youth to be involved with conservation, and this is a perfect opportunity for them to have fun and to learn about the environment and to enjoy the great outdoors.” For more information about this program, please contact the Land Conservation Department at 355-3245.