

# Fostering Outdoor Heritage in Today's Youth

---

Hoosier Outdoor Heritage Coordinator Amanda Wuestfeld described her efforts of increasing the involvement of Indiana's youth in hunting and angling. Data over the past fifty years has shown a steady decline in survival replay activities, especially among children and families. Wuestfeld's role as Outdoor Heritage Coordinator is trying to reel people into these sports and get families engaged. Her approach entails that increased outdoor experience and exposure will foster a love of the land and environment. Wuestfeld spent the rest of her time explaining how specific wildlife conservation and education programs throughout the state can increase levels of retention in the purchasing of hunting and fishing licenses. The success of programs in other states, such as Colorado's Huntmaster program, which involved 20,000 youth, serve as models for the creation of new programs in the state of Indiana. Wuestfeld finished with suggestions of individual action, such as joining a local conservation organization, special interest groups and youth organizations in aiding the facilitation of youth involvement.

