



Massachusetts Junior Conservation Camp

2017 Session of the Massachusetts Junior Conservation Camp is Right on Target!

For Immediate Release

Rainy weather may have prevented the traditional outdoor-graduation ceremony of the Massachusetts Junior Conservation Camp (MJCC) in August, but didn't dampen the spirits of the campers and staff who together made life-long memories during the two-week experience. Camper survey comments were positive, "The Camp was much better than I expected!" and "I never thought it would be so much fun!". When asked about the need to add to the program, one camper noted, "Nothing! I learned so much!"

During the Camp graduation ceremony, awards for the Camp Competition Day were presented and congratulations were offered by Stephen Johnson, MJCC Board President; Ron Amidon, Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game; Jack Buckley, MassWildlife Director and Lt. Tara Carlow of the Massachusetts Environmental Police. These winners included:

Shotgun – 1st place Mathieu Ouellet (Worthington); 2nd place Andrew Lachtara (Southwick); 3rd place Daniel Comeau (Carver)

Scholastic Steel – 1st place Liam Donahue (Belchertown); 2nd place Andrew Lachtara (Southwick); 3rd place Adam Perreira (Dighton)

Rifle – 1st place Andrew Lachtara (Southwick); 2nd place Mathieu Ouellet (Worthington); 3rd place Aiden Downey (Marlborough)

Archery – 1st place Joey Deprey (Granby) 41; 2nd place Tyler Joe (Andover) 41; 3rd place Andrew Lachtara (Southwick) 33

Black Powder – 1st place Lane Hughes (Lanesboro); 2nd place; Graham Goodhind (Pelham); 3rd place Daniel Comeau (Carver)

Fishing Derby – 1st place Shanna McCarty (Lakeville) – 16" Largemouth Bass; 2nd place Dennis Cross (Barre) 15" Chain Pickerel; 3rd place Hayden Page (Sutton) 14.5" Largemouth Bass

Since 1949, the Massachusetts Junior Conservation Camp (MJCC) has provided young people with a unique experience of conservation, shooting sports and outdoor recreation education. The 12-day program introduces girls and boys ages 13 to 17-years old to the ethical responsibilities of hunting and fishing in order to foster careful stewardship of natural resources.

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“We greatly appreciate the support of our camp partners,” said Stephen Johnson, President of the MJCC Board. “We are especially grateful for the long term commitment to Conservation Camp by MassWildlife, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Environmental Police and the Gun Owners Action League (GOAL). This year’s contributions of outdoor equipment for program instruction by Bass Pro Shops and Cabela’s were very welcome.” In addition, Johnson noted that nearly 90% of campers’ tuitions were funded by local and regional sporting clubs and civic organizations.

Much of the MJCC curriculum is a hands-on experience; campers learn how to safely use firearms, archery, fishing, navigation and camping gear. State Hunter Education courses from MassWildlife and a Safe Boating course are taught by the Environmental Police. Shooting certification in several courses is also offered. Fish and wildlife biologists from MassWildlife and forestry professionals from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) provide instruction in wildlife, forestry, and fisheries management. Fishing, hiking, outdoor cooking, navigating with GPS and compass, and survival skills are provided by experienced outdoor instructors. Evening programs with naturalists and other conservationists round out the program.

Interested in becoming a camper, sponsoring a camper, working as camp staff? Learn more by visiting www.juniorconservationcamp.org or the Camp Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Mass-Junior-Conservation-Camp-537591036286089/>. To reach camp directly, email MAJuniorCamp@gmail.com or call 508-450-5120. The MJCC Board welcomes support for the Conservation Camp through tax-deductible donations.

At the Massachusetts Junior Conservation Camp...

“Every day gets better and better!”