

Session Summaries - Friday

10:45–11:10

EKG Patterns to Create Camouflage

Joel Williams- Fallon, NV

Learn what is involved in running a company that designs and sells camouflage clothing. Founder of Wonrate Gear, which is a local Nevada company, Joel got the idea for the ground-breaking pattern after watching his daughter's EKG machine in the hospital. Using his daughter's EKG line overlaid upon itself created an effective pattern that is unique and meaningful.

The Life of an Animal Vet

Dr. Dennis Wilson - Reno, NV

Sit in to learn how veterinary medicine can be combined with wildlife conservation as Dr. Wilson tells stories of helping animals and also gives pointers on becoming a veterinarian. Past president of Nevada Bighorns Unlimited (NBU), Dr. Wilson is a native to the community, graduating from Carson High, attending UNR and currently focused on emergency veterinary medicine as the hospital administrator of the Animal Emergency Center in Reno.

The Workings Inside a Wildlife Refuge

Nicole Ballard- Corvallis, MT

Come listen to the Education Program Manager for the Teller Wildlife Refuge in Montana, as she discusses the jobs within her organization. A unique, non-profit organization, with the primary area of responsibility involving restoring, enhancing and managing Teller's diverse acreage, while at the same time developing and expanding their conservation education program.

11:15-11:40

Creating Alliances Between Businesses and Individuals for Conservation

Jared Frasier – Manhattan, MT

Executive Director of 2% for Conservation, Jared is with a nonprofit organization who certifies businesses and individuals who give at least 1% of their time and 1% of their money for wildlife conservation. Learn how anyone, including kids, can become "True Conservationists" by turning your passion for wildlife into action.

Inspiring Kids in Outdoor Education

Alyssa Wagner- Reno, NV

A former classroom science teacher, Alyssa loves sharing her passion for nature and conservation with students across northern Nevada. Come learn from the Nevada Program Director for the nonprofit Sierra Nevada Journeys about the many jobs within the outdoor education community. Visit this session to learn about the range of outdoor education career paths, both as summer / internship jobs or a life-time career.

Bear Dogs and their use in Bear Management

Carl Lackey- Carson City, NV

Learn about how Karelian bear dogs are being used to help manage bears through aversion techniques right outside of Reno. Carl, a bear biologist with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, will entertain with stories about his dogs who have well over 700 combined encounters with bear dogs. Come learn how fearless these dogs are and their roles in wildlife management.

11:45-12:10

Shooting Arrows as a Career

Lystra Pitts – Reno, NV

Join Lystra, the owner of the indoor archery range Wasting Arrows, as he discusses taking an outdoor passion, like archery, and developing a career out of it. This session will discuss how to create a family run business to bring the magic of your passion alive to the community you choose to live in.

Behind the Scenes of the Nevada Department of Wildlife

Jessica Wolff- Reno, NV

Learn about the many jobs and duties of the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), the state agency responsible for the restoration and management of fish and wildlife resources in our state. From helicopter surveys, habitat restoration, stream and reservoir electroshocking, and translocations of animals in the state, this seminar will cover the wide range of jobs within their agency.

Carson Creature Captures

Heather Lackey- Carson City, NV

It takes a specialist to deal with animal related issues involving bobcats, badgers, bats, snakes, fox and other animals. Learn what is involved with nuisance wildlife control as Heather talks about her unique career, as she is dedicated to solving issues associated with the problems that develop when humans coexist in the same habitat as wildlife.

Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience & Career Day

Reno-Sparks Convention Center
Friday, January 14, 2022

Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience & Career Day

January 14, 2022

Reno-Sparks Convention Center - 4590 S. Virginia Street Reno, NV 89502

Schedule of Events

9:45 - 10:40	<p align="center">Welcoming and Official Kickoff Conservation Presentation on Wild Sheep Ryan Brock- Youth Education Coordinator for the Wild Sheep Foundation</p>		
Career Seminars 1 10:45-11:10			
10:45 - 11:10	Room F9	Room Main Room	Room F5
	The Workings Inside a Wildlife Refuge	The Life of an Animal Vet	EKG Patterns to Create Camouflage
Career Seminars 2 11:15-11:40			
11:15 - 11:40	Room F9	Room Main Room	Room F5
	Inspiring Kids in Outdoor Education	Bear Dogs and their use in Bear Management	Creating Alliances Between Businesses and Individuals for Conservation
Career Seminars 3 11:45-12:10			
11:45 - 12:10	Room F9	Room Main Room	Room F5
	Shooting Arrows as a Career	Carson Creature Captures	Behind the Scenes of the Nevada Department of Wildlife
12:10 - 12:40	Lunch and Keynote Speaker – Logan Thomas		
12:40 - 3:00	<p align="center">Afternoon Hands-On Learning Activities *Groups will meet back in main lobby to depart by bus at time specified by teacher</p>		

Keynote Speaker – Logan Thomas

Logan Thomas is this year's recipient of the Wild Sheep Foundation's Life Membership Scholarship. Residing in Texas, he is currently working on a doctorate in veterinary pathobiology at Texas A&M University. Conservation has always been a life choice for him, going back to an Eagle project with Scouts where he led volunteers on a prairie restoration project he planned.

Later on, Logan began working with the Fish and Wildlife Service investigating how different vegetation management tactics impacted songbird abundance. Soon, his research and work moved towards studying invasive vegetations and their impact on songbird survival. Taking this further, he became interested in the Aoudad/Barbary sheep, an invasive wild sheep in Texas.

Currently, he is studying whether Aoudad sheep can spread deadly respiratory diseases to desert bighorn sheep. His research also is focused on the indirect effects that Aoudad sheep have on desert bighorn through competition for sparse food and water sources. Logan's ultimate goal with this project is to help Texas Parks and Wildlife make informed management decisions for re-introducing and maintaining desert bighorn populations despite the challenges that the invasive Aoudad sheep cause.

During his keynote, Logan will discuss his journey in life and how he first got excited about wildlife and conservation. You will be taken along on his journey from his younger years, to college. He will leave you with pointers to be successful in the coming years and college, especially for those interested in careers pertaining to wildlife.

