

October 1, 2012

Attending the American Wilderness School in Jackson Hole Wyoming was one of the best experiences I have had in my life. I was able to participate in everything from camping out under the stars on a mounting top, to researching whether or not the Sage Grouse should be placed on the endangered species list due to drilling on their habitat. The highlight of the week for me was when we got to go white water rafting on the last day! This trip was both educational as well as an adrenal fun packed week.

When I was first told about this trip I was a little nervous, I had no idea what to expect, where we were staying or what exactly what we were doing. Though I had every confidence, SCI wouldn't have sent me on a trip where I was in any danger. Upon arrival I was awestruck by the over whelming beauty Wyoming had to offer. The mountains were incredible, throw in buffalo and elk roaming around to top it off and this was my idea of paradise.

Everything about the camp was wonderful, the food was exceptional, and I met some of the kindest most knowledgeable people you could imagine. If I, or any of the students, didn't understand a topic we were discussing in the classroom they had no problem taking the time to explain exactly what it meant. In addition when at the range or in the field everyone was very respectful of each other's comfort and experience or inexperience level.

This trip left me with unforgettable memories, expanded knowledge of the effects we have on the nature around us, and friendships that I'm sure will last a lifetime. I never would have had this opportunity if it wasn't for the dedication Safari Club International has toward their youth programs. Supporting youth in the knowledge of wildlife conservation is supporting wildlife conservation for a better, more secure future. Thank you Adirondack Catskill Chapter SCI for giving me, and other well deserving youth this incredible experience!

Sincerely,

Rachel Trojan

Adirondack-Catskill SCI Young Hunter Award Recipient