

In June of 2018, I was sponsored by the Adirondack-Catskill Chapter of SCI to attend the American Wilderness Leadership Camp in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. As a young outdoorsman who has never had the opportunity to see the West, this was an incredible experience. For a week, 14 other students and I stayed at the cabin and spent our days learning in both the classroom and outdoors. In the classroom, we spent a lot of time learning about advocating for political support of hunting and environmental protection. We learned about the importance of increasing the population of hunters through youth programs, and how keeping hunting alive as an important sport across the United States is needed to enforce conservation and protect wildlife.



After spending time in the classroom, we spent hours learning further outdoor activities and spent time exploring the incredible wilderness of Jackson Hole. We learned how to tie flies and cast, practiced archery and trap shooting, went white water rafting down the Snake River, and hiked through the mountains while identifying the indigenous species of Jackson. We spent nights by the campfire discussing the importance of the Second Amendment and how to influence the advocacy of conservation in government, and were up every morning at sunrise to learn more. After a long week of learning and experiencing, I can say that the American Wilderness Leadership Camp heavily influenced my knowledge of conservation and the outdoors.

Through the efforts of the Adirondack-Catskill Chapter of SCI, along with others across the country, people across the United States are able to experience this opportunity and learn about how important it is to advocate for change and continue to support hunting, fishing, and outdoor efforts while being immersed in the pristine western outdoors. The AWLS changed my perspective on the outdoors and enabled me, and others, to support movements for youth education and pro-hunting government policy.

I would like to thank the Adirondack-Catskill Chapter of SCI and its members for providing me this opportunity because of how the AWLS has influenced my view towards conservation and change. Thank you for all of your support in promoting youth education and preserving the great American outdoors for the next generation and generations to come.

Cormac McIntosh