

Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen & Conservationists

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On the Front Lines – So You Can Be in the Woods, On the Water or At the Range!

Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation

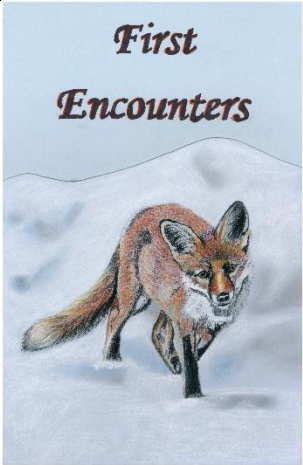
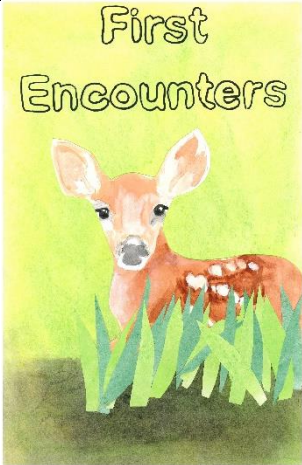
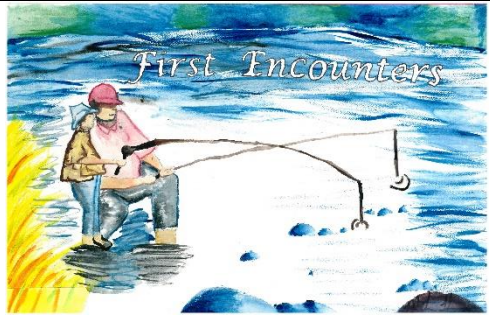
"Conservation is our obligation to the future of Pennsylvania"



"First Encounters" 2019 Poster & Photo Contest Winners

Senior Division Poster Contest Winners

(Grades 10-12)

1st Place Adric Howell Potter County	2nd Place Aundry Morgan Potter County	3rd Place Melissa Lehman Potter County
 <p>Red foxes are carnivores belonging to the family "Canidae" are found in Pennsylvania. This family also includes the coyote, wolf and dog. Red foxes are a predator who relies on incredible senses of hearing, sight and smell to capture their prey. The red fox's fur is a reddish-orange with black ears and legs and has a long bushy tail. They weigh 8 to 12 pounds. They are swift runners and are able to swim. They are nocturnal and feed upon mice, rabbits, groundhogs, opossums, insects, chickens, domestic cats, squirrels, game and song birds, fruits and grasses.</p> <p>I first observed a red fox in my backyard. I watched it for ten minutes until it disappeared into the woods. It was a beautiful animal. The fox's red coat was amazing. Seeing this red fox sparked an interest concerning wildlife in Pennsylvania. I am so lucky to live in Potter County, a rural area where I can see wildlife frequently.</p>	 <p>The very first time I encountered a fawn whitetail was when I was going on a hunting trip with my father. It was about seven years ago while we were hunting. I saw it in the bushes and I just stared at it and it stared at me. When I walked towards it, it ran away from me. That was my first encounter with a deer outdoors.</p>	 <p>My first encounter with the outdoors was fishing with my dad. He taught me how to fish when I could just barely hold onto a fishing pole. We would drive to my uncle's pond and fish with him and his lab Harley, who would always take our lines and our fish out of the water because she thought she was helping us. She loved swimming. Some of my favorite memories were at the bank of that pond. That's where I caught my first fish, so the place will always be special to me. The summer before I turned 10, my dad taught me how to bait a hook. When I was old enough, he took me to the local fishing derby every year until I was too old to enter. A few years ago, my uncle passed away and we took ownership of Harley. Every summer, I take her to the pond with my dad and watch her swim while we try to fish, and she still takes out our lines. Fishing with my dad will always be my favorite thing to do with him and it will always be my favorite first encounter.</p>

Junior Division Poster Contest Winners
(Grades 7-9)

<p style="text-align: center;">1st Place Apryl Outman Potter County</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2nd Place Marissa Lunn Lawrence County</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3rd Place Kayla Young Lawrence County</p>
<div data-bbox="121 365 602 669" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>The only mammal to fly is a bat. They eat insects. The little brown bat is found throughout the state of Pennsylvania. These bats usually roost in the day time and come out at night to feed. They eat bugs, moths, flies, beetles, and mosquitoes. My first encounter with a bat was when I was walking to my barn in the evening. A bat started to fly around me. At first I jumped. Then I watched it. The bat became my favorite. I learned that they aren't that scary.</p>	<div data-bbox="646 365 1005 915" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>A father and son are going hunting in a cornfield, heading towards a forest in the distance. The son was very excited to go hunting for the first time. He had taken the Hunter's Safety Course earlier and couldn't wait to go with his father for the first day of buck.</p>	<div data-bbox="1060 365 1516 655" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>This poster is of me releasing a Monarch Butterfly for the first time. Every year, from the time I was six, my mother would purchase a kit of Monarch caterpillars, an enclosure and food for them. With this kit, I was able to raise Monarchs from small caterpillars until release. This was a wonderful experience that taught me a lot about the Monarch life cycle. I am very glad to have had this experience and will continue to do it for years to come.</p>


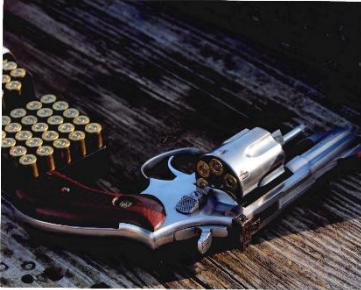

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Sub-Junior Division Poster Contest Winners
(Grades 4-6)

<p style="text-align: center;">1st Place Paige Hamilton Potter County</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2nd Place Brianna Bailey Cambria County</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3rd Place Alaina Bearer Cambria County</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">First Encounters</p>  <p>I live in Genesee, Pennsylvania, in Potter County. I ride the bus to Northern Potter School District every day. On a Genesee river tributary, I noticed a dome shaped stick pile. I became very interested in watching it as I passed by. I would look for it each day. I knew it was a beaver's house. One day, I saw my first beaver swimming. Only its head was popped out of the water. After some research I learned that the dome shaped house was called a lodge. I also learned that they chew trees to build with. I continued to observe the beaver lodge. I am very happy the land owner didn't get rid of the beavers. The beavers even had kits. This was really fantastic to see. I will continue to watch the beavers.</p>	 <p>I had my first encounter with this butterfly when I was five. I was at a birthday party. We were swimming when it landed in the flower bed. I was the first to see it. My friends and I were very interested in it. We were so excited; we ran up to it. As it flew away you could see all of the warm tones it had. This was my first encounter. To this day, I love Monarchs.</p>	 <p>My fox is in the wild, near the border of New York. My sister lives in New York, so that's when I saw my first fox. It was a reddish orange color. My dad said that foxes are very rare around this area, and that if you see one your day will be special. My mom was driving the car and said, "Look at the fox." At first I couldn't see the fox, but then I spotted the fox. It was the most beautiful thing I have ever seen in my life. Even though my favorite animal is a rat, my second favorite animal is a fox. I can't wait to see my next fox. This time I want my second sighting to be right in front of my house. This was my first encounter with a red fox.</p>

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Senior Division Photo Contest Winners
(Grades 10-12)

<p style="text-align: center;">1st Place Aaron Lehman Potter County</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2nd Place Kendall Waterfield Lawrence County</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3rd Place Courtney Fox Potter County</p>
 <p>One of my "First Encounters" that opened the door to my interest in Pennsylvania wildlife and conservation was our land. I live on a 600-acre dairy farm in the wilds of Potter County. Not only has the land provided nourishment for our domestic animals, but also for game animals. white cottontail rabbits, white-tailed deer, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, squirrels, the American woodcock, ring-necked pheasants, groundhogs and even black bears have existed on our farm land. I have hunted since I was twelve and I never had to leave my farm for lack of game. I have observed these and many other animals, such as predators including the grey fox, red fox, the eastern coyote and numerous birds such as the hawks, throughout all the seasons of the year. The American Bald Eagle is now also making our farm their home. It is one of the most beautiful birds I have ever seen. I appreciate our farm and I am thankful for growing up and living on it in Potter County.</p>	 <p>Growing up, I was always outside with my dad and grandfather. They always took me shooting at Castlewood. There, I shot everything from a bolt action .22 rifle to the Taurus .357 shown here. This means a lot to me, because I now shoot competitively with the USPSA.</p>	 <p>One of my multiple encounters of nature was with my father at the Genesee River, in Potter County. There is a local fishing hole about 2 miles from my house. As a small child, my dad would take me fishing and swimming along the banks of what we call "The Trestle"-an old railroad bridge. My interest in nature began to develop as my dad taught me how to fish. We caught trout for dinner in the summertime.</p>


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Junior Division Photo Contest Winners
(Grades 7-9)

<p style="text-align: center;">1st Place Maya Carl Lancaster County</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2nd Place Lana Dyer Lancaster County</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3rd Place Apryl Outman Potter County</p>
<div data-bbox="168 415 602 762" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="121 814 592 1392">It began on a cool crisp day in late September. My family and I had a free weekend. My sister and I had never visited Muddy Run Park and our family does not usually spend much time outdoors. We decided to spend the day hiking the trails in Muddy Run and enjoying each other's company. My mother, father, sister, and I were enjoying a peaceful walk when we happened upon an unlikely friend. A praying mantis, soaking up the sun, on an out reaching branch. The picture perfect mantis was the highlight of our day. I had never seen the outdoors in such a naturally beautiful way. Visiting Muddy Run showed me that nature can really become a part of your heart if you just get close enough to let it in.</p>	<div data-bbox="641 415 1086 762" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="630 814 1091 1455">I took this photo in March of 2018, at the 5 Senses Garden in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. This is a picture of a winter tree beginning to awaken from the cold season. Spring time had arrived, as you can see in this photo. There are new buds on this tree and the angle of the camera helps make the sun emphasize this new growth. I love the beauty and simplicity that nature can have and this is one example of it. The new growth and the shining sun are two parts of nature that got me hooked on the outdoors. Whenever you take a walk on a path, you can always see this simple example of nature's uniqueness and considering that my family and I go hiking a lot, this was definitely one of my first encounters that got me hooked on the outdoors.</p>	<div data-bbox="1143 415 1503 884" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="1117 909 1528 1455">One day my nephew Tristan, went hunting with my brothers and my dad for the first time. He was in a tree stand and saw a doe." She looks nice. She's mine. I'm going to get that doe," said Tristan. He shot her that afternoon. At first, he didn't know if he got her because she ran. He found her while they were walking. He looked at my brothers and dad and said, "I got her, I got my first doe! I'm so happy." They came home and he helped cut the meat up and he said can't wait until next year. This was my little nephew's first encounter with deer hunting in Potter County, Pennsylvania.</p>

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Sub-Junior Division Photo Contest Winners
(Grades 4-6)

1st Place Paige Hamilton Potter County	2nd Place	3rd Place
<div data-bbox="126 344 673 764"></div> <p data-bbox="126 793 673 1352">I live in Genesee, Pennsylvania, in Potter County. I ride the bus to Northern Potter School District every day. On a Genesee river tributary, I noticed a dome shaped stick pile. I became very interested in watching it as I passed by. I would look for it each day. I knew it was a beaver's house. One day, I saw my first beaver swimming. Only its head was popped out of the water. After some research, I learned that the dome shaped house was called a lodge. I also learned that they chew trees to build with. I continued to observe the beaver lodge. I am very happy the land owner didn't get rid of the beavers. The beavers even had kits. This was really fantastic to see. I will continue to watch the beavers.</p>		