
2021

YEAR END REPORT

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization



IOWA YOUTH FISHING LEAGUE



OUR MISSION

To support youth fishing among Iowans through educational programs, mentoring and competition, so that Iowa youth develop leadership skills and become stewards of our natural resources.

BUILDING PROGRAMMING

ACHIEVING GOALS

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

2021 brought another year of creating opportunities for the youth of Iowa through our nonprofit organization. Much like 2020, we were still operating in a pandemic while trying to expand our programming. With the help of local and national sponsors, it is safe to say that 2021 was another successful year.

In 2021, we watched our programming grow to impact over 75 Iowa youth anglers pursuing their passion for fishing and the outdoors. This year our anglers participated in 12 educational events, several community events and 12 tournaments. Our anglers experienced new programming and opportunities in partnership with our sponsors and Board of Directors.

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

2021 WAS A GREAT YEAR!

Let us simply begin with a thank you! This organization would not be possible without the people in our organization, our participants, and our many supporters and sponsors. Thank you for helping to make our mission a reality.

The 2021 season gave us an opportunity to serve more community members and youth anglers throughout the entire state. We also welcomed new sponsors and partners who believe in the mission as strongly as we do. We have truly loved watching our fishing community grow into a family. Over the past year, we watched our organization double in size and serve a dozen new communities.

We want to take a moment to thank your families. You are equally as dedicated as your anglers. You get them to the boat ramp before the crack of dawn and are cheering them on each and every tournament. This sport is not a cheap one by any means and it is incredibly time consuming. We are so grateful to have you as part of our programming. Thank you for sharing your anglers with us.

We are humbled by the support. We are humbled by the camaraderie. We are humbled by the mission. We are looking forward to an even better 2022.

With gratitude-

Justin & Emily Lewis



Class of 2022 anglers at their last State Championship

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

January 2021

The Board of Directors welcomes Chief Jim Clark to the board.

March 2021

The IYFL junior division pool tripled in enrollment.

February 2021

High school anglers Dylan and Tyler were named to the Bassmaster High School's All-State Fishing Team for Iowa.



April 2021

IYFL Anglers participated in the Great Global Clean Up!



May 2021

2021 Tournament Trail begins

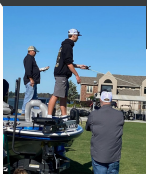


June 2021

In partnership with the IKE Foundation, IYFL anglers gave away over 60 tackle boxes in their local communities.

October 2021

Tournament trail ends. High School anglers Dylan and Tyler attended the first ever Abu Garcia Bassmaster High School Combine.



September 2021

The IYFL makes it's second appearance at the Iowa B.A.S.S. Nation Junior and High School State Championship with some amazing state championship partners.

HS Team Evan and Keethan placed 6th.

JR angler Auggie took JR Big Bass.

December 2021

HS Angler Kolby A - 2021 Angler of the Year



2021 ANGLER OF THE YEAR

KOLBY A. HIGH SCHOOL ANGLER

The Board of Directors is proud to present Kolby as the 2021 Angler of the Year!

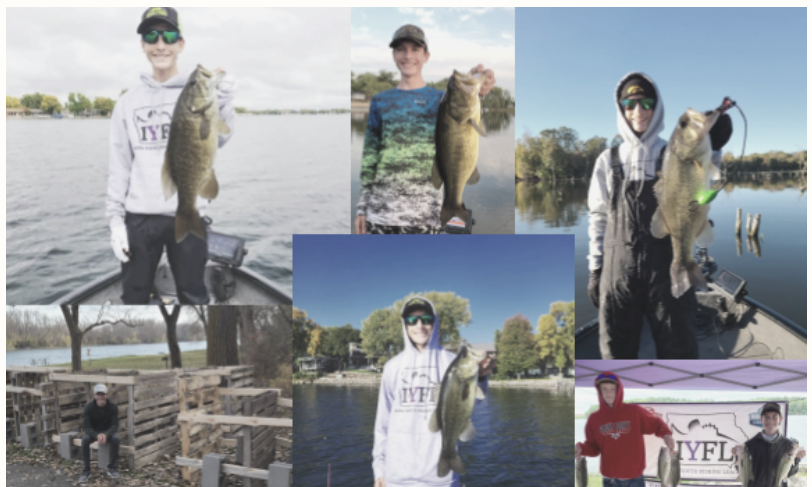
In our second season, we are proud to award the Angler of the Year trophy as a top honor for our competitors. This award is not only honored by tournament wins, but for participation in our monthly educational events, community events, and volunteer opportunities.

Our 2021 Angler of the Year had an outstanding season on and off the water. On the water, Kolby had an impressive four first place finishes and five other tournaments placing in the top five. He bagged the big bass at the Three Mile Tournament. Kolby's first place finish at Okoboji with his partner Keethan landed them with a total weight of 42.47 pounds.

What is equally as impressive is Kolby's dedication to fishing and conservation off the water. Kolby didn't miss a single community or educational event this season. His dedication to promoting the mission and to continue to grow his skills and knowledge as an angler were evident to all. Kolby took the time to turn his "Conservation Think Tank" idea into a reality at his local lake. Kolby and his family partnered with the DNR at BlackHawk Lake to create fish structures using pallets and cinder blocks. Kolby also takes time to volunteer inside the organization creating materials that can be shared with fellow anglers and new families.

Congratulations!

**We are proud to have you
representing the Iowa Youth
Fishing League!**



BUILDING PROGRAMMING

2021 allowed the Iowa Youth Fishing League to continue to build quality programming opportunities.

Due to the generosity of our sponsors we were able to provide our virtual education pathway at no cost to participants. Anglers registered and received an event directly to their inbox. Our education pathway also partnered with The Ike Foundation to distribute over 60 tackle boxes to local youth.

In our tournament pathways, we were fortunate to offer a new pathway where anglers could pay a lower membership fee and then pay a tournament fee. This allowed new anglers to try tournament fishing and open access to those wanting to try it out or who participate in other programs, activities, or sports. Our tournament anglers also had a larger tournament trail with the opportunity to participate in two-day tournaments.

ACHIEVING GOALS

In 2021, the Iowa Youth Fishing League was able to:

- Continue to foster an environment to create learning opportunities for our anglers to become stewards of our natural resources
- Implement new pathway options to provide wider access
- Create partnerships with collegiate fishing programs and community organizations to provide more opportunities for participants

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES:

The IYFL worked to ensure that we were maximizing opportunities for the youth anglers in our programming. This included providing more options for educational, conservation, and tournament access. This included seeking out new partnerships with companies to provide the most authentic angling experiences.

For the first time, our anglers were nominated for the Bassmaster High School All-American, as well as, offered the opportunity to fish in the first every Bassmaster High School Combine. The Iowa Youth Fishing League is proud to hold both of Iowa's anglers for the Bassmaster All-State Fishing Team.

In 2021, we were also able to secure a title sponsor for our tournament trail through 2024! We were proud to continue and grow our partnership with Barracuda Fish Cleaning Stations.

This season also marked our first year of welcoming State Championship Partners to support our State Fishing Team of 20 anglers. We partnered with SportsPlex West to provide t-shirts for our anglers, boaters, and families in attendance. KwikTrip/KwikStar, Bass Pro Shops, and Scheels-Des Moines helped to provide funds to purchase baits for anglers. Bruiser Baits-Bass Addiction-Flat Out Tungsten, provided soft plastic baits. J.Lewis Fishing provided custom, hand painted swim jigs for our anglers. These swag bags were top notch and were given to each angler and volunteer boaters.

SPONSORS



Crop Science



thank
you



SHIMANO



VOLUNTEERS

THANK YOU!

We are beyond grateful for your support of the Iowa Youth Fishing League.

Our mission of providing opportunities for youth anglers in Iowa would not be possible without our amazing group of volunteers. Our organization runs largely on volunteer support.

To our boaters, thank you for taking time out of your weekends, offering up your time and coaching abilities, and your boats for our youth anglers. Your dedication to our program has increased participant's ability to pursue their passion to tournament fish.

To our Board of Directors, thank you for keeping the mission in the forefront and paving the way for youth anglers in Iowa to pursue their passions beyond our programs. Your vision keeps the ideas fresh and the opportunities limitless. Your time is greatly appreciated.

Volunteering is at the very core of being a human. No one has made it through life without someone else's help.

Heather French Henry

2022

GOALS



- Continue to foster and support an environment to create in-person learning opportunities for our anglers to increase their skill sets
- Provide opportunities for our anglers to give back to their fishing communities to become stewards of our natural resources
- Create a kayak series statewide
- Seek out companies to provide scholarships for anglers
- Continue to build partnerships with collegiate fishing programs and community organizations to provide more opportunities for participants

BUILDING PROGRAMMING

ACHIEVING GOALS

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES



@IowaYFL



(515) 468 - 2025



info@iyfl.org

Board of Directors:

Justin Lewis
Emily Lewis
Craig Ver Huel
Jim Clark
Steve Smith