

20
25



Annual Report



IOWA YOUTH FISHING LEAGUE

Presented By:
Executive
Board of
Directors

Justin Lewis
Emily Lewis
Steve Nore
Craig Ver Huel
Jim Clark
Steve Smith



A Note from the Executive Directors

We begin this year with hearts full of gratitude for the extraordinary community that makes the Iowa Youth Fishing League possible. To our dedicated families, passionate anglers, committed volunteers, and steadfast board members, thank you. Your belief in our mission and your countless hours of support transform what we do from a program into a family.

When we started this organization, we had no idea how much it would mean to us. Watching young anglers grow, build confidence, and chase their dreams has been beyond anything we imagined. It's all because of this community. The 2025 season blew us away. We watched our anglers reach heights we're still celebrating. Almost every organizational record in our history was broken, a testament to the talent, determination, and growth of these remarkable young anglers. But what filled us with the most pride wasn't just the records; it was witnessing our anglers commit to continuing their fishing journey at the collegiate level. Watching their dreams take shape and knowing we played a small part in their path forward is the greatest reward we could ask for.

We cheered on our anglers at the Bassmaster and The Bass Federation High School National Championships, plus The Bass Federation Junior World Championship. Watching our teams compete on these national stages reminded us what this is all about, young people doing what they love and representing our league with incredible skill and sportsmanship.

To our families, we see the early mornings, the long drives, and the unwavering support you give. Thank you for trusting us with your anglers and for being the backbone of everything we accomplish. We're honored to be part of your families' journeys.

To our volunteers and board members, your time and dedication make all of this possible. Thank you for believing in these young anglers and investing in their futures.

As we look ahead to another season, we're filled with excitement and gratitude. Thank you for being part of this journey with us.

With sincere appreciation,

Justin & Emily Lewis



Our Foundation

About Us

The Iowa Youth Fishing League was founded in December 2019 out of a genuine desire to give Iowa's young anglers the same competitive fishing opportunities that youth in southern states have enjoyed for years. Justin and Emily Lewis started this organization with one heartfelt goal that would make these experiences accessible to all youth anglers across Iowa. The goal was this:

To inspire and support anglers and their families as they pursue their passion for fishing, competitive tournament angling, and conservation. We take great pride in fostering a community where young anglers can grow, learn, and make lasting memories on the water.

Our Mission

The mission of the Iowa Youth Fishing League was created by our founding board members. Our mission is 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.



Yearly Goals

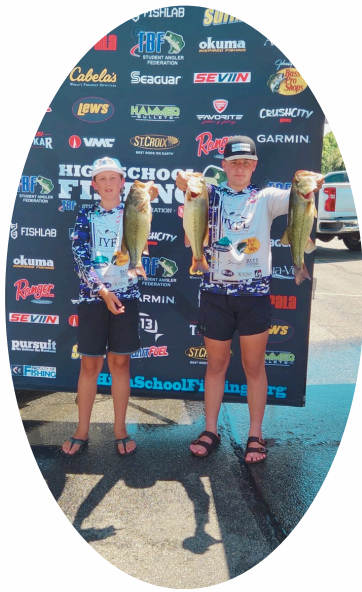
Building Programming
Achieving Goals
Creating Opportunities



Building Programming The 2025 season delivered high-quality fishing and conservation programming for Iowa's youth. Our education pathway expanded with virtual learning opportunities, and anglers participated in The Great Global Cleanup. Tournament records fell at Okoboji in July, including a season big bag of 26.85 pounds. We welcomed several new fishing families spanning 30 counties and 42 school districts.

Achieving Goals Our anglers hit the national stage again in 2025. IYFL won The Bass Federation State Championship at Okoboji in both the high school and junior divisions. Anglers competed at the Bassmaster High School National Championship, The Bass Federation High School National Championship and World Finals, and The Bass Federation Junior World Championship. Teams also traveled to Major League Fishing and Bassmaster High School Opens, proving they belong among the best. Most exciting of all, seniors Grant, Lincoln and Marshall will be fishing at the collegiate level. Grant has committed to continue his fishing career at Wabash Valley College, Lincoln will commit to Kentucky Christian University and Marshall will be fishing at the University of Northern Iowa.

Creating Opportunities Thanks to our incredible sponsors and partners, 2025 opened new doors for our anglers. Multiple teams competed in national events, attended the Bassmaster High School Combine, and teams earned spots at National Championships. Throughout the season, anglers weighed in fish at ten tournaments totaling 1990.07 pounds, showcasing the incredible talent and dedication within our organization. Anglers traveled to two new bodies of water this season.



2025 Highlights

IYFL Angler Big Moments of the Year

January - Our 5th season of operation began

February - Pursued alignment to The Bass Federation as our primary organization

March - 2025 Season Kick-Off Meeting, Swap Meet and Casting Clinic

April - Iowa The Bass Federation (TBF) State Championship at Okoboji Chain of Lakes - Three teams qualified for their divisions' national championship

First Place (High School) - Evan and Grant - 5 fish, 26.31 pounds, Big Bass 6.55 pounds

First Place (Junior) - Lane and Brayden - 5 fish, 17.22 pounds, Big Bass 6.70 pounds

Fourth Place - Grady and Collin - 5 fish, 16.63 pounds

May - 2025 tournament season presented by Barracuda Fish Cleaning Stations began at Green Valley Lake and eight seniors graduated.

June - Three high school teams (Evan & Grant, Collin & Grady, Kaden & Max) traveled to Grand Lake in Grove, Oklahoma to compete in the 16th High School Fishing World Finals & National Championship.

World Finals - 23rd Place - Kaden & Max

Semifinals - 27th Place - Grady & Collin

Second Chance Round - 37th Place - Grant & Evan

July - Season Big Bag and Big Bass were set by junior division team Lane and Brayden. Their five-fish limit of 26.85 pounds set and IYFL record. Season big bass was a 5.83 pound bass caught by Lane. Lane and Brayden also traveled to South Dakota to compete at The Bass Federation Junior World Championship, where they placed 19th. High School anglers, Evan and Grant traveled to Georgia for the Bassmaster High School National Championship where they placed 73rd.

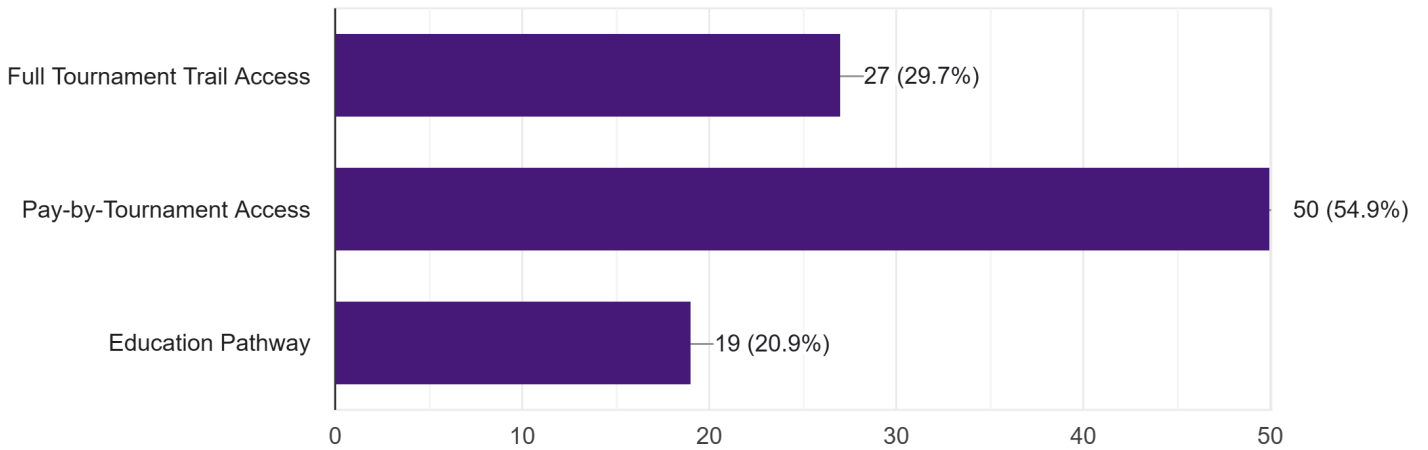
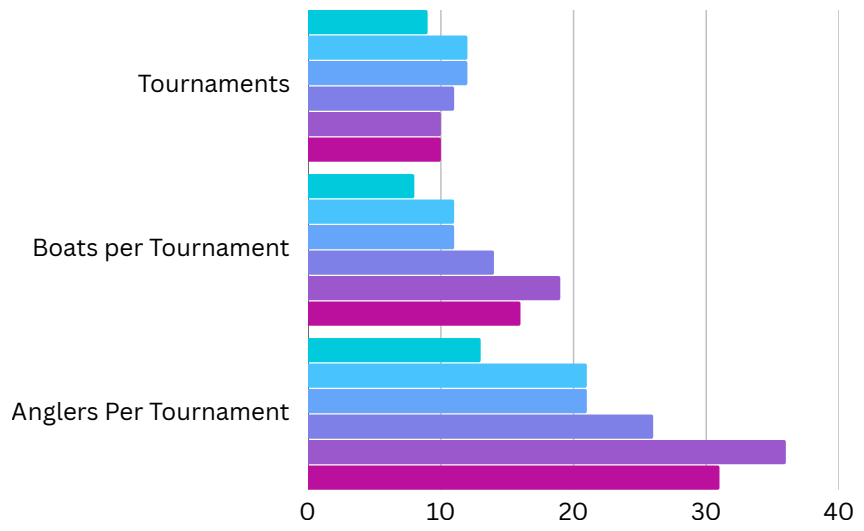
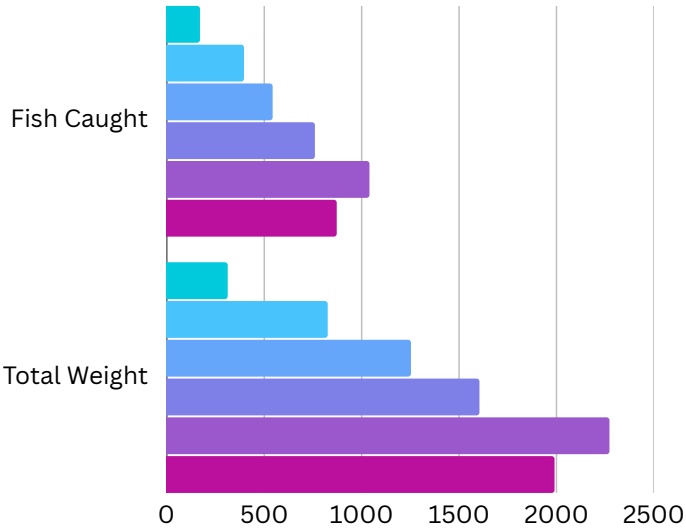
September - Iowa B.A.S.S. Nation State Championship in Clinton, Iowa on the Mississippi River

October - Hosted the annual Major League Fishing Catch-Weigh-Release tournament at the Okoboji Chain of Lakes. We welcomed back two alumni teams to the event.

December - College signing day for Grant - Wabash Valley College

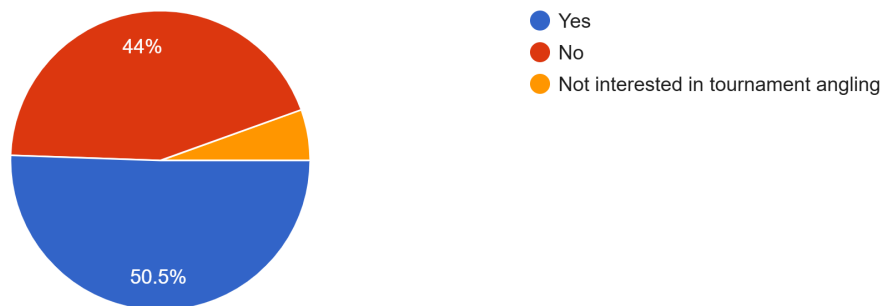


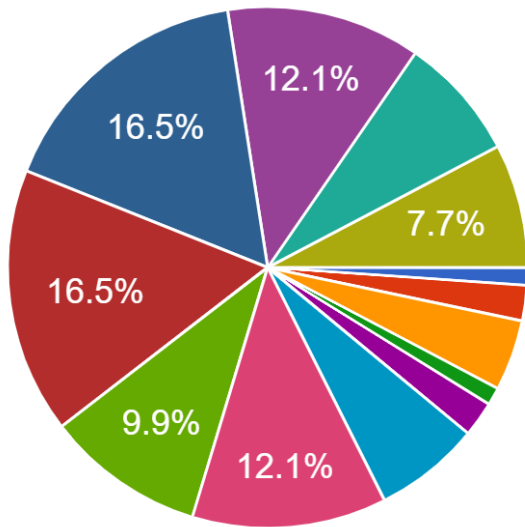
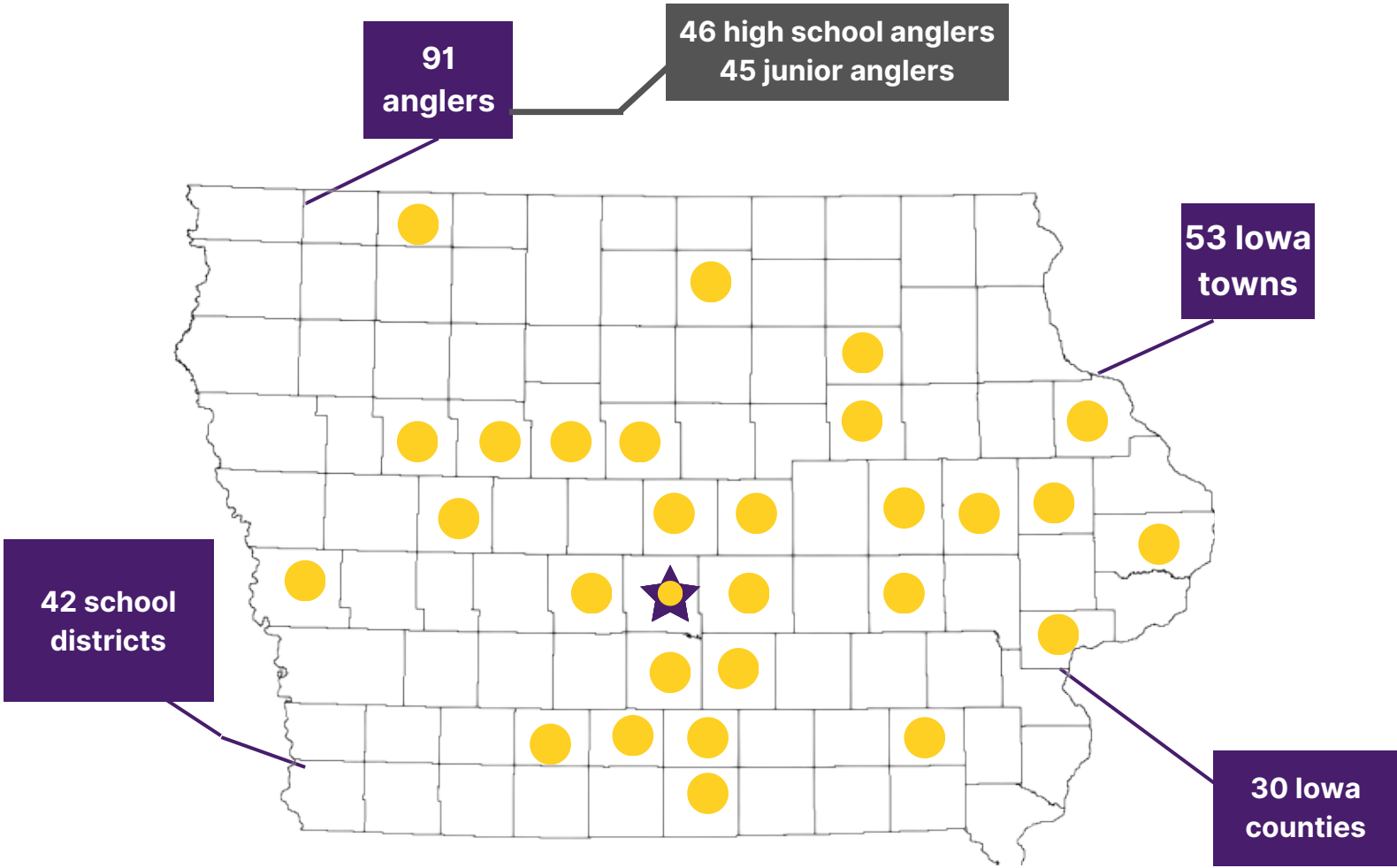
By the Numbers



If interested in tournament angling, do you have access to a boat for competition?

91 responses





- Kindergarten
- 8th
- 1st
- Freshman
- 2nd
- Sophomore
- 3rd
- Junior
- 4th
- Senior
- 5th
- 6th
- 7th



Giving Back

Taking part in our communities

The Iowa Youth Fishing League demonstrated exceptional dedication to their communities in the 2025 season. Our anglers gave back approximately 137 recorded volunteer hours to their fishing communities and beyond. Their commitment to service showcases the heart of our mission. It shares their passion for the outdoors, leadership, and drive to make a difference across our great state.

These anglers volunteered their time at summer camps, community health events, local classrooms, adult tournaments, and community fishing events which meant sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm to inspire others. Their impact extended even further within the Iowa Youth Fishing League, where they played a vital role in tournament operations and the planning of educational events, fundraisers and conservation events throughout the season.

Their efforts have gone far beyond competition. They are the ambassadors for the sport, stewards of conservation, and leaders in their communities. We could not be prouder of their commitment and the work they have done to create a lasting impact they will continue to make.

2026 Goals

Our goals are rooted in four key principles: providing equitable access to Iowa youth through multiple pathways, creating a learning environment that empowers anglers to be stewards of our natural resources, partnering with companies and individuals to provide scholarships and opportunities, and building lasting partnerships with collegiate fishing programs and community organizations to expand experiences beyond our tournament trail.



Our Sponsors

Thank you to our sponsors that continue to support our mission and make these opportunities a reality for our youth anglers and their families.



Community Support

Friends of the IYFL - 2025 Fundraiser

The Friends of the IYFL Fundraising Campaign takes place every November and December as part of the Season of Giving. This annual campaign directly supports angler programming, scholarships, and expanded opportunities for fishing and conservation within our communities. Every contribution makes a meaningful impact, helping us provide high-quality experiences for young anglers.

Donations are tax-deductible and recognized through social media, our website, and various events throughout the season.



State Championship Partners

Each season, anglers travel to two state championships hosted by Iowa B.A.S.S. Nation Youth and The Bass Federation Youth. They compete against anglers from clubs across the state to punch their ticket to a national championship. We are incredibly grateful for the continued support and commitment of our state partners who help make this event even more special for our anglers. Thanks to their generosity we are able to provide swag bags for our team and boat captains participating in these tournaments.

BOB'S CARES

Making a difference for over 25 years





Contact Us:



Phone Number:
515-468-2025



Website:
iyfl.org



Email Address:
info@iyfl.org

SPONSORSHIP TIERS



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.

\$5,000

- title sponsor of pathway or events
- largest feature on website with link to your website
- social media recognition
- largest logo placement on jersey
- prominent logo placement on signage

\$2,500

- larger feature on website with link to your website
- social media recognition
- sponsorship of a monthly event
- larger logo placement on jersey
- prominent logo placement on signage

\$1,500

- featured on website
- social media recognition
- sponsorship of a monthly event
- small logo placement on jersey
- logo placement on signage

\$500

- featured on website
- social media recognition
- sponsorship of a monthly event

\$100

- featured on website
- featured on Friends of the IYFL signage

● Contributor
 ● Supporter
 ● Partner
 ● Leader
 ● Champion