

WILDLIFE
LEADERSHIP
ACADEMY

STEPPING STONES PROGRAM - VISUAL REPORT



A PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

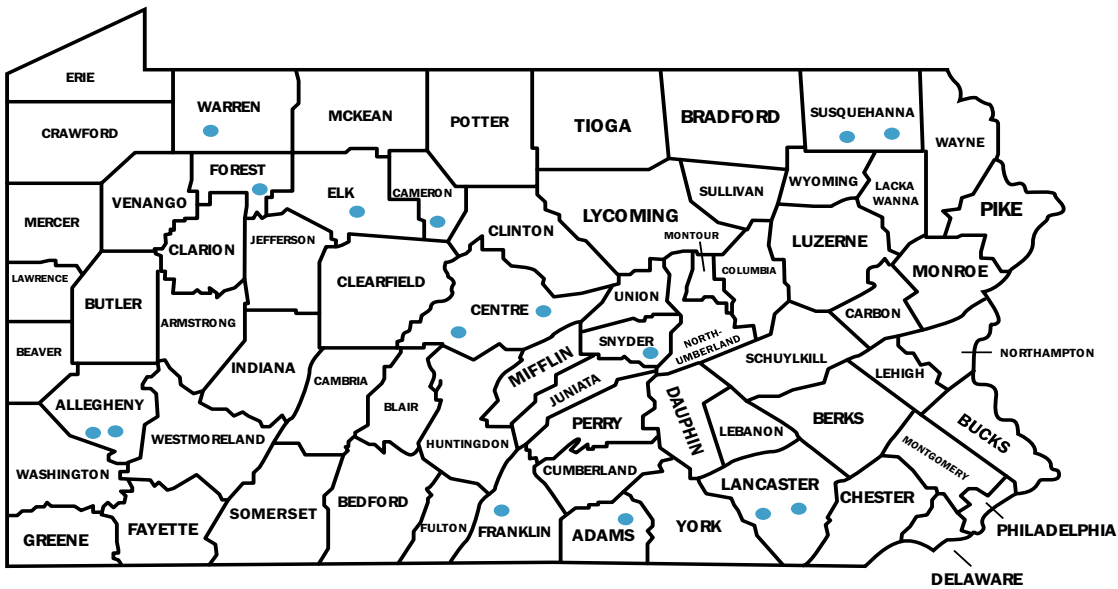
In partnership with the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Association, the Stepping Stones Program used fly fishing as a recreational pathway for students to learn about fisheries biology, conservation, and leadership skills development.

On Friday night, the students got acquainted with their peers through team building activities and learned about the history of fly fishing.

On Saturday, students spent the morning learning how to use a dichotomous key and assessing stream health through a macroinvertebrate survey. They then learned how anglers replicate macroinvertebrates while tying their flies in hopes of attracting fish to bite! Each student was provided a fly tying kit and guidance from mentors on how to tie their own flies. Afterwards, everyone headed outside for a casting lesson to learn fly fishing techniques. They spent plenty of time casting their lines in the stream, and some were lucky enough to catch fish!

On Sunday, students showcased what they learned to their families and received outreach training to prepare them to return to their home communities as Conservation Advocates!

We are thrilled to celebrate our first class of Conservation Advocates from 11 counties across the state. A special thank you to the members of the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Association, PA Council of Trout Unlimited, R.B. Winter Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited who served as our instructors and fishing mentors for the program.



● 2024 Conservation Advocates

OUR SUPPORTERS



OUTDOOR FUND



THE GRABLE FOUNDATION

Safari Club International - Pittsburgh Chapter

STEPPING STONES PROGRAM

FLY FISHING

MAY 10-12, 2024

Krislund Camp & Conference Center (Centre County)



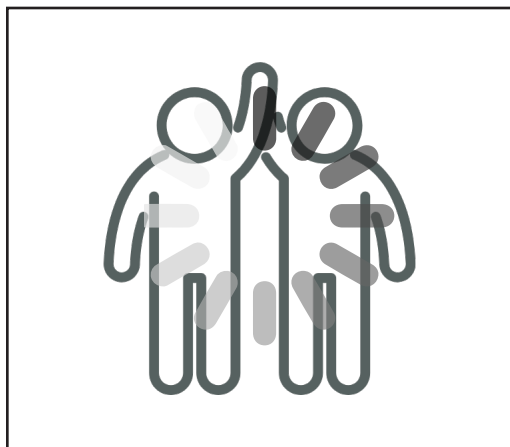
CONSERVATION ADVOCATE OUTREACH LOADING

Using their knowledge and leadership skills to give back to their communities.

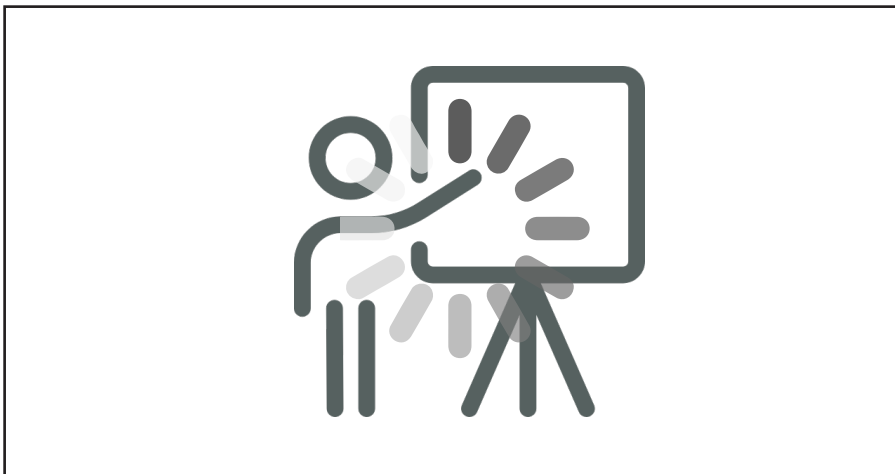
Using what they've learned in the classroom and the field, Conservation Advocates are currently following through with their outreach in their home communities in the areas of education, media engagement, creative arts and outdoor mentorship! Outreach recordbooks are due back to the Academy on November 15th! Stay tuned!



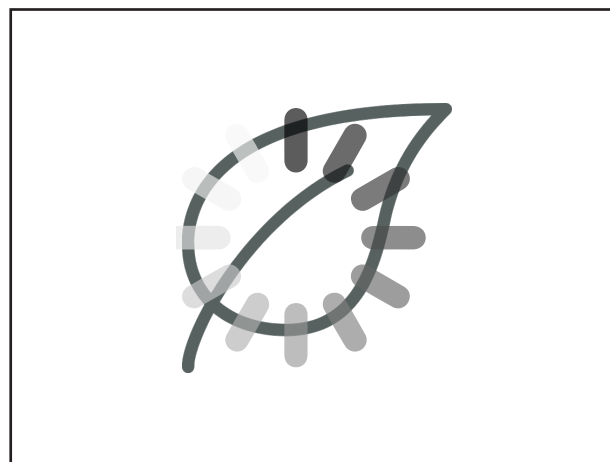
Examples of media projects include original written articles, interviews about their Academy experience, being a NextGen blog correspondant, or submitting pictures for Photo Friday.



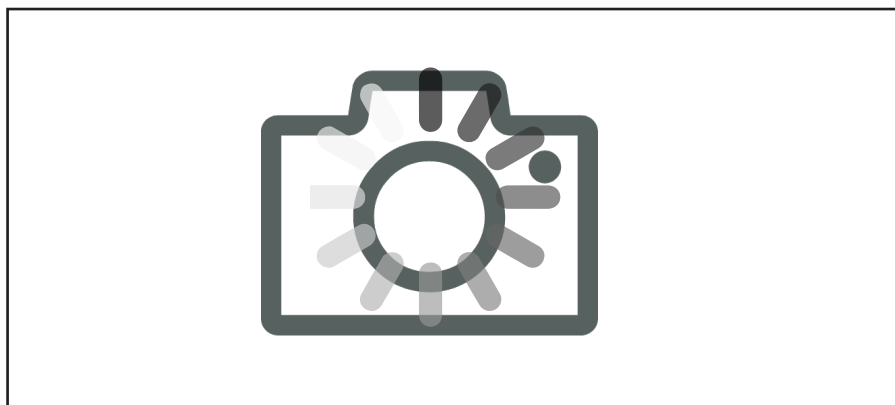
Examples of outdoor mentorship projects include taking a friend fishing, mentored hiking, teaching fishing skills, and guiding outdoor activities.



Examples of education projects include giving presentations, creating an educational tool, organizing a community program, and participating in environmental activities.



Examples of service projects include participating in activities with scientists, fundraising, supporting conservation legislation, organizing a service activity, or participating in a clean-up.



Examples of creative arts projects include scientific illustrations, original paintings, wood carving/burning, macroinvertebrate collections, and nature journaling.