

TRAINING YOUTH TO BE TOMORROW'S CONSERVATION LEADERS

Texas is home to tens of thousands of native animal and plant species. These species form over 800 habitat types; from bottomland hardwood forests, big tooth maple canyons, to black grama grasslands. Hundreds of these species occur only in Texas and nowhere else in the world.



A great deal of pressure is placed on our state's natural resources because of an increase in human populations and the differing interests people have regarding wildlife and related natural resources.

Through the Wildlife Alliance for Youth (WAY) Contests, WAY hopes that students and teachers alike develop a more acute awareness and better understanding of the biology and management needed to sustain the wildlife in Texas.

WHAT IS WAY?

WAY is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization consisting of state, federal, and private organizations who work together to provide support and technical assistance to Texas agricultural science teachers and 4-H leaders who train youth in various aspects of wildlife conservation and habitat management.

WHAT DOES WAY DO?

WAY provides professional resources and technical support to agricultural science teachers and 4-H leaders, as well as their students, by providing and structuring practical in-the-field problem solving events, which corresponds with formal agricultural science wildlife and recreation courses. The in-the-field practicum consists of competitive events, which assesses students' knowledge gained in the classroom.

THE PROGRAM IS GROWING...

FFA and 4-H teams from all geographic regions of Texas participate in the WAY Contests.

WHY PARTICIPATE IN WAY?

Hunting, fishing, and wildlife outdoor recreation in Texas is a multibillion-dollar industry. The mission of WAY is to educate and encourage Texas youth in state game laws, wildlife habitat management, biological facts, and to participate safely in the sports of hunting, fishing, and boating.

WAY's mission also encompasses educating the non-hunting public on the role and importance of wildlife conservation and management in the state. To do this, WAY seeks the support of the public and private sector who have dedicated mutual interests in the wellbeing of wildlife resources.

YOUTH ARE TESTED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- » Wildlife & habitat management practices
- » Fish & game laws
- » Safety in the outdoors
- » Wildlife identification techniques
- » Wildlife plant identification
- » Wildlife plant food preferences
- » Wildlife biological facts