

# GOVERNOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation

by *Samantha Dyer*

I joined the Governor's Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation, because I value Pennsylvania's wildlife and environment. This council allows me to have a voice and advocate to protect, conserve and enhance the diverse wildlife and environment in Pennsylvania.

The Governor's Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation's most recent meeting was in April 2018 at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Erie. During the recreation part of our meeting, we watched a film about the Great Lakes. We also toured the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, which is an educational center dedicated to teaching visitors about Presque Isle. Presque Isle State Park is a peninsula that juts into Lake Erie. Presque Isle Bay is a popular place to shore fish, which we had the opportunity to do. During the business portion of our meeting, Tim Bruno, Chief of the Office of the Great Lakes, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, gave a presentation on the Great Lakes. Bruno discussed the Great Lakes Commission, Lake Erie and Presque Isle with us. Lake Erie is part of the Great Lakes Commission. The Great Lakes Commission watches over the Great Lakes and manages policies, issues of



photo: Spring Gauchart

*North Pier Light, Presque Isle Bay, Erie County*

concern, and research services. Bruno also discussed Lake Erie's environmental health. The lake's health has been a concern for decades. Overfishing, pollution, algae blooms and eutrophication have taken a toll on Lake Erie. Bruno talked about how the Great Lakes Commission has been approaching these issues and working to improve the overall environmental health of Lake Erie. A highlight of Lake Erie is Presque Isle State Park. The park is full of unique habitats and home to many fish species. The park

also offers recreation activities such as swimming, boating, hiking, biking and birdwatching. The park is the perfect place to enjoy a multitude of Pennsylvania's aquatic resources.

I greatly enjoyed visiting Presque Isle State Park. The park is beautiful and provides opportunities to get interested in fishing and boating, as well as many other fun water activities. Seeing the importance of Lake Erie and how it not only offers recreation but contributes to the economy made me realize that the Great Lakes are truly great. I urge you to take a trip to Presque Isle State Park and enjoy some of what Lake Erie has to offer. There is definitely something there for everyone. ☐



photo: courtesy of Laurel Highlands River Tours and Outdoor Center

*Samantha Dyer white water rafting at Ohiopyle State Park, Fayette County.*

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