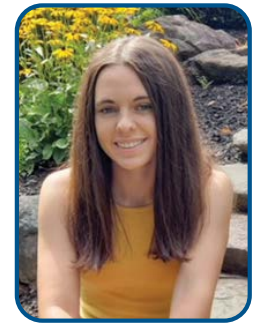


GOVERNOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation

by Riley Robbins

I recently stated that my friends are not as involved in the outdoors because of being on their phones or online. While I stand by this statement, what I neglected to say was that I am guilty of it as well. The internet, including social media, has become increasingly popular and now appears to be the go-to source of entertainment and communication for my generation. But, we are missing out. The beauty of Pennsylvania and all of the natural resources it offers lies just outside of our doors and beyond our phones. That said, I am fortunate in the respect that I have been provided the opportunities to experience the outdoors of Pennsylvania. I am aware that others may not have had the same opportunities. I hope to take an active role in helping change that. My name is Riley Robbins, and I am one of the newest members of the Governor's Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation. My hope is that the council will serve as the catalyst for the change I hope to see.

Governor's Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation is a platform for the next generation of Pennsylvania's hunters and anglers to communicate their ideas and contribute their perspectives and recommendations regarding conservation and youth engagement to the Governor. It consists of 20 individuals, ages 14 to 18, from across the Commonwealth. The goal is to provide energetic, varied, and intelligent input on opportunities to engage future generations in the preservation of our natural resources and our hunting and fishing heritage.



photos-courtesy of Riley Robbins

Riley Robbins

"By teaching and motivating others to take action, we are doing our part in helping to conserve and protect the natural places and animals we all love," said Elizabeth Bruner, Indiana County, who chairs the council. Bruner has been a member for 2 years. Her work with the council includes previous projects with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC). "The Governor's Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation has worked in conjunction with the PFBC to create public service announcements that talk about cold water safety and wearing your life jacket," said Bruner.

Bruner is not the only member who is enthusiastic about the work the Governor's Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation is doing. "During the pandemic, it was difficult for us to meet in person. This coming year, the Governor's Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation is looking forward to meeting in person once again," said Brenden Leahy, Bucks County, who serves as vice president.



Some of the members of the Governor's Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation.

Recently, the Governor's Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation transitioned to new leadership. Derek Eberly serves as the new director. Previously, Eberly was the Pennsylvania Field Representative for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, where he worked alongside other hunting and fishing groups across Pennsylvania to support conservation.

The Governor's Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation is thrilled to continue to increase the opportunities for Pennsylvania's youth hunters and anglers to share their thoughts on fish and wildlife conservation. If you are interested in being a candidate for the Council, please contact Derek Eberly at deeberly@pa.gov to learn more about what experiences are offered. ☐