

Fall workshop 2018 was a great success

The Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC) held their 3<sup>rd</sup> fall workshop at Camp Clover Point, Lake of the Ozarks State Park the last weekend in September. Thirty-one high school and college students from across the state met to discuss conservation issues, start resolutions, work on leadership skills and interact with resource professionals in the field. Resource professionals work with students to guide them and share information.

“Many resource professionals volunteer their time to guide and mentor the CLC students. We definitely couldn’t do this without these mentors and appreciate the time they give to the students,” said Jen Sampsell, Education and Outreach Coordinator, who works with the CLC program.

Students discussed topics of concern important to them regarding conservation and natural resources in Missouri. Topics included but were not limited to poaching fines, invasive plants, shooting sport education, monarch habitat, deer season and more. Groups were formed and students began the process of writing resolutions or letters of support.

Students will continue to research and craft resolutions this fall before sending them to the appropriate CFM Resource Advisory Committee upon completion. These committees will review and determine whether to send the resolutions to the Resolutions Committee. Students will present and defend their resolutions at the CFM annual convention March 8-10, 2019 where they will be voted on by CFM members. This allows them to learn about advocacy and policy as they interact and network with resource professionals.

In addition to working on resolutions, students spent time talking about values and leadership. There were some competitive nighttime basketball and four-square games under the lights. Students also spent time relaxing by the fire and playing giant Jenga. It is a great time for students to interact with their peers who have similar interests and passions. The relationships that are formed last a lifetime.

“This weekend was full of business, speakers, resolutions, games and quality time spent with others passionate about Missouri’s natural resources. We had an amazing turn out and I see a lot of potential for resolutions after interacting with the other students. I can’t wait to see the new students grow and benefit from the program as I have,” said Jessica Filla, current CLC President.

The CLC program is a multi-year program open to high school juniors and seniors and college students. Interested students can learn more and apply for the 2019-2020 school year at [www.confedmo.org/clc](http://www.confedmo.org/clc). This program is a great way to get ahead in the field of conservation and natural resources.