

2025 Outdoor Youth Day Recap

This year's Outdoor Youth Day was indeed one for the books, one of the best we've had in the last 27 years! We sincerely thank our generous sponsors who made this incredible event possible. A huge thank you goes out to the 180 volunteers who dedicated their time and effort to creating an unforgettable experience. Your hard work and passion bring joy and lasting memories to so many.

A special shoutout to those who brought their equipment side-by-side, swamp buggies, and airboats; you are the heart of this event! Your contributions continue to be the main attraction, offering thrilling experiences to all who attend.

This year, we were honored to have three VIP sponsors:

Okeechobee Steakhouse and Lewis Prime Grills, who gave our volunteers a five-star lunch, thank you for your generosity! **Wicked Archery**, who took over the archery range and did a phenomenal job managing the lines while introducing creative new ideas, such as using balloons as targets, was a crowd favorite! **Native Boyz**, helped promote this event and crafted outstanding social media coverage, ensuring that our 'Outdoor Youth Day' was showcased in a way that captured its true spirit.

For 27 years, Outdoor Youth Day has been a staple event, offering scenic airboat rides around the Airboat Pond and thrilling one-mile swamp buggy rides through the Pineywoods and sloughs. Participants get hands-on experience shooting bows, .22 rifles, muzzleloaders, and shotguns, all with an emphasis on firearm safety education. Other activities include canoeing, pony rides, and fishing, where catching a fish is almost guaranteed!

With over 20,000 attendees in the past two decades, this event has allowed countless young people to engage in outdoor activities rather than being glued to screens. This year, we were blessed to welcome **1,175 participants**, each of whom walked away with incredible memories to last a lifetime.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this year's event a success; we can't wait to do it again next year!

And a big thank you to the Everglades Youth Camp staff for their dedication to preserving this camp's heritage. EYCC's hard work in maintaining and grooming the facility ensures everyone can enjoy the great outdoors. Without your efforts, the experience wouldn't be the same!