



Where **RELATIONSHIPS** Grow

# Latest News

Fall 2017

Building Relationships Through Traditional Outdoor Recreation

## CYO Celebrates 10 years in Colorado Springs

Wednesdays have become the best day of the week for the students and parents involved with CYO in the South East Region. It is not surprising! Whether we are at an archery range, assembling, a survival kit, mastering a new fly, or at the trap range, Wednesday nights are special.

Colorado Youth Outdoors has begun its eleventh year in Colorado Springs and like our parent organization in the northeast region, the southern Colorado program is committed to providing an opportunity for families to build relationships, while coming together to enjoy traditional outdoor activities. CYO has been a wonderful addition to the Colorado Springs community and a positive experience for all of the participants.

The Colorado Springs program is lead by two longtime District 11 teachers, Jeff Neumeyer and Jim Keating. Jeff is an award winning Crystal Apple recipient who teaches architecture and engineering at Doherty High School. Jeff is a passionate shooter and an Olympic certified archery instructor. Jim directed the CU Succeed, Advanced Placement, and Gifted Education Programs at Coronado High School. Jim is an avid fly fisherman and an enthusiastic wing shooter. Jeff and Jim have over 60 years of combined teaching experience. Both of them have been involved with various remarkable programs; however, neither of them have been part of any program that brings students and parents together like CYO. Jeff and Jim share that it has been magical to witness the enthusiasm, camaraderie, friendly competition, and family commitment that take place during the evenings together.

CYO in Colorado Springs does not have a state of the art outdoor education center comparable to Swift ponds; however, CYO has had the privilege of utilizing many wonderful partners who provide an exciting blend of outdoor opportunities. We would like to thank Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Pikes Peak Gun Club, Pellegrino's Archery Hut, AFA Archery Club, Colorado Boys Ranch, and Colorado Springs Chapter of Safari Club International for helping us bring CYO to the Southeast Region.

- Jim Keating and Jeff Neumeyer of Colorado Springs

# CYO Programming

Hello everyone and happy holidays! As we enter November, We thought you might want to know what has been happening at Swift Ponds as a part of CYO building relationships in Northern Colorado. Over 30 pairs each night have joined our Core Program, made up of parents and students. Our capacity is set at 30 so we were overbooked and had an exciting start with Spin Fishing. We have maintained a strong participation through the fall with additional 3 week ventures, including archery, shooting sports and camping/survival. We will end with a game night and game feast on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of this month. Our focus on intentional relationship building has been well received and has had a strong impact on these families.

In addition to a strong Core Program, we have served over 1,200 youth and families in the month of October alone. We have partnered with NOCO Veterans Alliance on Couples Counseling, and VET to VET programming on fly tying ,rod building, and some great fishing. We held a Kinship and Foster family day for youth and families in Larimer County, supporting youth who have been placed with relatives or foster families for their safety and wellbeing. CYO has been working with these youth, families and the Larimer County DHS staff to help stabilize them as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

CYO has also provided recreation and relationship building programs for two hundred 6<sup>th</sup> graders from Conrad Ball Middle School, and two hundred fifty 7<sup>th</sup> graders from Kinard Middle School. We've also developed programs with students from Resurrection Christian, Rocky Mountain High School, South Valley Middle School, Boys and Girls Club, Poudre High School, Cooper Home, and the list goes on. You can be proud of your association with CYO and the positive impact that we are having on our community! We are truly building relationships as we introduce youth and families to wonderful outdoor recreation.

## 2018 Spring Program

**Tuesday Evening Programming Starts February 20th, 2018**

5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Every Tuesday from 5:30 to 7:30PM

**Wednesday Evening Programming Starts February 21st, 2018**

8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Every Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:30PM



**Fly Tying**

Feb 20-March 6



**Archery**

March 13-March 27



**Spin Fishing**

April 3-April 17

April 4-April 18



**Trap Shooting**

April 24-May 8

April 25-May 9



**Fly Fishing**

May 15-May 29

May 16-May 30

**Tuesdays:**

**Wednesdays:**



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970.663.0800

# Hunting Adventure Series

Colorado Youth Outdoors is privileged to have the opportunity to teach students who have gone through our Core program various skills including hunting. Here is a story of one of those participants.

I wanted to take a moment and express to you, as well as to Tyson and Tony, how grateful I am for the CYO program and especially the Adventure Series.

The only exposure that I had to shooting as a youth was a few sessions at an indoor range with a 22 long rifle. My father was not a hunter and I did not have any friends or family members who hunted. As painful as this is to admit, my son and I had had some heated discussions regarding his interest in hunting. Not because I was against it, but out of frustration because I felt inadequate in my ability to offer my son the experiences that he desired.

All of that to say, it was the result of one of these discussions where I began searching for summer camps or programs where I could send him to in order to have the experiences he was looking for. This is how we discovered CYO and the Adventure Series. We started last spring with the Parks and Wildlife course on getting a tag and then we went through the CORE program. We were excited to be contacted by Tyson when he notified us that Trent would have a deer tag and that Tony would be leading the hunt. I must say, working with Tony was an exceptional experience. He displays youth, passion, professionalism and generosity. He put in a lot of effort into scouting and securing access to a property where we could have a successful hunt.

We parked around 6:45 AM last Saturday and started walking to the site Tony had scouted. Within five minutes we had spotted several deer and worked our way into a position to take a quality shot. Just after 7 AM my son took the one and only shot that he needed. Tony was great in teaching us about field dressing and we even had the pleasant experience of a visit from the game warden.

In truth, this was all too perfect and probably spoiled us in terms of what to expect with future hunts. I am teasing of course, but it just really could not have been any more perfect. I am deeply grateful that due to all of your efforts over many years, as well as those of the staff and countless volunteers, that my son and I were able to benefit from an amazing experience that will be burned in our memory for a lifetime. That is truly priceless. You should all be proud of what you do and there are not enough ways to express my thanks.

- Robert Doudna







# The Scoot

Presented By

## noble energy



Sponsored By:



CYO's third annual event fundraiser; The Scoot Barn Dance was one for the books. The Scoot raised \$55k and hosted over 350 guests. Noble Energy was kind enough to be the presenting sponsor for this year's event and they have been doing some absolutely wonderful things for the CYO facility and the organization as a whole.

September 16th was a night our guests will always remember with entertainment by Sean Curtis and the Divide brought to you by Solace Meds of Fort Collins. The mechanical bull brought to you by Johns Manville, an open bar brought to you by LPR Construction, and a sprint car simulator sponsored by T&T Tire provided hilarious entertainment. There were spirited Heads and Tales games offering chances to win CSU football tickets to a stay in Mexico.

If you weren't at The Scoot this year I hope you can make it next year Saturday September 29th, 2018.

# The Maverick

Sporting Clay Fundraiser ~ May 4th and 5th~ Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch

The Maverick sporting clay course is set up exclusively for the Colorado Youth Outdoors annual fundraiser. The unique Maverick location and course design are sure to make a person stop and take notice. The 2018 Maverick will be held at the Sylvan Dale Ranch in the foothills of west Loveland.

Don't miss the Horseshoe tournament & BBQ at CYO's campus, Swift Ponds on Friday evening. All information and registration is on our website, as of November 5th there are only 19 slots open for Friday shooters. Register today at [WWW.COLORADOYO.ORG](http://WWW.COLORADOYO.ORG)!!!



# Me + 3

It has been said “a friend can ask a friend for a buck.” We think that is also true when the “buck(s)” go to a worthy cause.

Most have heard the success stories from Peer-to-Peer and Crowdfunding campaigns. These programs demonstrate the future of giving. Learning about a cause or service through passionate stories makes it easier to connect to the purpose and satisfaction of being part of the solution. It becomes even more compelling when a friend introduces the cause or service need to you.

Leveraging a Relationship in order to help a cause has pro's and con's. The upside is the friend trusts you. The downside could be the lack of real connection to the cause. So, how does a charity make a connection through a friend (Me+3)?

With CYO's mission to assist in building healthy Relationships, we have identified a way to celebrate your Relationships with the opportunity to give. Beginning this January, CYO will launch Me+3, which will be a template to use to share a favorite photo of you with friends or family. This will remind you and your friends of the importance of Relationships. The template will give the recipient the opportunity to donate to CYO.

Why Peer to Peer and why now? Simply put, if we want to grow into other neighborhoods or regions, we must have a global campaign. The time to start is now. Imagine how great it will be to see a network of friends connected and supportive of the CYO mission even though they might be thousands of miles away. A reminder about the importance of Relationships along with how anyone (you or others in your network) can support our program will soon be coming.

Keep a watch out for more Me+3 info. Also, begin thinking about that great memory and photo worth sharing in the near future.

## Holes & Hops

June 9<sup>th</sup> 2018 CYO at Swift Ponds

If you think you are pretty good at the game of corn hole you might want to pay attention. June 9<sup>th</sup> CYO will play host to Prost Brewing along with many other area craft brewers, for what might become Colorado's largest corn hole tournament. A full day of tossing bags and sampling some of Colorado Craft brews sounds great, however, add in the fact that the proceeds support CYO, and you have a perfect day.

What began as a conversation about an early summer event where guests could hang out, enjoy a cold craft brew, and participate in some form of entertainment took shape into the form of a corn hole tournament. Holes & Hops was created! Of course, the location needed to be at Swift Ponds and it also needed to be created as a large fundraising event. Instructions as to how you can sign up your two person team will be forthcoming. Once we confirm the participating (40) breweries, we will be able to announce the locations and instructions of sign up. You will not want to miss this first year's event. It is certain to be a

blast and something to build into the future. It definitely has the potential to be a sellout event, once the details are out you may want to hustle in getting signed up. June 9<sup>th</sup> 2018, the first “to be annual” Holes & Hops fundraiser.



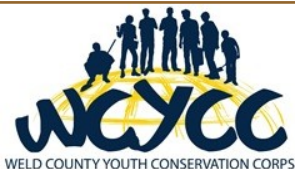


# Invasive Species Grant

CYO partners with a variety of organizations in Northern Colorado for programming, fundraising, service projects, facility use and facility upkeep and maintenance. One of our partners is Weld County Youth Conservation Corps' AmeriCorps Program. Through a state wide grant process, CYO applied for and received two grants from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO). Totalling over \$60,000 these grants paid for the Youth Core labor and for the administration, supervision, herbicide and equipment needed to complete the projects identified in the grants. Holly Bernhardt has led the Youth Corps crews that have partnered with us on our property. She shared the following about opportunities we have had to work together. "The Weld County Youth Conservation Corps' AmeriCorps program began its partnership with Colorado Youth Outdoors in 2013. WCYCC's first project at CYO was a fence project on the south end of the property. The relationship grew and a grant was submitted to Great Outdoors Colorado for Russian olive removal around the ponds and east boundary of the property in 2014. WCYCC's chainsaw crew is back this year removing the remaining Russian olive through another GOCO grant. The chainsaw crew operates year round, hiring members between the ages of 17 and 24. Members are paid a monthly living stipend while serving and receive a Segal Education Award once they complete their service."

At the completion of this year's project this partnership will have enabled CYO to remove all of the Russian olives from the Swift Ponds property and manage a wide range of noxious weeds. We have enjoyed working with the crew's that have been on the property and appreciate their contribution to the long term health and quality of the natural resource we use to meet our mission of building relationships. The youth who have served on these crews have been a great help and addition to our summer work crew. They have represented themselves and AmeriCorps with distinction.

- Gregg Knoll (CYO Executive Director)



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- Holly Bernhardt (WCYCC Program Coordinator)

What is Weld County Youth Conservation Corps

Mission: Dedicated to a brighter future through DIVERSITY, EDUCATION, & TEAMWORK.

The Weld County Youth Conservation Corps (WCYCC) engages its corps members in meaningful community and conservation (land, water, energy) service projects throughout Weld County. From 4-week summer crews to year-round crews, WCYCC serves youth and young adults ages 17 – 24. WCYCC is backed and supported by the Board of Weld County Commissioners, and operates through the Employment Services of Weld County offices (Dept. of Human Services).







# Global Day of Care

In July of 2017 Colorado Youth Outdoors learned they would be one of several nonprofits selected for Noble Energy's Global Day of Care. From that day forward, associates from Noble Energy worked with CYO associates to better understand the biggest needs of the organization that might be met with a large crew of Noble Associates. Five very important projects for the organization were defined. All the projects were in a region of the campus that insured all the associates would have the chance to feel as if they were all working together and sharing the same goal. The five projects included landscaping, picnic table construction, timber staining, irrigation systems and property boundary fencing.

The day began as the army of over 120 volunteers walked from the morning meeting at Richardson Hall to the North area of the campus. Already set in motion were the work team outlines and assignments. The five teams broke up into their specific work areas following the lead of the Noble team captains. The team was full of enthusiasm and began with an energy that would not be sustainable as the temperatures warmed and the dust began to fly. Fortunately, just as the newness and fun factor of the tasks were wearing off, the lunch bell rang and all associates were treated to a terrific picnic lunch provided by Halliburton.

After filling the tanks and being reenergized by great words from Mark Patteson, the teams returned to their tasks. With only a couple hours left to finish the projects, the team began again with the morning's determination. What began as a day of need for CYO finished with words of Thanks from the staff at CYO. What earlier seemed insurmountable became a beautiful completion of efforts. We are all very grateful to have such a powerful partnership which is better described in CYO terms as a Healthy Relationship. Noble Energy truly demonstrates what Healthy Relationships mean to their employees and to the communities they live in. We are very Thankful to share this Relationship with Noble Energy.

## Fun facts:

- ½ mile of brush cleared equating to over 80 cubic yards of mulch
- 173 holes were drilled and posts installed
- 173 bags of concrete poured into pole holes
- 1 ½ miles of 2 3/8 diameter drill stem pipe installed
- Over 1000 ft of ¾ irrigation supply pipe trenched and installed
- 600 ft of 1 ½ mainline irrigation pipe trenched and Installed
- 24 10ft pine trees dug, planted and irrigation lines installed
- 10 Shrubs planted and irrigation lines installed
- 30 gallons of stain applied to the Erion Pavilion
- 45 miles traveled in delivery of pipe stem hauled between stock pile and where used in fencing
- 24 pole parking curb stops reworked
- Tent preparations for lunch and presentations
- 3 cedar picnic tables and 6 cedar benches built and stained
- 1/2 acre reworked for with new irrigation, trees and decorative plants
- ¼ mile of mulch path refresh at the archery center



Where **RELATIONSHIPS** Grow  
4927 East County Road 36  
Fort Collins, Co 80528  
[WWW.Coloradoyo.org](http://WWW.Coloradoyo.org)



# Old Farts and Wisdom Tree



Every Tuesday morning a special group of guys come together to talk about their wives, did I say wives, I meant lives. They call themselves the old farts, volunteering is their passion and they each are unique that's why they meet each week. Programs, day camps, and specialty days, these guys are here at CYO even during the hot summer blaze. November comes and they are all ready to put up a tree, from a pole, for all to see. You can see the tree from I-25 to county road 3. The old farts rejoice for the people they impact, even a smile from a driver in fact. Thank you to Wisdom Tree Care of Fort Collins for helping us put up the tree each year, we hope the "Wisdom Tree" brings your family joy and cheer. The holidays are fun but just remember, there's a special day we all celebrate, that one day is in December. The smiles the laughter are nothing without the relationships and what they mean in the lives. Hold relationships tight, keep them near, they are dear.

The Old Farts are open for new comers and invite you to join them each Tuesday at the place where relationships grow. From me to you, and they say it too, we hope your heart and passion will show. Come for the coffee, come for the food, but join us please if that's all you do. You don't have to be old or even wise we just ask that you realize; relationships are special but impacting others can change your own life. This may be a good time also to take a break from your wife.

