

JACK STEELE PARKER GENERATION NEXT



Being asked to speak at the Boone and Crockett Jack Steele Parker Generation Next Banquet to recognize the successes of our young hunters was truly an honor. Hunting has always been my passion, and there is nothing I enjoy more than seeing that fire in the eyes of other kids and listening to their stories. Getting to the banquet did not come easily, thanks to the numerous flight cancellations by the airlines. In fact, had it not been for Richard Childress, I would have missed the entire event! Luckily, because of his generosity, I hopped on his plane, and we arrived without further delay. Upon my arrival, kids and their parents were already outside the banquet area anxiously waiting for the doors to open. I decided to mingle with those already waiting and heard some incredible stories from the kids about their hunts. Their excitement was infectious, and this was just the beginning of the evening.



Melissa Bachman was the keynote speaker for the Generation Next Banquet. Each youth was called on stage and presented with a plaque and custom Buck knife. She also posed for photos with the youth after the event.



Once the doors opened, there was a short reception where everyone mingled, followed by a nice meal. Next, I was up to speak, and my message was simple: make hunting fun, and create a welcoming environment. I believe it is our duty as hunters to try and recruit more hunters. The best way to do that is create a positive experience for one youngster and let word of mouth do the rest. Kids start talking to their friends about how much fun they had over the weekend out hunting, and the next thing you know more and more kids are asking to go hunting. It's also very important to find things that can be done as a family. These days we are so connected to electronics that there isn't as much real connection time for families to unwind together. Hunting is something that helps create a perfect environment for this. Talk to your kids about the animal sign you're seeing this time of year. Explain why you're mimicking animal calls and let them try—just make it fun and educational. Of course, there will be times when it gets boring, but try to give them something to do. Make fun games

out of who can spot the next animal or just talk to them about what's been going on in school, etc. You'll be amazed after a while how much kids will open up and talk about how they truly enjoy the outdoors if you just give them a chance.

Growing up in central Minnesota, all I ever wanted to do was hunt. It was my passion. My parents took my brother and me along on nearly every hunt. They let us help process the animals, and ultimately, we learned to cook the game as well. From that point I was hooked, and I wanted to find a way to hunt for a living. It took years of hard work and dedication before that dream became a reality. Now my goal has evolved. I want to get as many new people involved as possible, and I try to do that through my television show, "Winchester Deadly Passion," which airs every Sunday morning at 11:30 a.m. ET on Sportsman Channel.

It was an honor to speak at this event. I'm so proud to be a Lifetime Associate of Boone and Crockett Club and love seeing what the organization is doing for our youth. ■

YOUTH HUNTERS IN ATTENDANCE		
NAME	CATEGORY	SCORE
Noah D. Brock	black bear	21-1/8
Reid T. Crawford	typical whitetail deer	179-1/8
Leroy C. Damar	typical whitetail deer	167-3/8
Jake T. Davidson	typical mule deer	184-7/8
Cade L. Davis	cougar	15
Ella DeGrow	non-typical whitetail deer	193
Nicole Dodge	non-typical mule deer	232-4/8
Georgina R. Eidmann	Canada moose	205-7/8
Marvin A. Hale	typical mule deer	193-5/8
Schuyler P. Harkness	black bear	20
Jacob H. Hawkins	non-typical whitetail deer	196-1/8
Andrew D. Haycraft	typical whitetail deer	169-4/8
Joscelyn E. Hazel	typical whitetail deer	172-1/8
Hannah R. Helmer	non-typical American elk	426-7/8
Trevor W. Henke	black bear	21-2/8
Todd L. Hess	non-typical Columbia blacktail	155-4/8
Tyler T. Knott	non-typical whitetail deer	228-3/8
Cade J. Knutsen	black bear	21-3/16
Hunter J. Krusmark	black bear	20-4/8
Jillian H. Lubachowski	black bear	20-7/16
Matthew I. Martinez Jr.	typical mule deer	183-7/8
Aspen L. Mathis	non-typical mule deer	224-1/8
Abigail L. McCollom	typical mule deer	180-2/8
Jade A. McDonald	black bear	20-9/16
Troy E. Metzger	non-typical whitetail deer	199-6/8
Mason J. Miles	bighorn sheep	185-7/8
Jacob E. Musso	typical whitetail deer	173
Ezra W. Oettel	typical whitetail deer	165-5/8
Olivia A. Parry	typical American elk	377-6/8
William H. Peak	typical whitetail deer	167-7/8
Zachary J. Renner	bison and cougar	115 and 14-11/16
Justin R. Rodenberg	typical whitetail deer	167-7/8
Alexis D. Roller	typical whitetail deer	175
Bryson L. Roon	Dall's sheep	161-1/8
Jace A. Sartain	bighorn sheep	182-7/8
Savannah S. Schneider	Rocky Mountain goat	47-6/8
Bryson S. Spilski	pronghorn	80-4/8
Kyle Stockley	grizzly bear	25-7/16
Tanner Supino	black bear	21
Skyler L. Tessum	non-typical whitetail deer	185-3/8
Hunter T. Willoughby	non-typical whitetail deer	198
Daniel B. Wescott	Alaska brown bear	28-9/16
Caleb H. Wilson	black bear	20-5/16
Logan M. Winklepleck	typical whitetail deer	163-5/8
Rachel M. Woehr	non-typical whitetail deer	191-3/8
Gavin L. Wright	black bear	20-3/16
John T. Yarbrough	black bear	22-1/16

WINNER! BROGAN MATHIS



Richard Childress (left) and Melissa Bachman (right) congratulate Brogan Mathis on being selected as the winner. Brogan Mathis is also the brother to trophy owner Aspen Mathis.

A drawing was held at the Generation Next Banquet to give away a Montana Private Land Mule Deer Hunt. This hunt was sponsored by Buck Knives and Donated by Anne Brockington-Lee.

This is a four-day, self-guided, rifle hunt for mule deer on the Wendy Waters Ranch near Ennis, Montana. The package includes four nights lodging plus dinners for two (youth hunter, plus one adult), a \$1,000 travel stipend, and four \$100 dinner credits for Brogen and one accompanying adult at the McAllister Inn and Steakhouse.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE YOUTH HUNTERS PRESENT AT THE JACK STEELE PARKER GENERATION NEXT YOUTH BANQUET, AUGUST 2, 2019.

