

Generation Next: Youth Essay Drawing

If you're interested in donating a rifle to the youth essay drawing, please contact the Club's Headquarters at 406/542-1888 and ask for the youth essay coordinator.



Boone and Crockett Club is pleased to announce our first-ever youth essay contest open to all youth with accepted trophies in the Club's 28th Big Game Awards Program!

As a way to celebrate young hunters who have embraced the outdoor way of life and embody the spirit of Fair Chase hunting, the Club's **Fair Chase** magazine will be featuring select essays in this special section as we lead up to the Club's 28th Awards Program. Our editors will be selecting the top three stories, which will be awarded our grand prize, as well as second and third prizes shown below. Judging will be based on criteria such as involvement of youth hunter and mentor, story-telling ability, ethics demonstrated in the field, and understanding of our hunting heritage. Contributors of the remaining stories will be eligible to be drawn for one of seven CZ 452 American Rifles. Drawing to be held in Reno, Nevada, at the 28th Big Game Awards Program in the summer of 2013.



Donated by Kyle C. Krause

GRAND PRIZE

Remington Model 700 CDL in .30-06 rifle laser engraved with the Boone and Crockett Club logo, with a Minox scope (not shown).



SECOND AND THIRD PRIZES

CZ 452 American .22 rifle laser engraved with the Boone and Crockett Club logo, with a Minox scope (not shown).

28TH AWARDS PROGRAM DRAWING

The youth authors of the stories not selected for the other prizes are eligible to win one of seven CZ 452 American .22 rifles.



Ramsey L. Avery, age 14, took this black bear, scoring 20-6/16 while hunting in Taylor County, Wisconsin, in 2011.



How to Enter!

Boone and Crockett Club's Generation Next Youth Essay Drawing

STEP ONE:

Write your hunting story. We'd prefer a Word document, but we can accept typed or handwritten stories as well.

STEP TWO:

Submit your story and photos online by going to the link below. You'll have to set up a new account to get started:

<http://tinyurl.com/youthessaycontest>

You can also mail a hard copy of your story and photos to:

Boone and Crockett Club
ATTN: Youth Essay Drawing
250 Station Drive
Missoula, MT 59801

STEP THREE:

That's it! Once we receive your story you will automatically be entered in the contest for the rifles.

DEADLINE: The deadline for us to receive stories is February 28, 2013. But don't delay. The sooner we receive the story, the better your odds are of having it published in Fair Chase magazine!

QUESTIONS: Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. We can be reached by calling 406/542-1888 Monday through Friday, or email jt@boone-crockett.org with your questions.

THE FINE PRINT ELIGIBILITY & DETAILS

Contest is open to all youth hunters (16 years old or younger when they harvested their animal) who have a trophy accepted in the Club's 28th Awards Program (2010-2012). Simply submit your story on-line at <http://tinyurl.com/youthessaycontest> along with your photos, or mail your submission to: Boone and Crockett Club, ATTN: Youth Essay Contest, 250 Station Drive, Missoula, MT 59801. Deadline to submit stories and photos is February 28, 2013. Once we receive your story and photo you will be automatically entered into the essay contest and be eligible for one of the top three prizes. Authors of the stories that don't receive one of the prizes are eligible for the drawing to be held at 28th Big Game Awards Youth Event in Reno, Nevada, Summer 2013. By submitting your hunting story, you also grant the Boone and Crockett Club the right to edit and publish your materials, in Fair Chase magazine, future print publications, and on other digital platforms. Visit the Club's web site at www.boone-crockett.org for complete details.

NOTE: The 28th Awards Youth Essay drawing is only open to youth hunters who have a trophy accepted in the Club's Records Program.

Generation Next: Essays

Submitted by: Melissa Noel
Trophy Type: typical whitetail

Age: 13
Location: Pike County, Ohio

It was the beginning of the season for my eighth-grade girl's basketball team. I've been playing basketball since second grade, and basketball and deer hunting have always been my favorite things. My dad and I had been looking forward to the youth deer hunting season, and my coach called a practice on that Saturday. When I found out, I talked to my coach and explained to him how important it was to me to go hunting with my dad that weekend. With that, he gave me permission; it was the first practice I have ever missed.

As I ate my breakfast, all I could think about was shooting my first deer. My dad was just as excited as I was; he has been hunting for 40 years. It was youth deer hunting weekend in Ohio, and we were at our cabin in Pike County. My dad and I quickly set up, loading my new .410 Mossberg shotgun with Winchester deer slugs.

After three hours in my blind, we were still waiting for my opportunity. At that very instant, I heard a crack and I slowly turned to see a good-sized

During Ohio's youth weekend in 2010, Melissa took this typical whitetail while hunting with her dad in Pike County. Her buck scores 162-2/8 points.



doe, trotting right to left about 60 yards away. My dad quietly said to me, "Melissa, when it stops in the clearing, shoot it!" As I kneeled down and lifted my gun, I saw him. The most beautiful animal I'd ever seen so close—and in my grasp. As my adrenaline reached its maximum, I pulled my gun to my cheek, aimed, and took a deep breath as my dad called out to make him stop. I pulled the trigger as soon as he stopped. I had carefully aimed, and my dad and I watched with awe as the buck shot straight up the hill.

I was so excited, I wanted to leap into the woods and track down my prize. But of course, we had to wait an hour, just to be safe. I was very confident with my shot, even though it was from 60 yards away, with no scope.

After the torturous hour had passed, my dad and I set off to where I shot the deer. We hiked up the hill, and looked for blood. I kept finding small spots of blood, which seemed insignificant to me, because I wanted my trophy. We had been searching for 45 minutes when I started to wonder, **What if I missed? What if he's gone?** We had split up, and I started to tear up. It had dawned on me that the buck might not be mine or that I may have wounded it. I can't explain the disappointment I was feeling. I turned and closed the yardage between my dad and me. He said, "Well honey, I don't know where he went." I didn't answer him, in fear that my voice would crack and the tears would flow. I couldn't look at my dad, so I turned and looked over the hill, desperate to find anything, any trace of my deer. I spotted something, but I wasn't sure what. I turned to my dad and said, "Daddy, is that trash or...?" I couldn't finish my sentence because my dad knew what I was going to say, once he had also caught a glimpse of the white belly.

We hurried down the hill, and there he was. He had tangled

himself in a large thorn patch, and I knew it was going to be difficult to pull him out, but I didn't care. We had found my prize. I grabbed one antler and my dad had the other. We tugged and pulled until he was resting on the leaf-covered ground. I helped my dad field dress it there, to lighten the load. It was a long drag to the top of the hill, but easy going down the other side.

We loaded my deer in the back of our Ford F150 and drove a few miles to the deer check-in station where a nice lady congratulated me and tagged my buck. She told me it was the nicest buck they had seen. We headed home and hung him in our garage. My dad and I, along with two of his friends butchered the

deer. I was very proud of the fact that I helped fill our family freezer. The next day, we took my buck head and cape to the taxidermist.

Overall, I had a great experience hunting with my dad, and always look forward to our next opportunity. In the spring, we picked up the mount from the taxidermist and entered it in the Deer and Turkey Expo in Columbus Ohio. My 10-point typical buck scored 168 2/8 points, which later earned me the award of the biggest whitetail buck killed in Ohio by a female in the 2010-2011 Ohio deer hunting season, awarded by the Buckeye Big Buck Club. That's a hunt with memories I'll never forget. ■

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28th Awards Program Youth Hunters

Accepted trophies from August 25, 2012 through November 25, 2012

HUNTER	CATEGORY	LOCATION OF KILL	DATE	FINAL SCORE
Morgan J. Weaver	black bear	Polk Co., WI	2009	21 5/16
Ramsey L. Avery	black bear	Taylor Co., WI	2011	20 6/16
Nathan T. Kathler	non-typical whitetail deer	Alder Flats, AB	2011	190 4/8
Hunter Hubbard	non-typical whitetail deer	Grant Co., WI	2011	188 2/8
Benjamin T. Jaksick	bighorn sheep	Taos Co., NM	2011	187 1/8
Austin L. Newlon	typical whitetail deer	Greenwood Co., KS	2010	180
Philip D. Otto	typical whitetail deer	Douglas Co., IL	2011	172 3/8
Addison G. Shane	typical whitetail deer	Page Co., IA	2011	170 3/8
Colten H. McKay	typical whitetail deer	Columbia Co., WI	2011	161 3/8
Samuel C. Martell III	typical whitetail deer	Worth Co., MO	2010	160 1/8
Maggie C. Evertsen	cougar	Fraser River, BC	2012	15 5/16
Jereme M. Jones	shiras' moose	Clearwater Co., ID	2010	155

NOTE: Trophies listed in orange include field photos.

Samuel C. Martell III



Addison G. Shane



Nathan T. Kathler



Phillip D. Otto



Morgan J. Weaver

