



Generation Next: Eternal Fire of Youth

By Ted Nugent

At the tender age of 63, God has blessed me with an incredible gravity-defying connection with the youth of America. It just might be all that outrageous, defiant, high-energy rhythm and blues and rock 'n' roll I've unleashed on the unsuspecting masses each year for more than 50 years as I've toured the hinterland. But based on the daily communication I have had with families across America, more than the flame-throwing music, it is my beloved *Ted Nugent Spirit of the Wild* TV show on Outdoor Channel that galvanizes the youth of America with the old Nuge. **How cool is that?**

I constantly hear the terms "outrageous," "passion," "energy," "spirit," "attitude," and other descriptions characterizing how these young viewers celebrate our show. But the most repeated word of all is "fun." And that would be "FUN!" in all caps with a bold exclamation point! Well hallelujah!

On our last hunt together just before he died, the late, great Fred Bear told me to never lose that exuberance about my hunting life, and to keep promoting our cherished hunting lifestyle to the youth of the world just the way I was.

With that instruction from my hero, I created the Ted Nugent Kamp for Kids charity in 1989, and we have graduated nearly 20,000 youngsters into the joyous world of hunting, fishing, trapping, archery, and the shooting sports. And like Fred said, it has cleansed their souls.

We salute all the sporters who reach out to the young folk out there, for surely every hunter knows that the future of conservation and our hunting rights pivot on how effectively we promote the outdoor lifestyle in order to recruit the next generation of real environmentalists. More and more groups, organizations, and individuals are teaching, mentoring, and thereby recruiting kids into what is, without a doubt, the most exciting, adventurous, stimulating, and rewarding activity known to man.

The disciplines of "aim small, miss small" and that higher level of predator awareness are exactly what young people crave, and given a conscientious, fun-filled introduction, most of them will become dedicated, passionate hunters overnight.

And don't just settle for taking our own kids out there. Aggressively pursue those non-hunting families to invite their kids along on the next shooting session at the range. Be sure to have a light draw-weight bow and arrows handy to baptize a new kid into the moving world of the mystical flight of the arrow. A simple non-pressured fishing excursion will light a fire too.

So here's to the mentors and more so to the young hunters out there; turn up the heat, be bolder and more aggressive, and remember that it is the fun factor that will draw them in. Sportsmanship will come with the proper guidance, but it is the sheer joy and challenge of our outdoor lifestyle that is the ultimate carrot. Go get 'em. Let the games begin!

28th Awards Program Youth Hunters

Accepted trophies from May 20, 2011 through August 31, 2011

HUNTER	CATEGORY	LOCATION OF KILL	DATE	FINAL SCORE
Jacob L. Boeschling	non-typical whitetail deer	Pottawatomie Co., KS	2008	195 6/8
Ashley L. Doss	cougar	Stevens Co., WA	2010	14 14/16
Nicholas B. Elston	typical whitetail deer	Pulaski Co., IN	2010	164 7/8
Andrea M. Fencil	black bear	Forest Co., WI	2010	20 3/16
Sally M. Kasten	typical whitetail deer	Marquette Co., WI	2010	160
Robert K. MacMillan	pronghorn	Coconino Co., AZ	2010	83 6/8
William A. Mordell	pronghorn	Carbon Co., WY	2010	80
Melissa Noel	typical whitetail deer	Pike Co., OH	2010	168 2/8
Corey J. Ruoff	non-typical whitetail deer	Pickaway Co., OH	2010	198 4/8
Logan J. Tracy	non-typical whitetail deer	Seneca Co., OH	2010	211 2/8

NOTE: Trophies listed in orange include field photos.



Melissa Noel



William A. Mordell

Robert K. MacMillan

