

Wildlife Leadership Academy

PROGRAM SUMMARY

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Audubon PA

Pennsylvania Deer Association

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Pennsylvania Game Commission

Pennsylvania State University

Quality Deer Management Association

Ruffed Grouse Society

Texas Brigades

U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education

For more information:
www.PICEweb.org

The mission of the Wildlife Leadership Academy (WLA) is to empower youth to become ambassadors for wildlife conservation in order to ensure a sustained wildlife legacy for future generations. This year-round training and community service experience for high school students begins with rigorous summer field schools that focus on wildlife biology and conservation as well as leadership skills development. Instructed by leading wildlife biologists, media professionals and educators, the field school curriculum prepares students for higher education with standards-based, pre-college level academic content. The field schools are followed by year-round mentoring by program staff and partners as the students contribute to conservation outreach and service projects in their local communities. Since 2007, WLA students have conducted 159 conservation education and service projects, engaging in 730 contact hours with the public and reaching an audience of over 6,000 people across the state.

WLA was established by the Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education (PICE) in 2007. PICE is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization dedicated to advancing awareness, knowledge and skills in natural history and conservation of natural resources by building an ecologically literate and engaged public. WLA is a collaborative effort among PICE and several nonprofits, state agencies, and educational institutions. PICE is responsible for the administration, coordination and evaluation of WLA, and partners assist in many capacities: as instructors, advisors, and student mentors; through assistance with curriculum and general program development; by providing facilities and other resources, in-kind support and matching funds; and by providing community service and outreach opportunities for participating youth.

Currently, two WLA field schools exist. *PA Bucktails* has been offered each summer since 2007, focusing on white-tailed deer, a species of key concern in Pennsylvania wildlife management. *PA Drummers* will be offered for the first time in the summer of 2010. This field school will focus on Pennsylvania's state bird, the ruffed grouse. In future years, PICE aims to establish WLA field schools throughout the state based on various wildlife species, reaching an increasingly wider audience of Pennsylvania youth and communities.

*"The wildlife and its habitat cannot speak. So we must and we will."
- President Theodore Roosevelt*