



Women in the Outdoors Report
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The Women in the Outdoors Program is growing. WITO is providing more outdoor opportunities to women in this state. Continuing to get women involved with outdoor activities will lead to more families enjoying the outdoors together. There are currently 15 events that are scheduled across Pennsylvania and more events are being worked on.

The month of June had a busy schedule with 5 events scheduled. The turnout fluctuated at each event. The new events had a smaller turn out then the established events. Whether the event was large or small, the participants were excited and enjoyed the day with instructor, friendship and good food.

The month of July had two camping events. Ladies pitch their tents and spent the night. The days were filled with activities and the nights offered star gazing and friendship bonding. Shooting sports and fly fishing were the highlights for these ladies.

Currently, there are two events scheduled for August and two events scheduled for September. I am in the process of working on an October fundraiser. There are two more events that are being worked on for next year's schedule. There are a variety of different types of events we can have from a Turkey 101 event, where as we can simulate a turkey hunt for the ladies, to a class selection event. I am looking into an indoor shooting event and reestablishing events that needed a break.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission is supporting the Women in the Outdoors program and still wishes to see it succeed. However, they will no longer financially be supporting this position.

I have an excitement for this program and am dedicated to see it succeed. I have been involved with the NWTF and the Women in the Outdoors since 2006. I attended my first event that summer. I had no idea what a positive effect it would have on me. The following year I introduced my niece to the Women in the Outdoors. She now hunts and fishes and attends the events with me every year. To see the effect of introducing a young woman to the outdoors is very rewarding. After being able to introduce one individual to the Women in the Outdoors, I became a volunteer on the committee of the NWTF Jerry Zimmerman Memorial and the Walking Purchase Chapter's Women in the Outdoors Event so that I can help introduce others the same way. With now being the Pennsylvania Women in the Outdoors Coordinator, I get to see the smiles on the ladies faces and interact with all the participants, whether they are new to WITO or if they are long time members.

Support from the Chapters for the Women in the Outdoors is increasing. We will always strive to get the word out. The more women we can reach the stronger the NWTF becomes and the more we can continue to support the conservation of our wild turkey and other wildlife. If you or anyone you know would like to be part of the Women in the Outdoors, please contact me at 484-634-0069 or lsmith@nwtf.net.