



GEORGIA'S NRCW:

MEMOIRS OF A NEW DIRECTOR

MICHELLE CONNER

CONSERVATION REGIONAL MANAGER



First a little background..



Since beginning in 1962, over 13,000 students have attended NRCW.
ABAC in Tifton, GA became its permanent home in 1995.

Valuable Partners

- Executive Committee
- Instructors
- Advisors
- Volunteers





Experiential Learning

- Topics include rediscovering Georgia water resources, sustainable agriculture, wildlife management , soils and conservation planning, Georgia costal resources, fisheries management, forest protection, forest management, and mining conservation
- In addition to instruction and hands on opportunities students have the opportunity to discuss both educational opportunities and carer paths with multiple collgeg representatives and professionals who work in the field of Natural Resources



- 68 students from 44 different counties, representing 27 districts

- Over 30 Valuable Partner Volunteers served as instructors, advisors, and volunteers

- Over \$25,000 in Scholarships awarded

.....and memories and experiences that will last a lifetime!!



A THANK YOU TO OUR DISTRICTS

All students are sponsored by their
Conservation District at NO COST to the
students or their families.



And to the point...

Challenges and Successes

2019- Fresh Meat!



What's New

EVERYTHING! The program, committee, location, awards, Scholarships, registration process..

Challenges

Racism, Minors on Campus, Crammed pack 4 day workshop, very little free time, student drop off and pick up

Successes

I SURVIVED! Sucessscully dealt with a racism complaint, handled my first program repremand of a vounteer, NO STUDENT INJURIES!



2019- Ready for year 2!!

What's New

online registration, addition
of 5th day

Challenges

Successes



2019- Ready for year 2!!

What's New

Challenges

Successes

CANCELLED

WWW.ABAC.EDU/NRCW
NRCW@ABAC.EDU (229) 391-5072
APPLY ONLINE! EARLY BIRD: APRIL 1-30
FINAL DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2020

PREPARE FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS!
JUNE 7 - 12, 2020
TIFTON, GA

HAVE THE BEST SUMMER EXPERIENCE!

PREPARE FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS!

EARLY BIRD: APRIL 1-30
FINAL DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2020
APPLY ONLINE!

LEARN ABOUT EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES!



WWW.ABAC.EDU/NRCW
NRCW@ABAC.EDU
(229) 391-5072

BUT I SURVIVED!

2021- Celebrating 60 years!



What's New

Implemented online registration, addition of 5th day, new College and Career Day

Challenges

Low volunteer numbers for advisors, almost had to cancel! 2 students per district due to covid restrictions. My daughter went 🙏

Successes

Established new minority scholarship, how to handle gender diversity, 60th year banquet, awarded over 40K in Scholarships!



2022- Building off of successes

What's New

Handled registration and bus coordination. Added more field trip and hands on experiences

Challenges

Advisor numbers still low, student numbers lowest in history

Successes

Many return volunteers that established themselves as a reliable team.



2023- Its a Bouncing Baby Workshop!!



What's New

Voluntold my Manager
to come participate 🙄
Handed College and
career day to GACD

Challenges

Unfortunate color choices
Numbers still low for advisors and
students, advisor commitments,
behavior issues!

Successes

Great group of returning
advisors, bus coordination
assigned to other GSWCC staff

Time to share!

Other burning questions..

How to ensure advisor volunteer numbers?

Do other youth program directors get paid some kind of compensation?

What suggestions to improve for continued growth and success?





Thunder's Tour
Trolley

Michelle Conner
michelle.conner@gaswcc.ga.gov
706-431-0477