

Another hunting season in the books

I hope everyone had an awesome season and you are all enjoying the start of winter!

Our Wisconsin Scholastic 3D Archery (WI S3DA) program continues to grow and expand, now to the central and west side of the state! WI S3DA is currently second only to Kentucky in the number of clubs and members. It's been an amazing year full of challenges, growth and many memories made on the ranges.

Our 2021 outdoor season was capped by our highest participation numbers to date in our state 3D and Target championship, held at the Outagamie Conservation Club near Appleton. The staff and members at OCC did an outstanding job with concessions and making sure everyone was well hydrated and the ranges were absolutely perfect, as always! They really did an awesome job in every aspect of the event, from the pre-event meetings, to prepping the ranges and grounds to the food and everything else!

On behalf of the WI S3DA members, coaches and parents we can't thank you enough for going the extra mile to make this event possible!

Going into the fall and winter months of 2021/2022 we are eager to get the indoor season underway. With the additional clubs and kids shooting, there's no doubt we will eclipse every attendance level set in previous years. The coaches working with these kids are putting in the extra time to make sure they are successful and want to keep shooting! We sure are blessed here in Wisconsin with some amazing clubs, coaches and people to help grow the sport we all love so much!

The national S3DA events have been scheduled and we are already seeing families planning their vacations and winter trips around those shoots, including our regional and state events. It's amazing to see so many new smiling faces, getting into target archery and expressing a deep interest in both target archery and bowhunting. I'm confident we will see more growth as I am contacted almost daily by people looking for more shooting and competitive archery opportunities.

But it's still not enough and we still need to keep pushing our young people into the sport. Work with your clubs and local archery shops and let's see if we can continue the amazing progress and growth we've seen the last few years with our S3DA program. I have found no better tool to grow memberships, sell equipment or grow our sport than this program and it all begins with great volunteers and clubs that believe in strong family values, care for and work towards the future of our sport and want to give back! Wisconsin Bowhunters is packed with all sorts of members that fit that description and I welcome any of you to reach out and see how we can bring S3DA to your part of the state. By providing the pathways and tools to get new kids and families into the sport, we ensure a bright future for all involved.

If you'd like me to stop by at your next club meeting, just email or call me, I will be there!

If your club or local shop is currently offering a youth archery program, as most are, check out the S3DA program and see how it will keep those families and kids involved in your club and purchasing equipment year round, becoming lifetime archers and bowhunters at the same time. Stay safe this winter and good luck if your shooting leagues!

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