

The Next Generation: Lambs and Kids!

When we consider bighorn sheep and the viability of these populations into future generations, we focus on the lambs. From biologists and researchers to hunters or wildlife photographers, all of us are aware of the critical importance of the lambs, as their survival to adulthood is the foundation of thriving bighorn populations in the future.

The primary mission of the National Bighorn Sheep Center focuses on the next generation of wild sheep enthusiasts, those “lambs” of today who we inspire and educate to become the leaders of wildlife conservation in the future. Our education team engages these youth (and learners of all ages) in hands-on, curriculum-focused lessons, activities and immersive programs. From our long list of special events planned for 2020 (please visit <https://bighorn.org/events/>), to the nearly 7,000 visitors who come through the Center’s doors annually, we focus on sharing the story of this amazing species and the challenges and opportunities it faces.

Alongside our partners and supporters including the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, we are concerned about the future of bighorn sheep, and in particular, our local iconic Whiskey Mountain herd. Equally so, we are more impassioned than ever to commit to the future of this species. It is our goal to reach more people and, in particular, youth, through meaningful programs and events. Through these efforts and your involvement, we are doing our part to ensure that lambs and the people who will care for them are present and robust long into the future. We encourage YOU to participate this year, whether as a volunteer at Camp Bighorn in August or by contributing your time by attending a special event.

The core of our success is our supporters and partners including the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation...YOU make our work possible! Your financial support ensures that we continue this work, and your critical feedback and vision for how we can improve keeps us moving forward. Sincere thanks and gratitude for your continued support!

Recap: Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience in Reno

In mid-January National Bighorn Sheep Center staff Sara and Karen, along with super volunteers Jessica Shuler, Troy Sullivan and Tory Taylor, traveled to Reno for the Wild Sheep Show. The Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience is our biggest event of the year, and we connected with over 1,500 students as well as their parents and teachers. Tory got lots of attention with his sidekick “Rocky O’Canadensis” and his displays of replica items that Mountain Shoshone made from bighorn sheep. One of the activities we brought along was a migration activity in which the students (and some adults!) “become” bighorn sheep and experience the challenges that wildlife encounter during their annual migrations. In the simulation, they had to jump fences, trudge through deep snow and watch for traffic as they crossed a busy highway. The students learned about the importance of intact habitat, migration corridors and wildlife overpasses. We also

shared information about bighorn sheep adaptations and some of the struggles they face, such as pneumonia.

Our team is currently preparing for the many school group tours we will welcome in the spring, Kid's Corner events in June and Camp Bighorn in August. We have some brand-new activities planned for Kid's Corner such as "Wildlife—Out of this World!" and "In Bighorn Sheep Shoes". We are super excited about our second year of Camp Bighorn, and are planning many fun learning opportunities. Check out our website or Facebook page for more information or to sign up for these events. If you would like to volunteer for any of these events, we are always looking to add to our herd! Contact sara@bighorn.org or call us at 307-455-3429.

Highlight: Camp Bighorn August 2-6, 2020 Registration is Open!

WHO: Youth ages 9-12

WHERE: Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp, Dubois, WY

WHAT: 5-day immersive summer camp focused on bighorn sheep and their habitat

COST: \$500 per youth (scholarships available) Price includes cabin stays and home-cooked meals

CONTACT: 307-455-3429, sara@bighorn.org, register online at bighorn.org/programs/camp-bighorn/

Want to sponsor youth to attend Camp Bighorn 2020? Please get in touch with Sara!

Partners: National Bighorn Sheep Center & Wild Sheep Foundation Chapter & Affiliates

In 2019, the first-overnight Camp Bighorn held at the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp near Dubois, WY was a great success! We hosted 25 amazing youth ages 9-12 years old from as far away as Alaska and as near as Dubois to participate in this fun, educational full-immersion camp designed to inspire and educate youth about bighorn sheep and their habitat. From a trek to the top of Torrey Rim (everyone made it!), to riparian macroinvertebrates alongside Torrey Creek to an exploration of forest ecology and habitat management, youth participants dove in deep to explore this amazing place and home to the Whiskey Mountain herd of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.

A short film, "Camp Bighorn 2019" captures some of the moments at Camp Bighorn created by our partner and the Education Coordinator of the Wild Sheep Foundation, Ryan Brock. It is available for viewing by visiting our website bighorn.org/programs/camp-bighorn/.