

Washington County Pheasants Forever 17th Annual Mentored Youth Pheasant Hunt



October 16, 2021

On Saturday, October 16, 2021, Washington County Pheasants Forever Chapter held its 17th Annual Mentored Youth Pheasant Hunt. There were 8 youth participants, ages 12 to 14, who attended the event along with 37 volunteers who helped make this event a tremendous success. The sunny weather with 40-60 degree temps was perfect for all of our outdoor activities.

Once again, we were supported by our gracious host of the event; the Blair Youth Shooting Sports Club partner for use of their updated facilities along with 6 volunteer staff. Blair Youth Shooting Sports Club, which provided multiple discipline experience with youth from the club serving as coaches for shooting disciplines and gun cleaning. Adults from the club augmented our volunteer staff in various roles such as: mentors, shooting coaches, range cadre and other critical roles for the event. This event demonstrates the continuation of a very valuable partnership.

Each youth participant was teamed with a mentor to work with them one-on-one throughout the day's activities. Mentors shared hunting experiences and re-enforced the importance of safety to the youth through many activities including shooting blue rock, DryFire shooting simulator, 5 stand, Hunter Safety refresher, instruction on Nebraska hunting laws / asking permission to hunt on private property, how to clean shotguns, locating downed birds in the field without a dog.

The highlight of the day was a live pheasant hunt that occurred at the Blair Youth Shooting Sports Club facility just outside of Blair, Nebraska. The youth, guided by their mentors, experienced a very realistic field hunting experience using bird dogs controlled by a dog handler. This year most youth participants were able to take a shot at a Ring-Neck Pheasant, and many were successful.

After the events of the day, the Washington County Pheasants Forever Chapter provided lunch for everyone. Those who completed the youth hunt received a hunting vest provided by a partnership of Pheasants Forever, Nebraska Game & Parks and Boyt Harness. All in all, it was a very successful day full of education, sportsmanship, and excitement for all involved.



Our Agenda for 2021

Hunter Safety Refresher Session	Locating downed birds without a dog.	Taking care of your bounty, cleaning and transporting your birds
Shooting Clay Targets	Gun Cleaning and Safety	Dry Fire Station
Pheasant game law review & Asking permission to hunt.	Guided Pheasant Hunt with Dogs and Mentors.	Shooting 5 Stand Activity

Here are just some highlights of the event

Participants and Mentors receive a Hunter Safety refresher session before heading out to an event filled day.



Dog Handler, Mark Howard, explains how to hunt with a dog during the Hunting Dog Demonstration.



Two youth and their mentors help the dog handler demonstrate how to properly walk through the field....



... keeping each youth/mentor team in line and on either side of the dog handler.

Mentors illustrate the shot pattern at distance on target at the shotgun safety demonstration. Patterning is the first station each youth participates in real firearm usage. The visual effects of a shotgun hit to a water jug drives home the importance of safety when in the field.



Our PF Chapter's Dry Fire simulator helps improve the youth's success on the trap range and in the field; by teaching them how to perform follow-through on the bird and align their shot.



Conservation Officer Brian Arp talked to the youth about Nebraska Game Laws along with asking permission to hunt on private property.



Youth participate at the Blue-Rock shooting station to practice their skills before the Field Hunt experience. Two of the Blair Trap Team youth helpers offer their expertise to the youth participants alongside the adult mentors at the Blair Youth Shooting Sports complex



Adult Mentors provide detailed guidance on marksmanship skills.



5 Stand was challenging and added an element of excitement with the various target types and angles.



Youth keeps a sharp eye out for a safe and clear shot under the supervision of their mentor and dog handler as they walk a field.



The Field Event is such an unique opportunity; giving each youth a chance to engage in a realistic hunt setting with live birds & hunting dogs.



All youth have the opportunity to field dress, clean, tag and prepare their bounty for transport under the supervision of mentors. The proper field preparation of harvested game is an important part of the hunting experience focusing on the wise use of the harvested game.



Participants get a demonstration of proper shotgun cleaning from two of the Blair Trap Team youth volunteers using real equipment and video instructional aids.



Everyone enjoyed lunch provided by the Pheasants Forever Chapter. Fresh pheasant was prepared so that each youth participant would be able to enjoy a taste of pheasant.

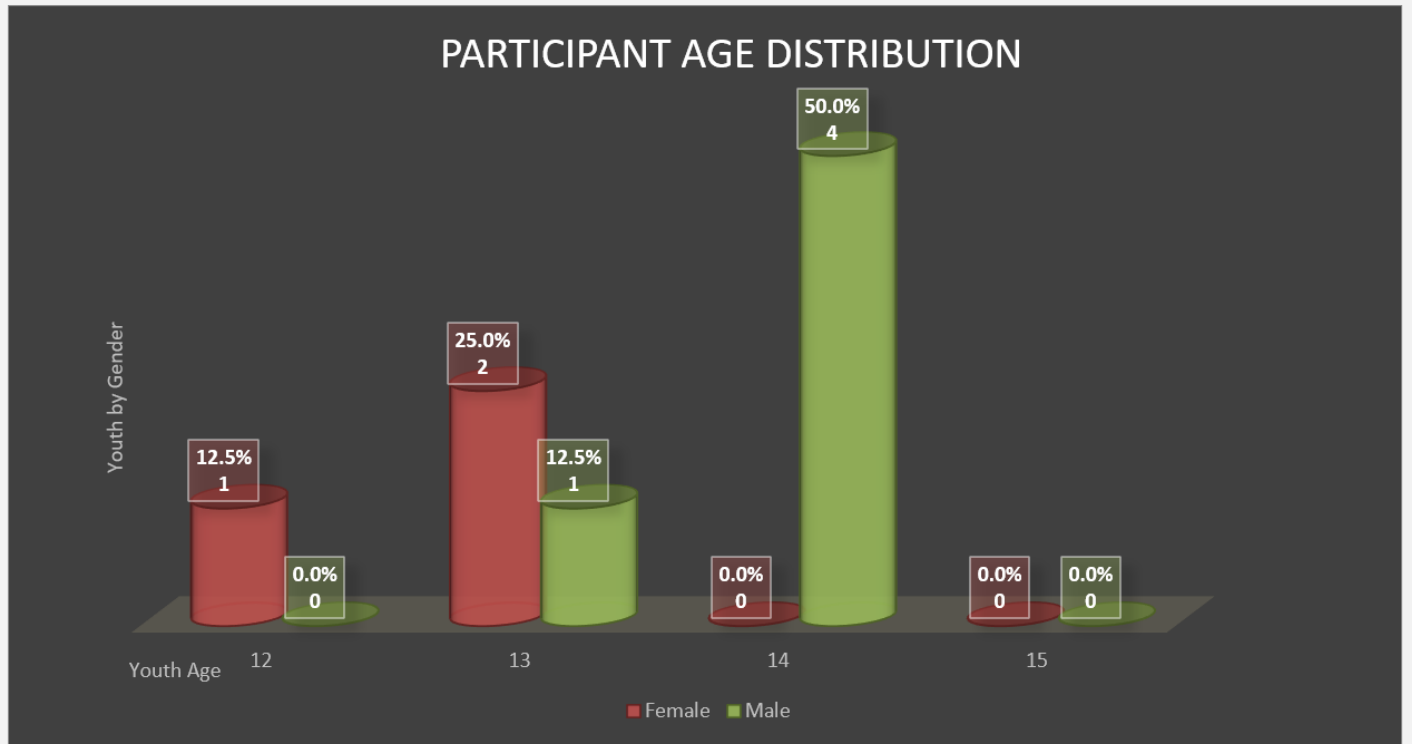


Each of the youth participants were presented a Pheasants Forever and Nebraska Game & Parks donated hunting vest.



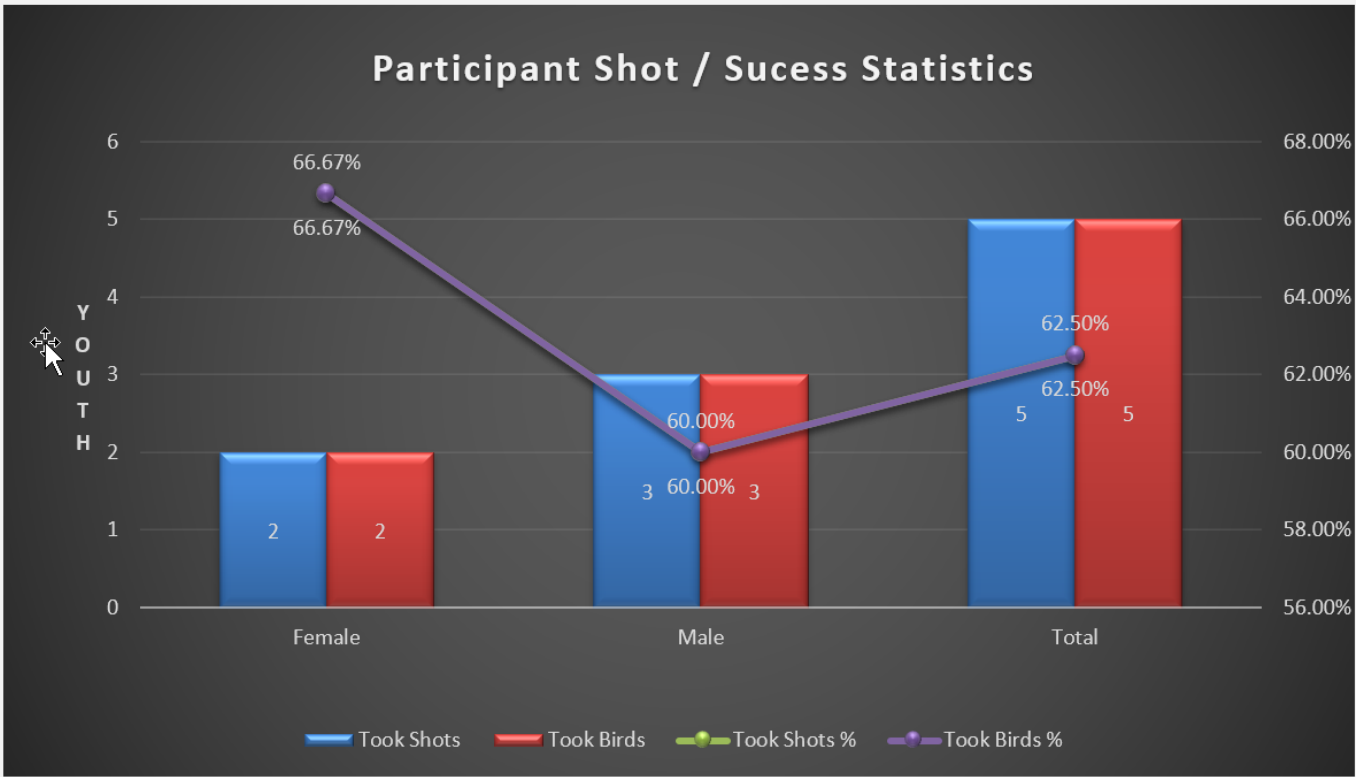
2021 Youth Hunt Statistics

This year's hunt had 8 youth participants, 5 Young Men and 3 Young Ladies ranging from 12 to 14 years of age.



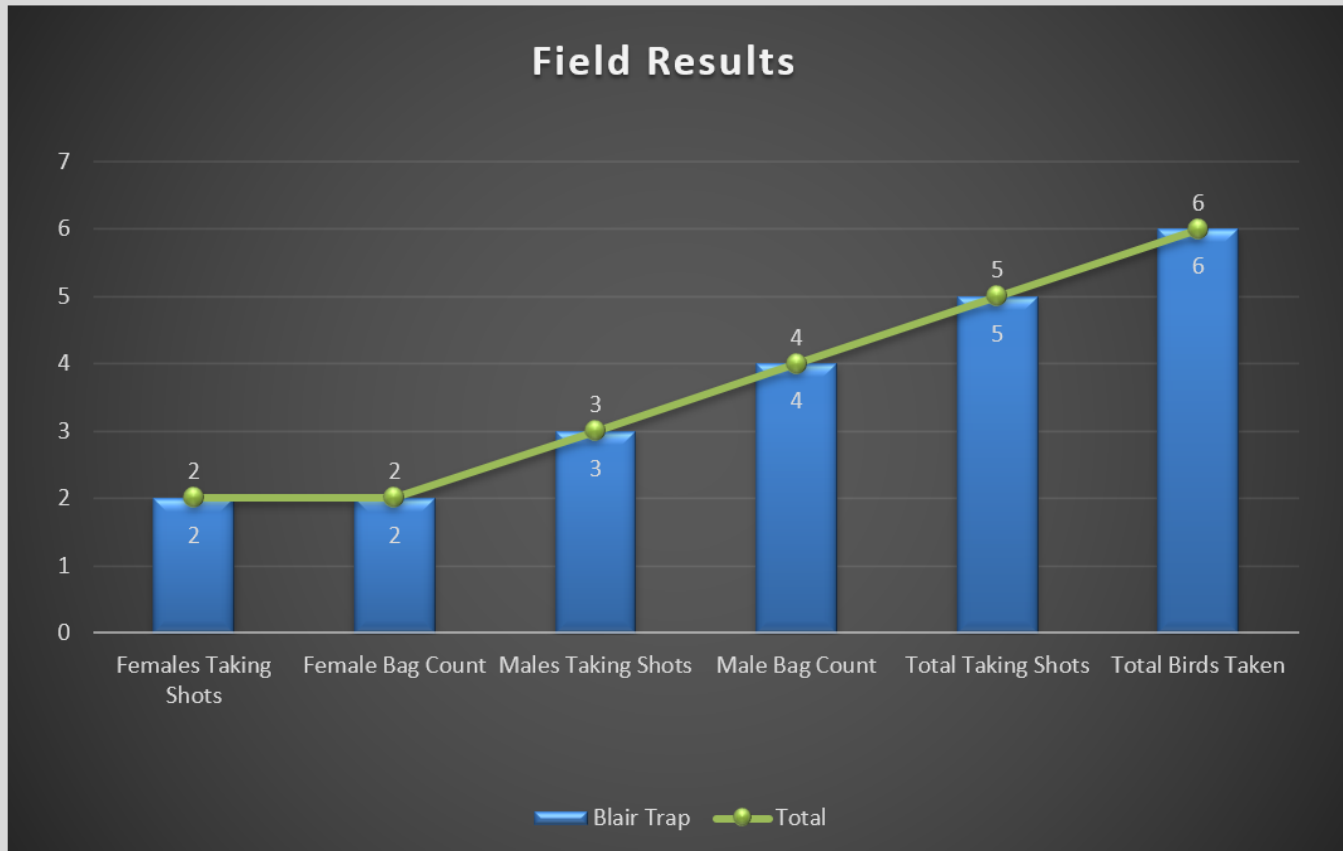
Age	Female	Male	% Female	% Male
12	1	0	12.5%	0.0%
13	2	1	25.0%	12.5%
14	0	4	0.0%	50.0%
15	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Totals	3	5	37.5%	62.5%
	8		100.0%	

Eight youth participated in the field hunt with 62.5% taking shots (5 of 8) and the same number were successful and one took home multiple birds.



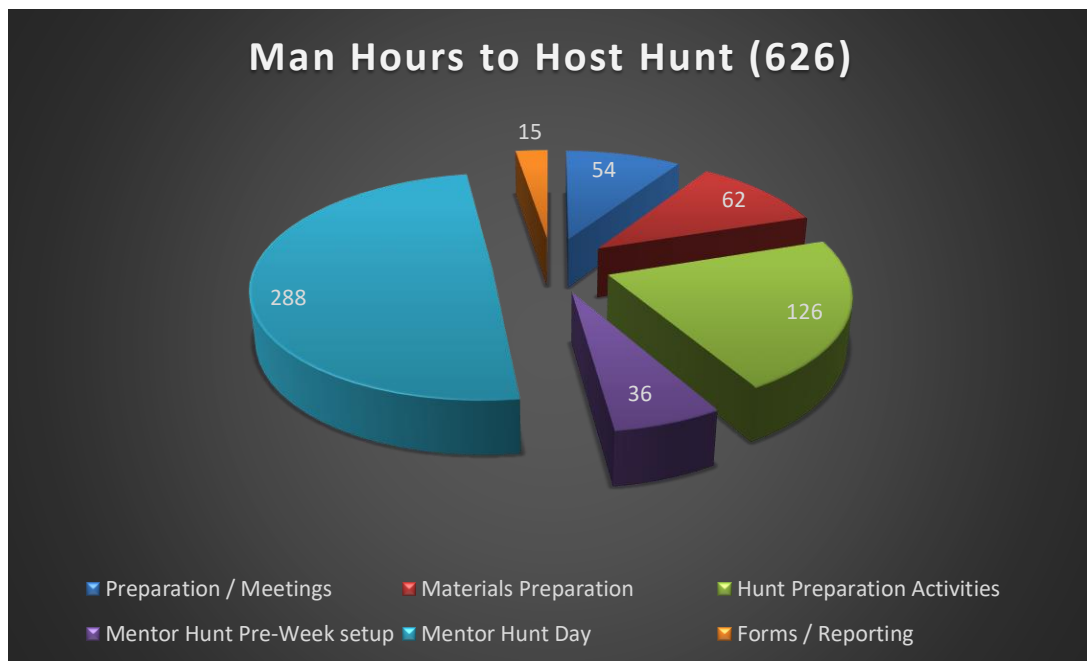
Field Hunt	Female	Male	Total
Participants	3	5	8
Took Shots	2	3	5
Took Shots %	66.67%	60.00%	62.50%
Took Birds	2	3	5
Took Birds %	66.67%	60.00%	62.50%

Examining our hunt Field Statistics in more detail we can break down how many youths took shots and their bag count including totals by gender. We can observe that the field, shots and success rates so we can look for ways to improve next year. Accuracy was good this year with all 5 youths taking shots and 6 birds bagged. This year was a bit more challenging than last year where 100% of the youth were successful.

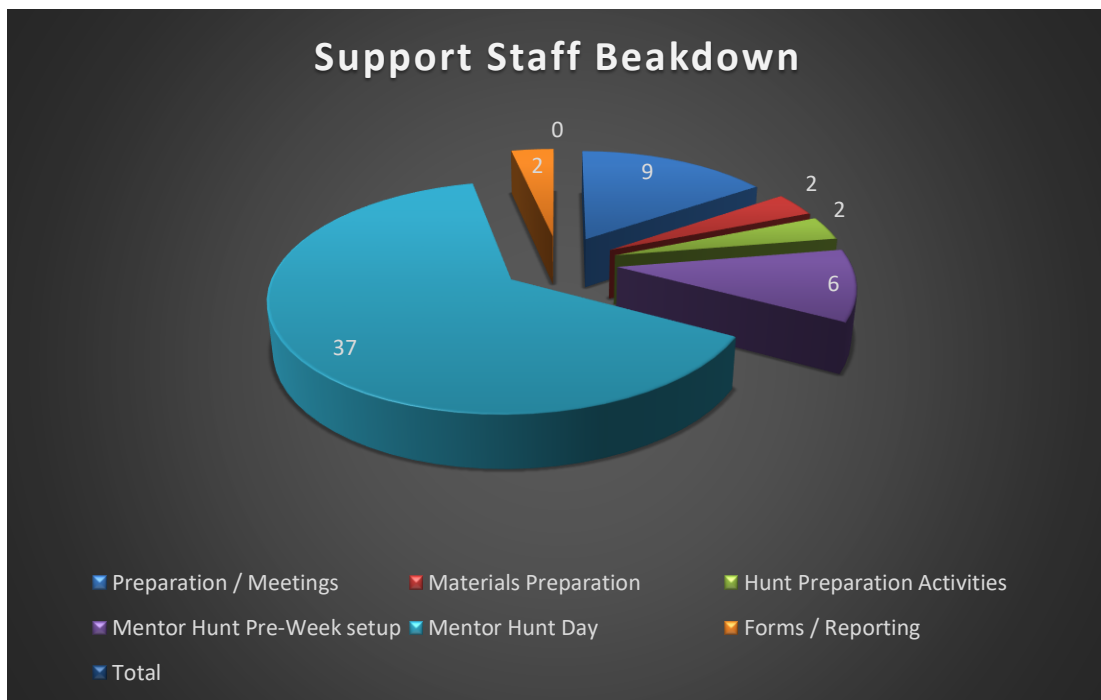


Field	Females Taking Shots	Female Bag Count	Males Taking Shots	Male Bag Count	Total Taking Shots	Total Birds Taken
Blair Trap	2	2	3	4	5	6
Total	2	2	3	4	5	6

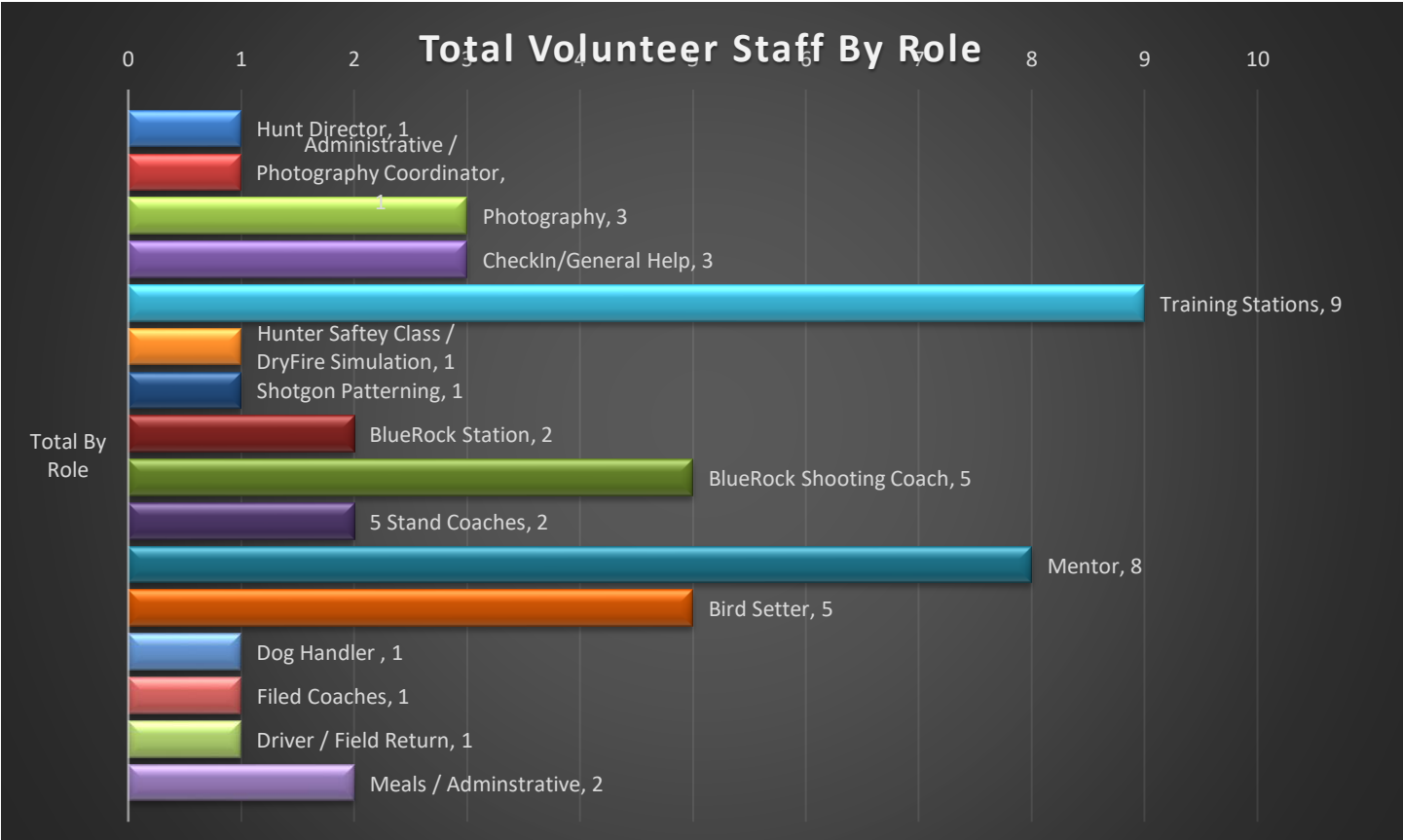
Hosting the annual hunt requires considerable volunteer efforts each year. This year, approximately 626 man hours were invested by 37 volunteers supporting various tasks.



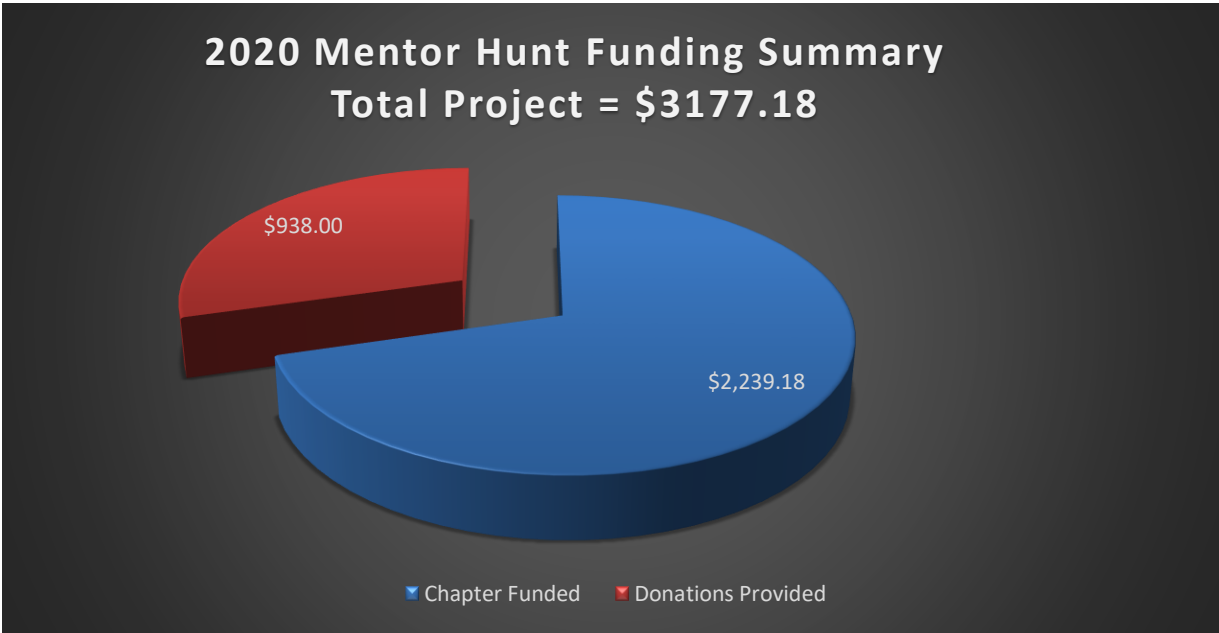
The number of volunteer staff members that participated in various parts of the hunt preparation and execution.



The Staff Roles on the day of the hunt break down the 37 volunteers as follows: (Note some staff have multiple roles in order to facilitate coverage for all stations and event duties



Each annual hunt takes considerable funding. This year pproximtelty \$3,177.18 was used to accomplish the hunt, 70.48% from the Washington County PF chapter and 29.52% in donations from various organizations and individual contributors.



Youth Mentor Hunt Program

Expense Reporting Form

Chapter Name		Washington County #750	
Number of youth attending		8	
Date of Event		16-Oct-21	
Total Volunteers		37	
Total Volunteer Hours		581	
Cost Category	Dollar Amount	Donated Amount or Value *	Notes
Meals	\$227.06	\$108.00	
Hats	\$720.00	-	80@9.00
Shotgun / .22 Shells	\$451.37	-	shotgun ammunition
Bluerocks + Targets		\$322.00	Inventory and non-specified donation from Blair Shooting Sports
Shooting Supplies	\$107.17	\$0.00	shooting glasses, gun cleaning supplies
Hunting Vests		\$480.00	8*60.00 PF
Educational Materials	\$86.78	-	
Promotional Materials	\$61.80	\$28.00	Postage, ink, paper, labels
Disposable Cameras	\$-	-	
Pen-raised Birds	\$455.00	-	35@13
Miscellaneous	\$130.00	-	Lifetime permit
Total	\$2,239.18	\$938.00	
Combined Total	3,177.18		

Chapter Funded	Donations Provided
\$ 2,239.18	\$ 938.00
70.48%	29.52%

* Please include the value of all donated services or products for your event. This will allow us to compete for more grant funds in the future and then return more dollars back to the program!

Please Send Your Completed Form To Ashley Nelson: asnelson@pheasantsforever.org



This form should be submitted with your "Youth Mentor Hunt Participant Summary " within 30 days of your event to continue to receive youth hunting vests free of charge.

Contact your PF Regional Wildlife Biologist with any questions

Aaron Williams - 402-984-1120

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