

Washington County Pheasants Forever 19th Annual Mentored Youth Pheasant Hunt



October 14, 2023

On Saturday, October 14, 2023, Washington County Pheasants Forever Chapter held its 19th Annual Mentored Youth Pheasant Hunt. There were 16 youth participants, ages 12 to 15, who attended the event along with 48 volunteers who helped make this event a tremendous success. The weather was somewhat damp and rainy with temps in the 45–51 degree range but all participants enjoyed a typical real life hunt experience.

For the 5th year, we were supported by our gracious host of the event; the Blair Youth Shooting Sports Club partner with the use of their updated facilities along with 8 volunteer staff. 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 a dog demo, Hunter Safety refresher, shooting blue rock, DryFire shooting simulator, 5 stand, instruction on Nebraska hunting laws / asking permission to hunt on private property, how to clean shotguns, and locating downed birds in the field without a dog. New for this year was our new PF biologist Ashley Oblander who focused on the PF conservation & habitat aspects for the event.

The highlight of the day was a live pheasant hunt that occurred at Tyson Farms LLC fields - north of 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 all youth participants were able to take a shot at a Ringneck 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 Nebraska Lifetime Hunt permit & hunting vest provided by a partnership of our local Pheasants Forever Chapter, Pheasants Forever and 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 2023

Hunter Safety Refresher Session	Locating downed birds without a dog.	Taking care of your bounty, cleaning and transporting your birds
Shooting clay targets & 5 stand event	Gun Cleaning and Safety	Dry Fire Station
Pheasant game law review & Asking permission to hunt.	Guided Pheasant Hunt with Dogs and Mentors.	Conservation program aspects with PF Biologist

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 Handlers, Mark Howard, Matt Hover and Shane Marshall, 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 targets at the shotgun safety demonstration. Patterning is the first station each youth participates in real firearm usage. The visual effects of a shotgun hitting 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 Kelbi Abke 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. Blair Trap Team volunteers offer their expertise to the participants alongside the adult mentors at the Blair Youth Shooting Sports complex. Adult Mentors provide detailed guidance on marksmanship skills.



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 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.

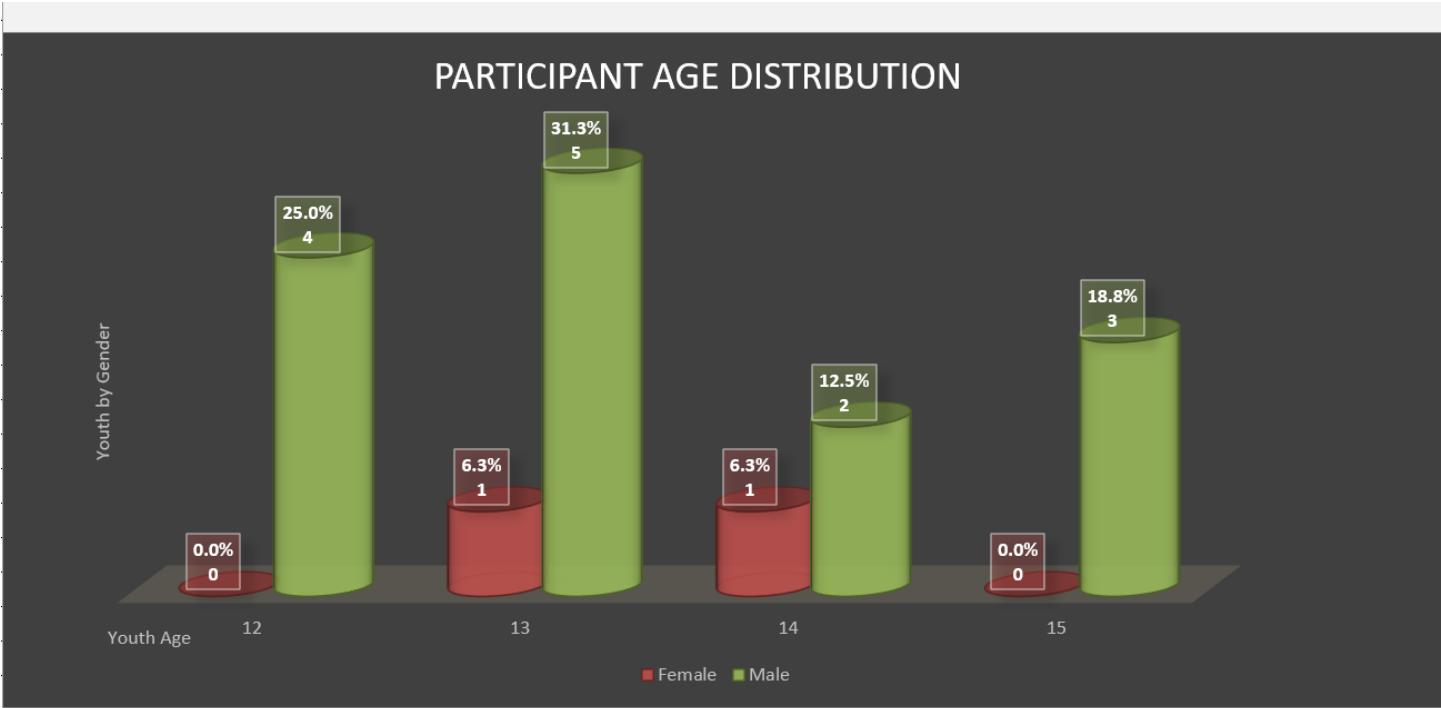


Each of the youth participants were presented a Pheasants Forever and Nebraska Game & Parks donated hunting vest.



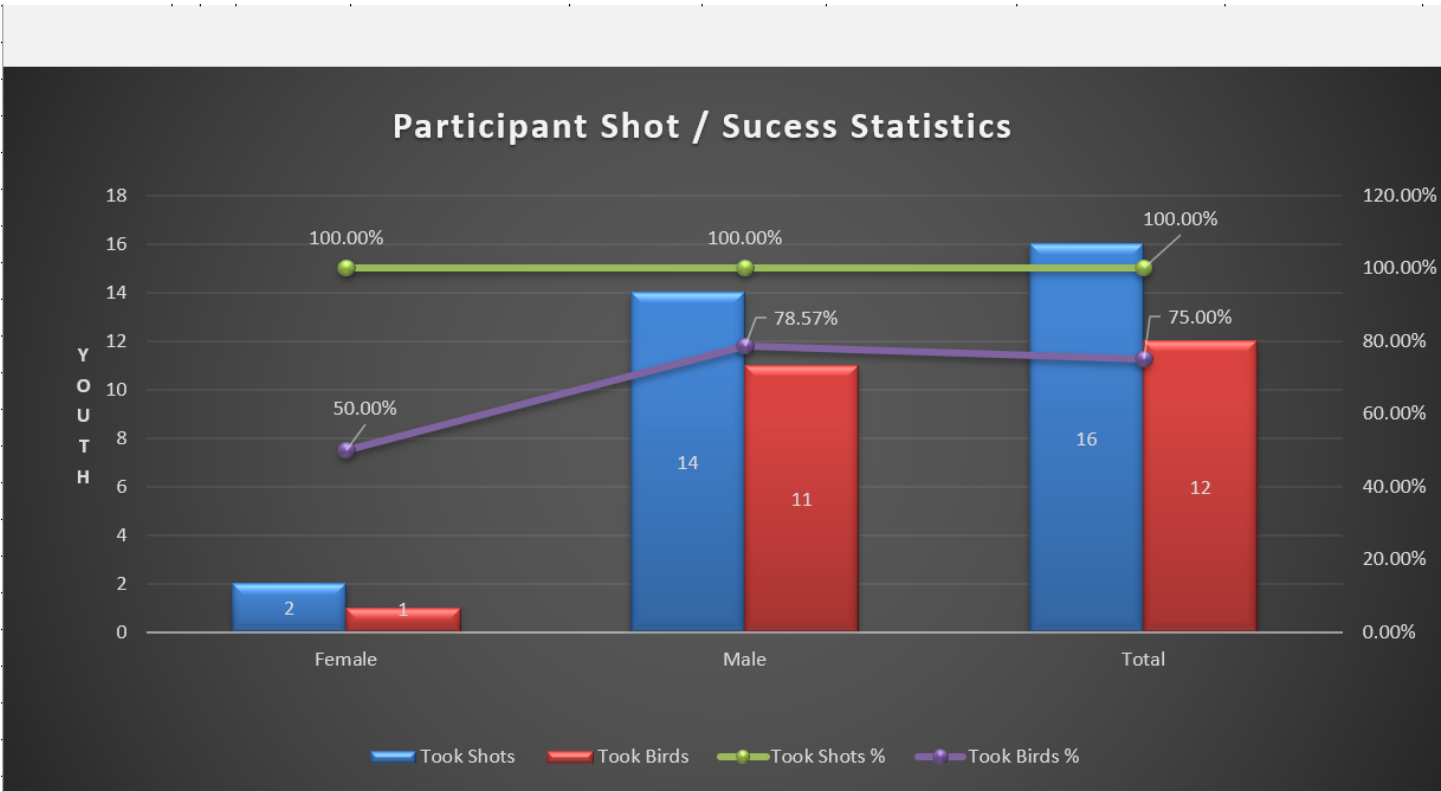
2023 Youth Hunt Statistics

This year’s hunt had 16 youth participants, 14 Young Men and 2 Young Ladies ranging from 12 to 15 years of age.



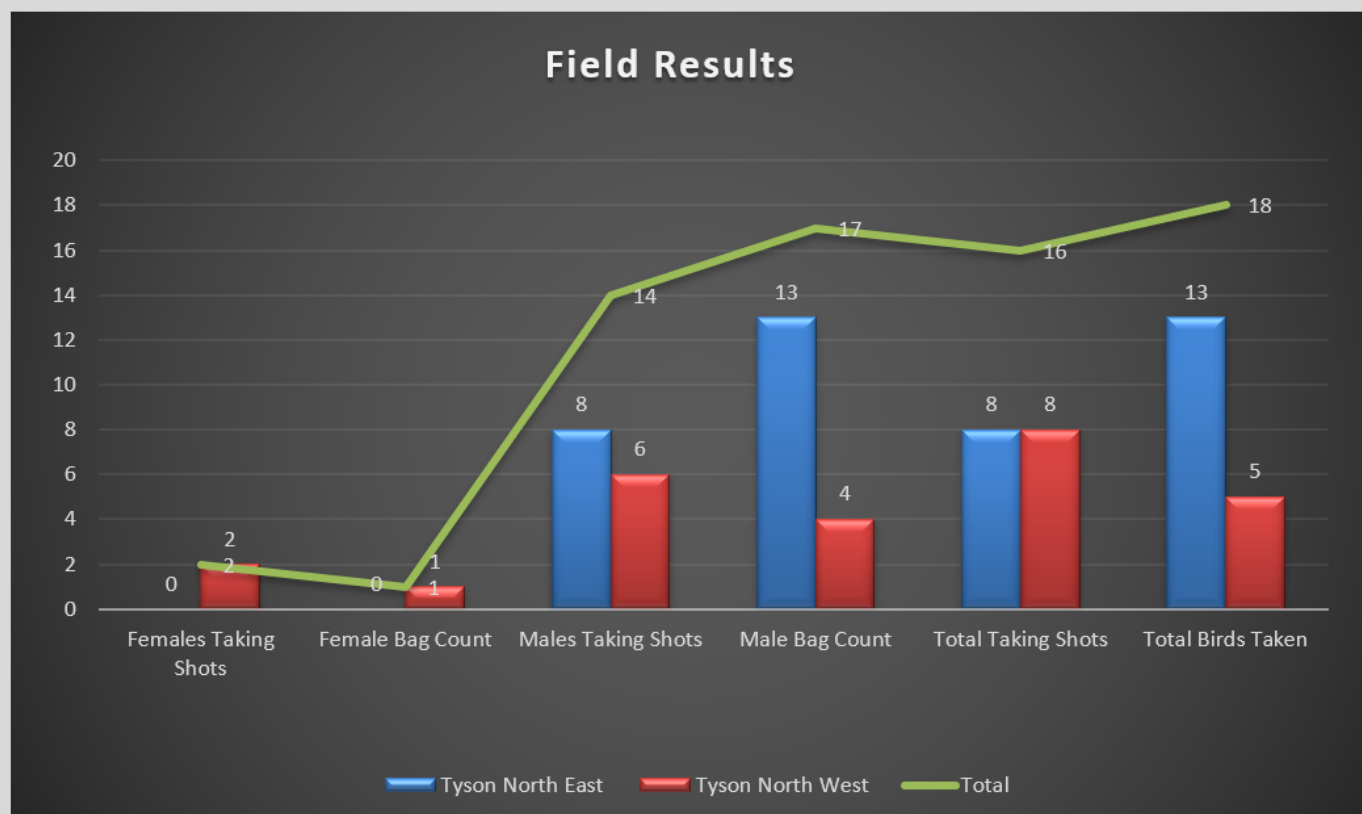
Age	Female	Male	% Female	% Male
12	0	4	0.0%	25.0%
13	1	5	6.3%	31.3%
14	1	2	6.3%	12.5%
15	0	3	0.0%	18.8%
Totals	2	14	12.5%	87.5%
	16		100.0%	

Sixteen youth participated in the field hunt with 100% taking shots and 12 (75%) were successful and some took home multiple birds.



Field Hunt	Female	Male	Total
Participants	2	14	16
Took Shots	2	14	16
Took Shots %	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Took Birds	1	11	12
Took Birds %	50.00%	78.57%	75.00%

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 what the field, shots and success rates so we can look for ways to improve next year. Accuracy was average this year, with all 16 youths taking shots and 18 birds bagged. The East field showed a larger bag rate than the West field. The use of the launchers allowed for much more field control, a safer and more enjoyable experience for all involved.

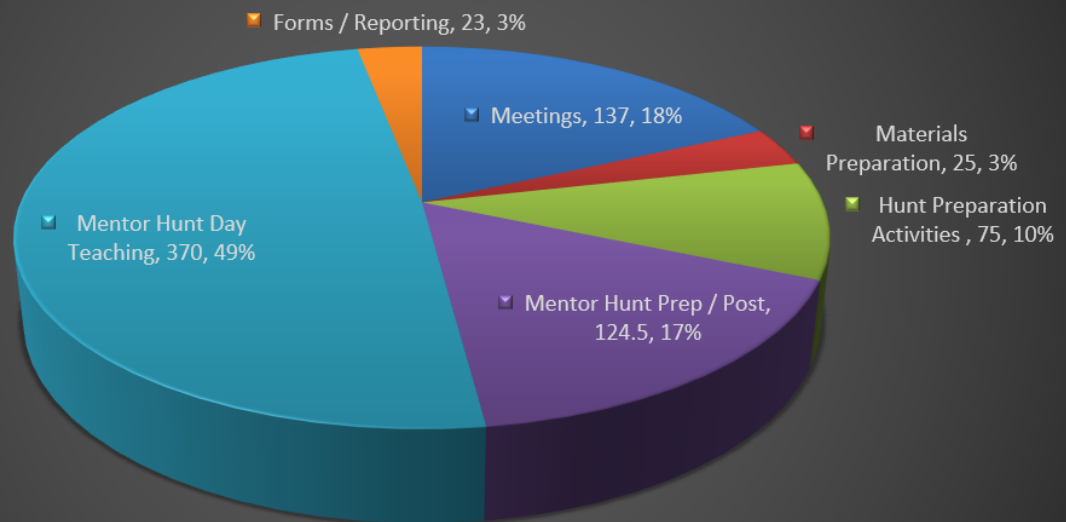


Field	Females Taking Shots	Female Bag Count	Males Taking Shots	Male Bag Count	Total Taking Shots	Total Birds Taken
Tyson North West	2	1	6	4	8	5
Tyson North East	0	0	8	13	8	13
Total	2	1	14	17	16	18

Hosting the annual hunt requires considerable volunteer efforts each year. This year, approximately 754.5 volunteer hours were invested by 48 volunteers supporting the work breakdown as follows.

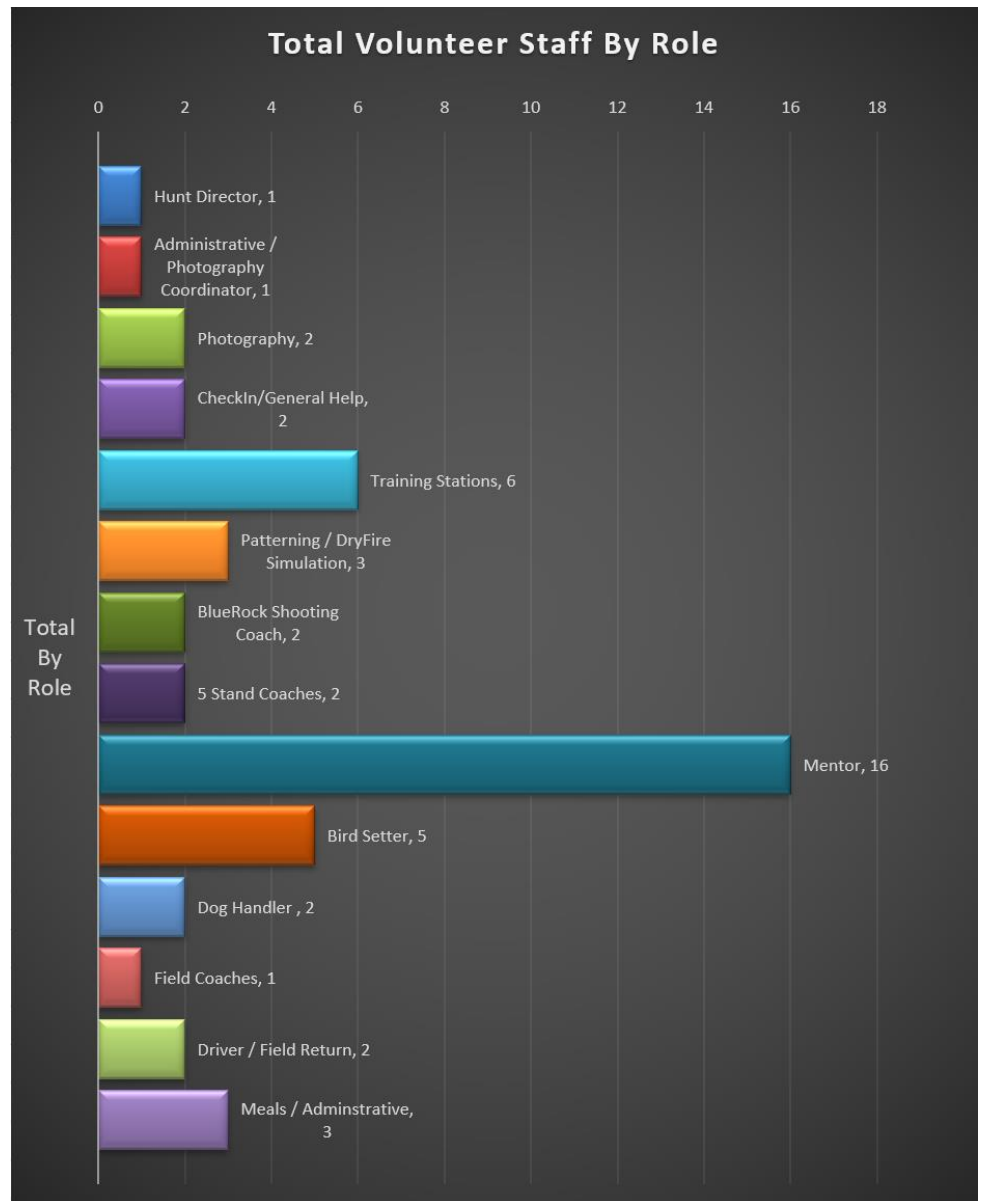
Category	Hours
Meetings	137
Materials Preparation	25
Hunt Preparation Activities	75
Mentor Hunt Prep / Post	124.5
Mentor Hunt Day Teaching	370
Forms / Reporting	23
Total	754.5
Meetings	137
Prep	247.5
Teaching	370.0

Volunteer Hours to Host Hunt (754.5)

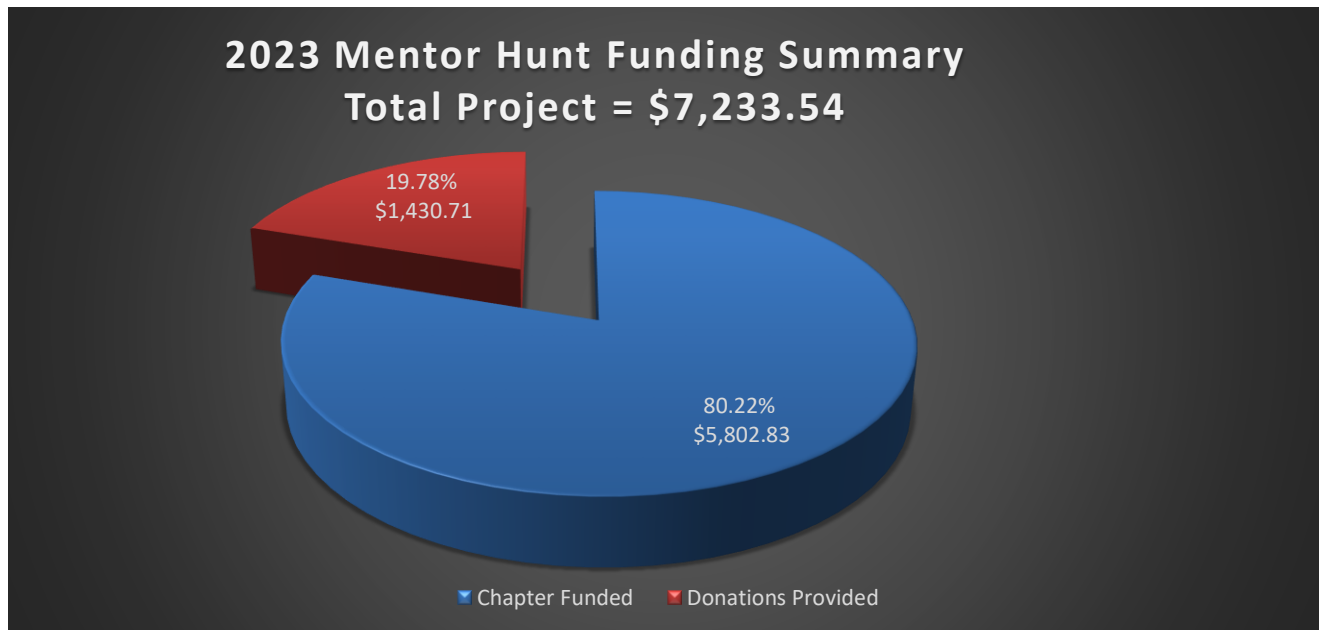


The Staff roles on the day of the hunt break down the 48 volunteers as follows: (Note: some staff have multiple roles in order to facilitate coverage for all stations and event duties)

Role	Total By Role
Hunt Director	1
Administrative / Photography Coordinator	1
Photography	2
CheckIn/General Help	2
Training Stations	6
Patterning / DryFire Simulation	3
BlueRock Shooting Coach	2
5 Stand Coaches	2
Mentor	16
Bird Setter	5
Dog Handler	2
Field Coaches	1
Driver / Field Return	2
Meals / Administrative	3
Total	48



Each annual hunt takes considerable funding. This year pproximely \$7,233.54 was used to accomplish the hunt, 80.22% from the Washington County PF chapter and 19.78% in donations from various organizations and individual contributors.



Youth Mentor Hunt

Event & Expense Reporting Form

Chapter Name & Number:	Washington County #750		
Chapter Contact & Email:	Bob Rion	brion@rions.com	
Date of Event:	14-Oct-23	Location:	Blair Trap & Tyson Fields
Number of Youth Participants:	16		
Number of Volunteers:	48	Total Volunteer Hours:	754.5

Cost Category	Chapter Expenses	Donated Amount or Value *	Notes
Meals	\$ 539.56	\$ 126.32	
Hats (\$10 Expense Each)	\$ 900.00	\$ -	90@10.00
Shotgun Shells	\$ 639.59	\$ -	shotgun ammunition
Bluerocks	\$ -	\$ 317.00	Per round per youth + Facility Use
Shooting Supplies	\$ 588.52	\$ -	shooting glasses, gun cleaning supplies, launchers, water jugs, batteries,
Hunting Vests (\$60 Donation Each)	\$ -	\$ 960.00	16*60.00
Dove Belts (\$22 Donation Each)	\$ -	\$ -	
Youth Lifetime Permit	\$ 2,080.00	\$ -	1/2 Price Permit 16@ \$130.00
Promotional Materials	\$ 80.16	\$ 27.39	Postage, ink, paper, labels
Photography	\$ -	\$ -	
Pen-raised Birds	\$ 975.00	\$ -	65 @ 15
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	
Cash Donation	\$ -	\$ -	
Total	\$ 5,802.83	\$ 1,430.71	
Combined Total	7,233.54		

Chapter Funded	Donations Provided
\$ 5,802.83	\$ 1,430.71
80.22%	19.78%

* 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!

Questions about this form? Please contact your Regional Representative:

Eastern NE & SW IA Region	Western Region
Jackson Ellis	Nick Mizera
402-619-6261	402-894-7762
jellis@pheasantsforever.org	nmizera@pheasantsforever.org

Please complete and return this form within 30 days of your event to Leanne Schwarting lschwarting@pheasantsforever.org. Failure to do so might result in charges for vests



Youth Mentor Hunt Forms 2023