

Washington County Pheasants Forever 20th Annual Mentored Youth Pheasant Hunt



September 28, 2024

On Saturday, September 28, 2024, the Washington County Pheasants Forever Chapter hosted its 20th Annual Mentored Youth Pheasant Hunt. The event hosted 16 youth participants, aged 12 to 14, and was supported by 53 dedicated volunteers, ensuring its tremendous success. The weather started off pleasantly in the morning and became quite warm in the afternoon, with temperatures ranging from 57 to 87 degrees. Despite the heat, all participants enjoyed an authentic hunting experience.

For the sixth consecutive year, we were graciously hosted by the Blair Youth Shooting Sports Club, utilizing their updated facilities and the support of 12 volunteer staff members. Adults from the club enhanced our volunteer team by taking on roles such as mentors, shooting coaches, DryFire simulation operators, and other essential positions. This event highlights the ongoing value of our partnership.

Each youth participant was paired with a mentor for one-on-one guidance throughout the day's activities. Mentors shared hunting experiences and emphasized safety through various activities, including a dog demo, Hunter Safety refresher, DryFire simulator, shooting blue rock, and lessons on Nebraska hunting laws, asking permission to hunt on private property, cleaning shotguns, and locating downed birds without a dog. Our new PF Biologist, Rob Peterson, and PF Prescribed Fire Specialist, Ashley Yost provided displays and practical demonstrations on pheasant conservation and Nebraska habitat.

The highlight of the day was a live pheasant hunt at Tyson Farms LLC fields, located just north of the Blair Youth Shooting Sports Club facility near Blair, Nebraska. Guided by their mentors, the youth experienced a realistic field hunt with bird dogs managed by their handler. This year, every participant had the opportunity to take a shot at a Ringneck pheasant, with many achieving success.

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 & a hunting vest provided by a partnership of our local Pheasants Forever Chapter, National 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 2024

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	DryFire 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 explains how to hunt with a dog during the field hunting 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.



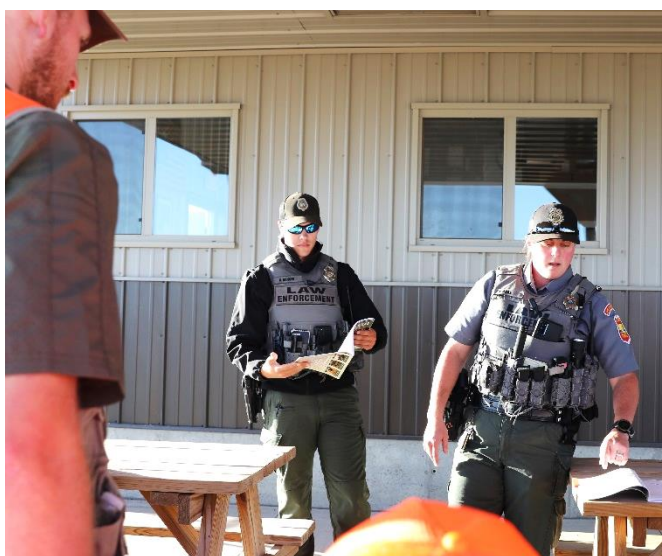
Our PF Chapter's DryFire simulator helps improve the youth's success on the trap range and in the field by teaching them how to perform follow-through on the bird and align their shot.



Mentors and shooting coaches illustrate the shot pattern at distance on targets at the shotgun patterning stations using tripod rests to minimize movement and aim point alignment. Patterning is the first station each youth participates in with real firearm usage. The visual effects of a shotgun hitting a water jug drive home the importance of safety when in the field.



Conservation Officers Kelbi Abke and Kyle Hansen 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 a unique opportunity, giving each youth a chance to engage in a realistic hunt setting with live birds & hunting dogs.

















Under the guidance of mentors, all youth have the chance to field dress, clean, tag, and prepare their game for transport. Properly preparing harvested game in the field is a crucial aspect of the hunting experience, emphasizing the responsible use of the 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. Each participant received a gun cleaning kit to use in the future.



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.

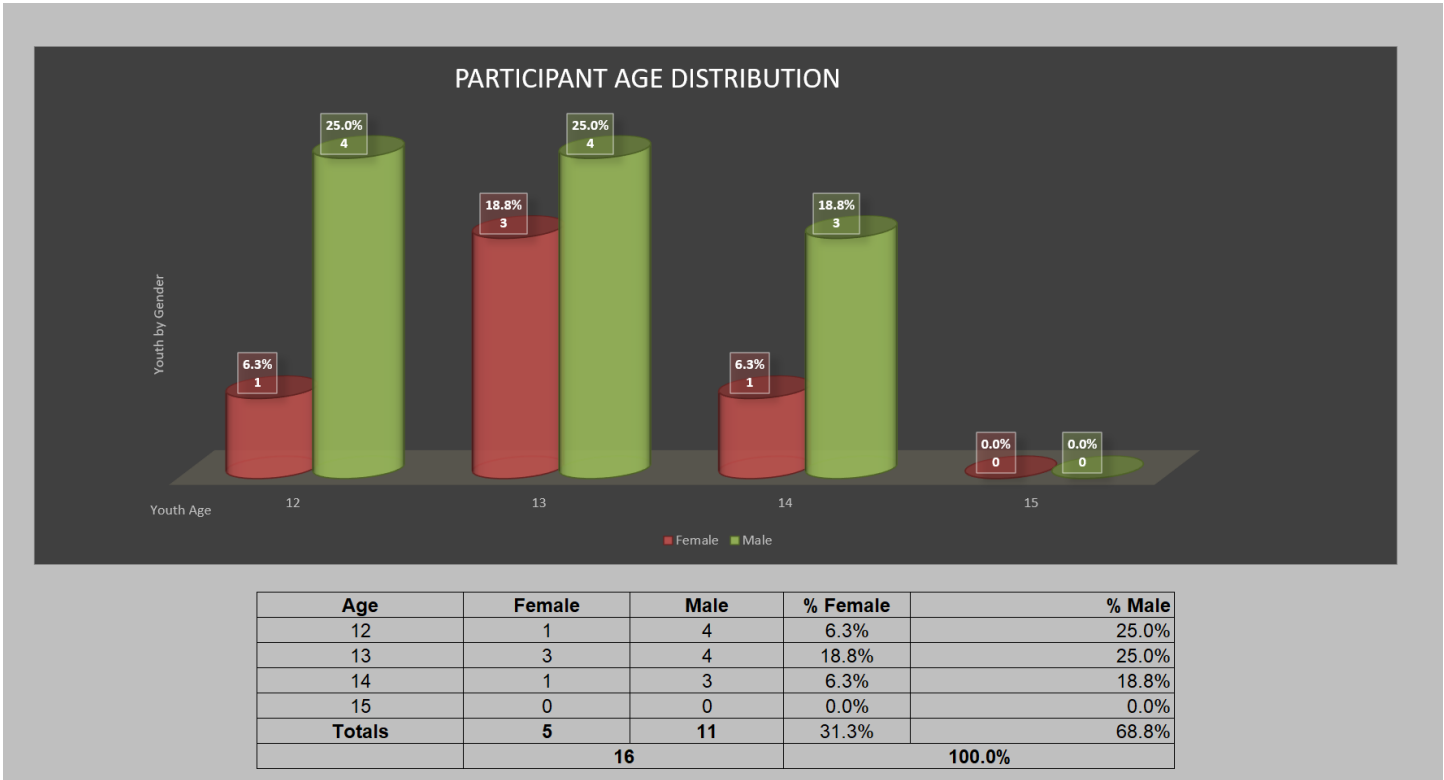


Before the event's activities began, each of the youth participants were presented with a Pheasants Forever and Nebraska Game & Parks donated hunting vest. This came in handy during the live hunt portion of the program and will serve the youth well into the future.

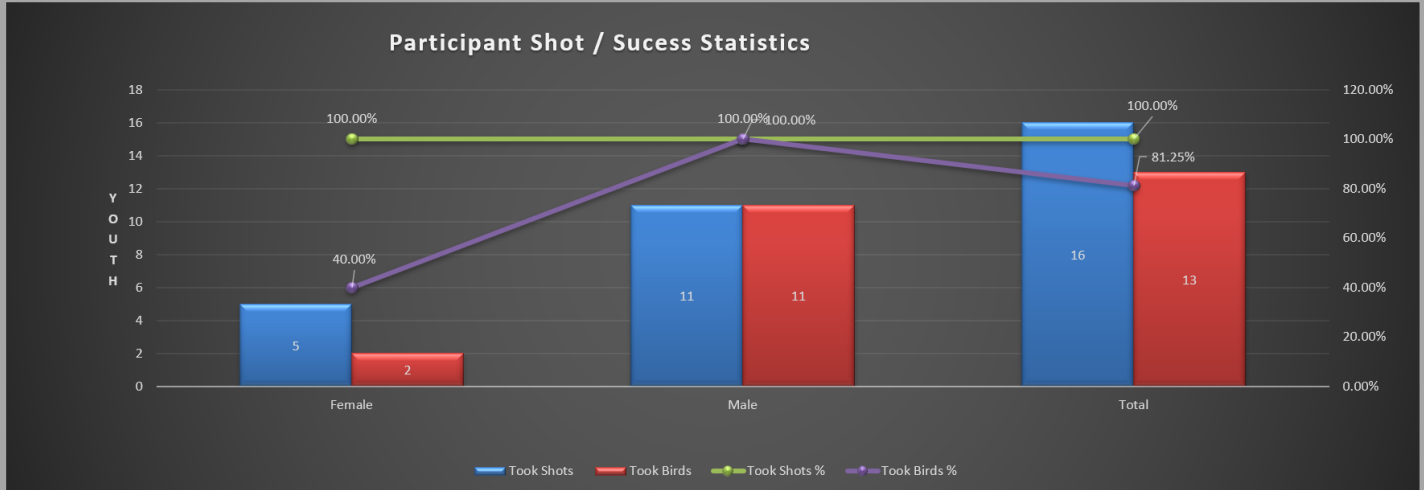


2024 Mentored Youth Pheasant Hunt Statistics

This year’s hunt had 16 youth participants, 11 Young Men and 5 Young Ladies ranging from 12 to 14 years of age.

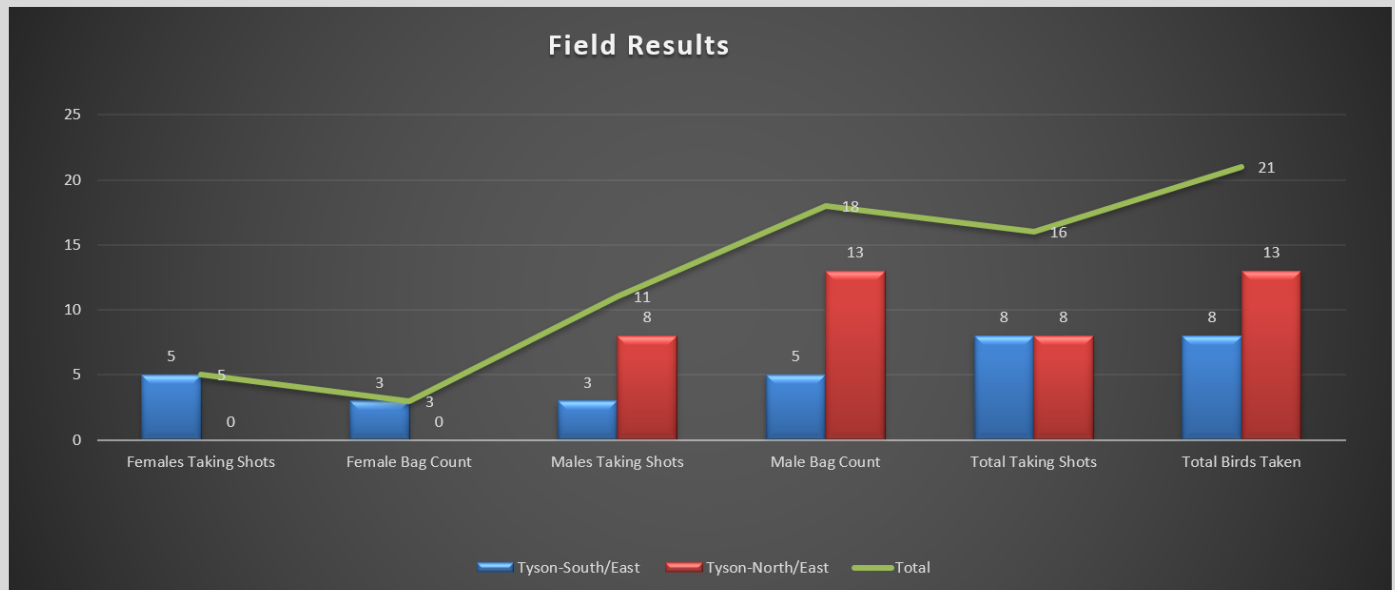


Sixteen youth participated in the field hunt with 100% taking shots and 13 (81%) were successful and some took home multiple birds. The young men were 100% successful in bagging a pheasant while the young ladies were 40% successful this year.



Field Hunt	Female	Male	Total
Participants	5	11	16
Took Shots	5	11	16
Took Shots %	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Took Birds	2	11	13
Took Birds %	40.00%	100.00%	81.25%

Examining our hunt field statistics in more detail, we can break down the number of youths who took shots and their bag count, including totals by gender. This allows us to analyze field performance, shots, and success rates to identify areas for improvement next year. This year, with all 16 youths taking shots and 21 birds bagged, the North East field had a higher bag count of 13 compared to 8 in the South field. The use of launchers continues to be a fantastic tool providing better field control and a safer, more enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

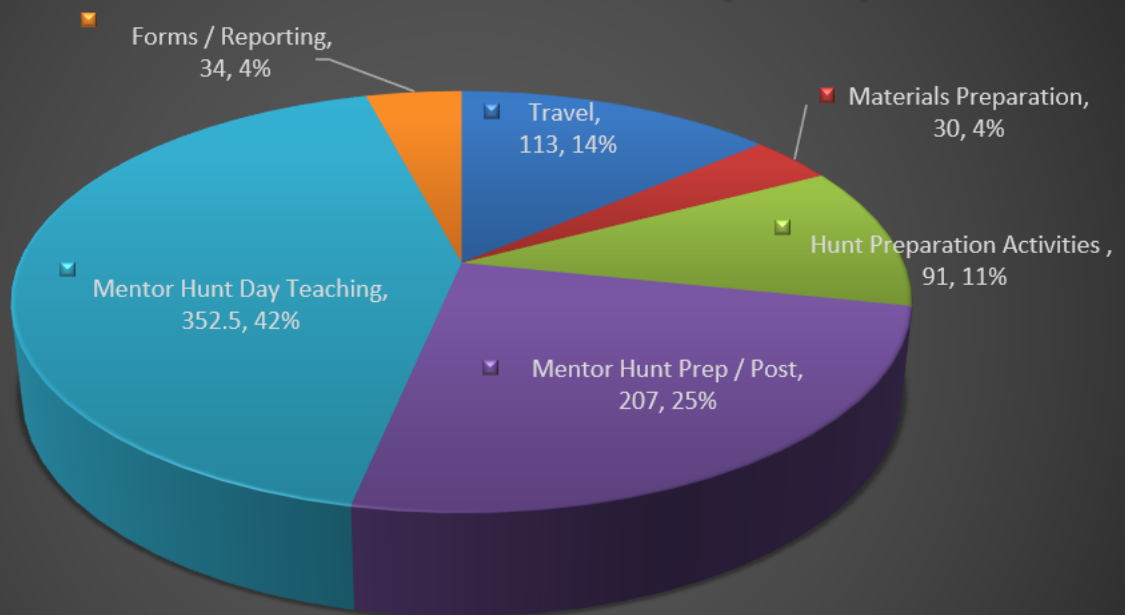


Field	Females Taking Shots	Female Bag Count	Males Taking Shots	Male Bag Count	Total Taking Shots	Total Birds
Tyson-North/East	0	0	8	13	8	13
Tyson-South/East	5	3	3	5	8	8
Total	5	3	11	18	16	21

Hosting the annual hunt requires considerable volunteer efforts each year. This year, approximately 827.5 volunteer hours were invested by 53 volunteers supporting the work breakdown as follows.

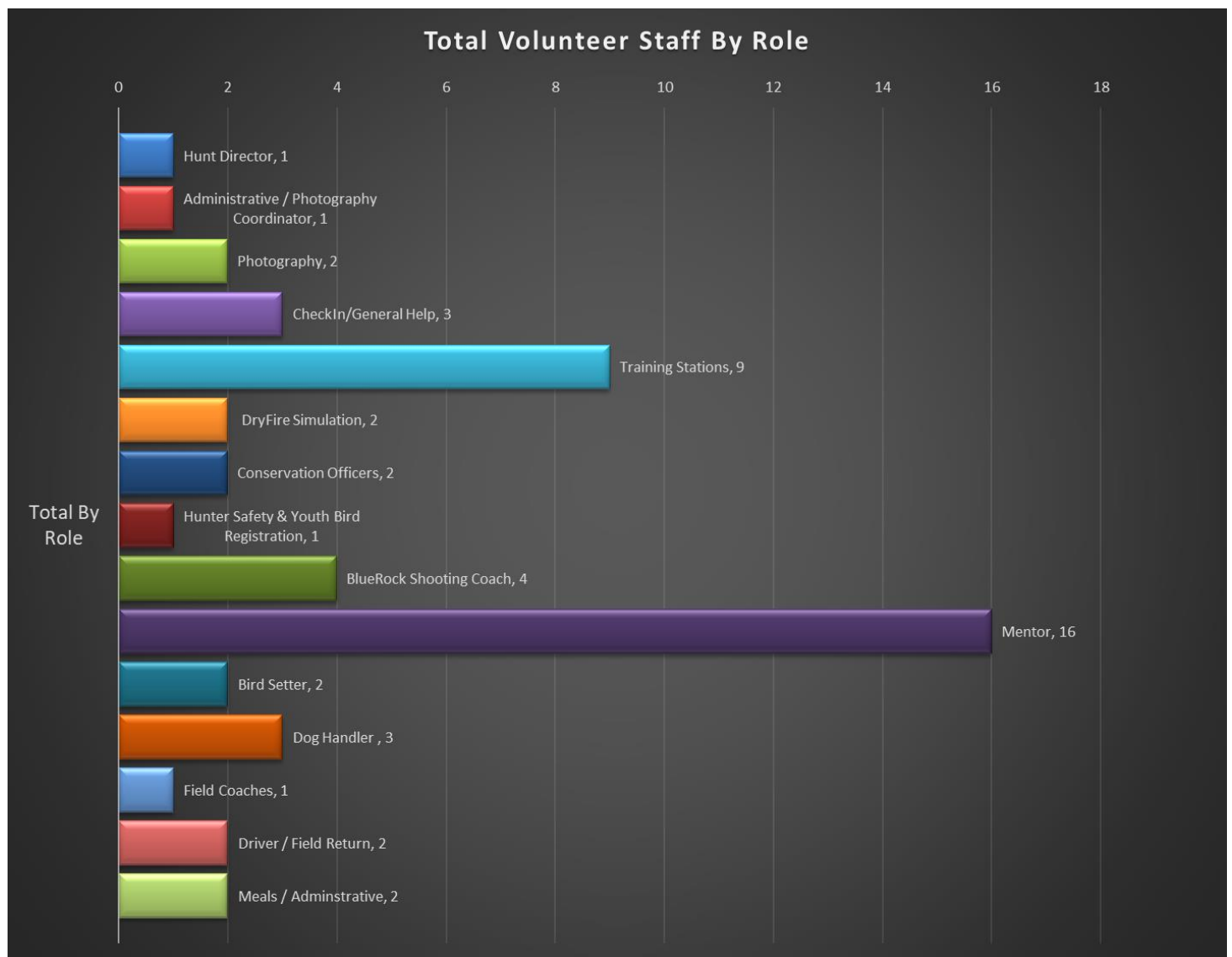
Category	Hours
Travel	113
Materials Preparation	30
Hunt Preparation Activities	91
Mentor Hunt Prep / Post	207
Mentor Hunt Day Teaching	352.5
Forms / Reporting	34
Total	827.5
Travel	113
Prep	362.0
Teaching	352.5

Volunteer Hours to Host Hunt (827.5)

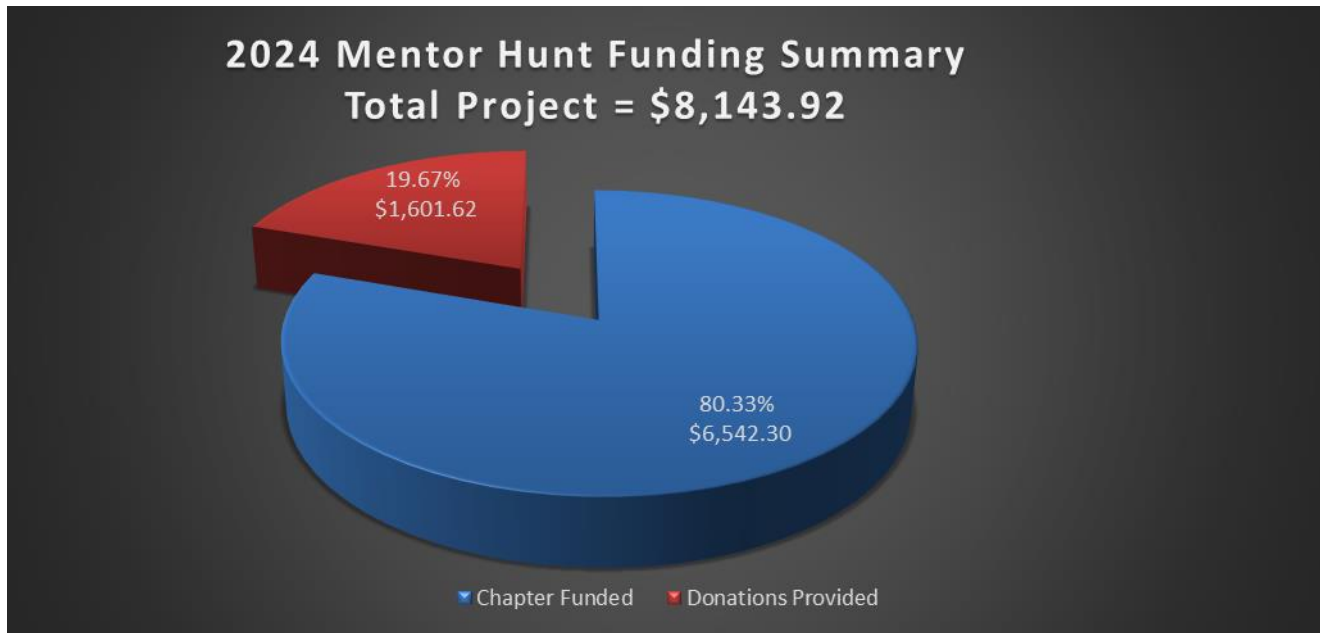


The Staff roles on the day of the hunt break down the 51 event volunteers as follows: (Note: some staff have multiple roles in order to facilitate coverage for all stations at the event).

Role	Total By Role
Hunt Director	1
Administrative / Photography Coordinator	1
Photography	2
CheckIn/General Help	3
Training Stations	9
DryFire Simulation	2
Conservation Officers	2
Hunter Safety & Youth Bird Registration	1
BlueRock Shooting Coach	4
Mentor	16
Bird Setter	2
Dog Handler	3
Field Coaches	1
Driver / Field Return	2
Meals / Adminstrative	2
Total	51



Each annual hunt takes considerable funding. This year pproximtely \$8,143.92 was used to accomplish the hunt, 80.33% from the Washington County PF chapter and 19.67% 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:	28-Sep-24	Location:	Blair Trap & Tyson Fields
Number of Youth Participants:	16		
Number of Volunteers:	53	Total Volunteer Hours:	827.5

Cost Category	Chapter Expenses	Donated Amount or Value *	Notes
Meals	\$ 979.79	\$ 97.00	
Hats (\$12 Expense Each)	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -	100@12
Shotgun Shells	\$ 174.32	\$ -	shotgun ammunition
Bluerock	\$ -	\$ 225.00	Per round per youth + Facility Use
Shooting Supplies	\$ 336.49	\$ 288.00	shooting glasses, gun cleaning supplies, , water jugs, batteries,
Hunting Vests (\$60 Donation Each)	\$ -	\$ 960.00	16*60.00
Dove Belts (\$22 Donation Each)	\$ -	\$ -	
Youth Lifetime Permit	\$ 2,092.90	\$ -	1/2 Price Permit 16@ \$130.00
Promotional Materials	\$ 133.80	\$ 31.62	Postage, ink, paper
Photography	\$ -	\$ -	
Pen-raised Birds	\$ 1,625.00	\$ -	65 @ 25
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	
Cash Donation	\$ -	\$ -	
Total	\$ 6,542.30	\$ 1,601.62	
Combined Total	8,143.92		

Chapter Funded	Donations Provided
\$ 6,542.30	\$ 1,601.62
80.33%	19.67%

* 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 2024