



The temperatures are down but the dreams of warm weather and companionship in the field are brewing warmth into my home. I hope it is in yours too!

As we step into this new world with a new president and new year in place, I am hoping some common sense in the conservation world is upon us but we all know that if there is social media, there will all be a battle from the uninformed unfortunately. :(

This is where OSCSCI comes in. You all may not know it but we (SCI) are the absolute leader in political and educational issues on this big blue ball. We don't do much in the physical space

poaching we spend, the animals would all be gone :(

How can you help? The least amount of work on your side is monetary and the most profitable for us to give us

enough to work with is to buy tickets and tables to our events.

Yes, there is some financial gain from all the world wide hunts, trips and game tickets we sell, but not quite as much. The benefit to you is the Tax donation write off you get from the event tickets that you can't get from buying hunts and trips for under retail price.

Tickets go on sale this week for our annual spectacular event, which will be Apr 5th 2025 at The Riverwind Casino ShowWe have some of the hunts and trips we have confirmed later in this magazine but more will be added as we have almost 3 months to go woop woop!



You will also see some of the OSCSCI involvement in the Educational field with-in. In partnership with the ODWC, we have an annual essay context which touches kids all over Oklahoma! Unfortunateley we can only afford to Honor 4 of the kids each year with lifetime hunts and trips but if you all support us with higher numbers we can do more!!!

**Network Larry Gerads** editor@oklahomastationsci.org

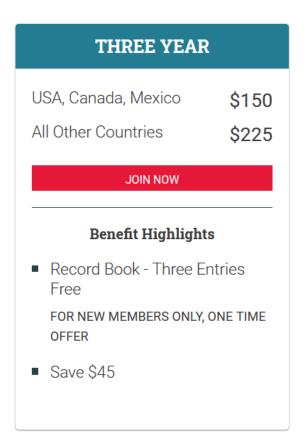


ALL Oklahoma SCI Members are FREE members of your local Oklahoma Station Chapter (OSCSCI)!!



Membership Options Already a Member? Click Here to Renew

ONE YEAR			
USA, Canada, Mexico All Other Countries	\$65 \$90		
JOIN NOW			
Benefit Highlights			
<ul> <li>Record Book - First Entry Free (\$35 Value)</li> </ul>			
FOR NEW MEMBERS ONLY, ONE TIME OFFER			



## Or come to our OSCSCI Banquet Apr 5th 2025 and get 1 year SCI Membership PLUS 1 Year OSCSCI for

**\$45** 



## (Dec 2024)

### Directors And Terms (through March 31 2024):

Ambrosek, Gordon - 2026 Bereman, Hugh – 2025 Butcher, Brandon - 2026 Gerads, Larry – 2025 Jones, Mike – 2027 Hansen, Leonard Jr. – 2026 Munhollen, Sam - 2026 Muse, Dr. Gene – 2027

### Officers:

Larry Gerads – President Liaison – Mike Jones Treasurer – Gordon Ambrosek Leonard Hansen, Jr. – Secretary

### **Past-Presidents' Council:**

T. Scott Holmes, Mike Mistelske, Sam Munhollon, Leroy Ussery, Jim Waters, Jim White, Dennis Elliot, Hugh Bereman

#### Past-President's:

T. D. Smith, Steve Scott, Niles Taylor, Dr. Joe Bills Reynolds, Robert Funk

## Committee Assignments and Banquet Duties:

Ambrosek, Gordon:
Banquet Silent Auction,
Membership Recruitment

Bereman, Hugh: Banquet Chairman/Admissions/ Banquet Games & Store

Bradshaw, Dennis:
Banquet Hunt Manager

**Butcher, Brandon:** Banquet Hunt Manager

Gerads, Larry:
Chairman-Marketing,
Editor-Safari Trails Newsletter,
Chairman-Bylaws
Chairman-Membership,

Hansen, Leonard Jr.:
Budget and Finance, Legislative,
Chairman-Problem Resolution,
Chairman-Nominating,
Bylaws, Banquet Admissions

Jones, Mike:

**Banquet Hunt Manager** 

Muse, Gene:

Major-sponsor Recruitment, Membership Recruitment

Munhollon, Sam: Chairman - Education

Ussery, Leroy:

Chairman-ODWC Expo, Bylaws, Education Projects, Nominating, Humanitarian Services

ser vices

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THE BOARD MEMBERS' SPOUSES AND OTHER CHAPTER MEMBERS FOR ALL THEY DO!!









Oklahoma Station Chapter Safari Club International is a non-profit, 100% donated time organization with no employee costs, less than \$2500 per year in operational cost, (for website hosting, accounting software, email marketing service, stamps, bank fees etc: (banquet expenses not included), and an estimated 75% of every dollar we touch stays right here in Oklahoma applied to conservation programs.

Your contributions make major impacts to the long term support of conservation and the right to hunt through Student Essay and scholarship Programs, Teacher Continued Education Programs, Archery in The Schools Programs, ODWC Grants and Programs, and many more projects.

Unlike the Anti-Hunting Groups who are emotionally fueled and funded and do not actually fund the issues to fix them, we work the issues the right way, with sound science, biology, hard work and perseverance; partnering with the agencies in the state and around the world that are the right answer to control and manage the resources for all.

Knowing who we are and how we use your valued donations is important in today's transparency thinking world. The future of hunting is up to each one of us. It is our financial donations, our efforts in the political arena, and our ability to educate the uninformed public of the important role hunting plays in the welfare of the animal population and their habitat.

Our activities and energy must focus on 3 areas - Conservation, Education, and

Governmental affairs.

## As For This Magazine:

If you see something amiss, or have an idea for the future, or want to get more involved and help us out physically or financially, PLEASE let us know. If we spelled it wrong, misrepresent something, forgot to do something we said we were going to do, or something isn't just your flavor, remember the first line above – we are not paid professionals and do the best we can.

Have fun and enjoy everything we have put together, it has been a lot of fun work and many hours of frustration too, but in the end, it is well worth it as long as our kids and grandkids can enjoy this wonderful outdoor world we do!

//SIGNED// The Entire, Oklahoma Station Chapter Safari Club International Board

#### SPECIAL NOTE:

The following pages contain numerous pictures and illustrations, which are for informational purpose only. Please realize that the actual items may differ somewhat from those appearing within.

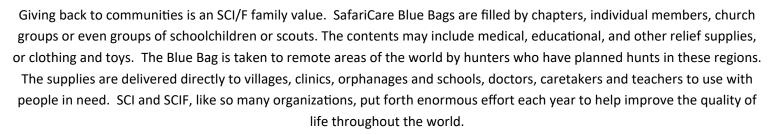


## How to support:

Bring some items to our event(s).

Direct donations.

## Buy One of the Blue Bag logo'd items at our event(s).



How to Use: Contact US before your next trip anyplace. All places on Earth need support of some sort or another. Contact your PH or Outfitter of specific area needs. Together, we will get the items together, a letter for the airlines to ship for free, and prep a bag. You take the bag and contents on your trip. Take allot of pictures and videos and bring thm and the empty bag back to us.

#### OSCSCI, with the help of U.S. Gun Totes wil Embroider your Family Name, County of Trip and Year on the bag.

The next person or Family to go on a trip, contact us and repeat.

Let's make our OSCSCI Bag and community be a world impactor as we adventure the Globe!

More information on this program can be found here — https://safariclubfoundation.org/bell-family-blue-bag-program/

### SafariCare Bags: Suggested Lists of Items

### Clinically Supervised Items

Ibuprofen
First Aid Kits/Creams
Fungus Infection Creams
Eye/Ear Ointments/Cleansers
Upset Stomach Medicines
Diarrhea Medicines
Vitamins
Anti-itch Creams
Skin Rash Creams (cortisone)
Water Purification
Burn Ointments
Triple Antibiotic Ointments
Dehydration (salt) Tablets
Hydrogen peroxide\*
Cotton/Cotton balls

Toothpaste

### Non-Supervised Items

Eyeglasses/Reading Glasses Shoes/Socks/Sandals Hats/Caps Shirts/Jackets/T-Shirts Toothbrushes/Floss Trash Bags Water Filters/Purification Straws Needles and Thread Rope/Twine/String Tablets, Fishhooks, and Line Antibacterial Soaps Adhesive Bandages/Gauze Plastic Bottles/Bowls/Cups

Disinfectants

Shampoo/Body Wash

**Educational Flash Cards** 

Sports Equipment
Soccer Balls & Pumps/Needles
Mosquito Netting/Repellent
Chalk/Small Chalkboards
Cloth/Fabric
Crayons/Colored Pencils/Markers
Coloring/Activity Books
Scissors/Rulers
Pins: Straight/Safety
Toys/Stuffed Animals
Candy
Bandanas
Backpacks

School Supplies

Pens/Pencils/Paper

Maps/Atlases/Dictionaries

(\*should be packed in a plastic bag and sealed)

## Network Larry (Gerads) President

# Partners in Conservation

As you look around the room tonight, make sure you give ALL the conservation groups a THANK YOU! On any given night there is a conservation banquet going on someplace in Oklahoma with the end result being more help in the fight "To protect the freedom to



OKLAHOMASTATIONSCI.ORG

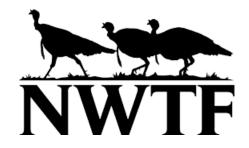
hunt and promote wildlife conservation in the state of Oklahoma and worldwide." Oklahoma Station Chapter Safari Clun International not only believes in working together, we give all conservation groups a free table, let them sell memberships and even do a raffle of their own if they wish! We are in this together folks! We'd like to recognize Dallas Safari Club as the newest group in the state and folks, we don't care about history, we care about the future.

There is one other group that MUST be applauded, that is our Oklahoma Department of Wildlife (ODWC). Oh, we may not see eye to eye on every topic, but these are the folks that work the majority of the conservation topics in Oklahoma. Without working with them, we could be like California very soon and have no wildlife left for our kids to enjoy. So tonight folks, buy them a beer (woops, we already did), so give them a BIG "THANK"

YOU" and enjoy the hard work when you get out in the field next.



OKLAHOMA









## (OSCSCI) Oklahoma Station Chapter Safari Club International, Supports and Contributes Funds Locally & Nationally

The future of hunting is up to each one of us. It is our financial donations, our efforts in the political arena, and our ability to educate the uninformed public of the important role hunting plays in the welfare of the animal population and their habitat. Our activities and energy must focus on 3 areas - Conservation, Education, and Governmental affairs.

We, the members of SCI, are the last best chance that wildlife has to survive in a healthy habitat, and we have to preserve our right to hunt.

Oklahoma Station Chapter, SCI is a 501 c (3) Charitable Status Organization

### **Protect the Freedom to Hunt**

FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO PROTECT OUR FREEDOM TO HUNT & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PRORAMS - Thirty percent (30%) of net monies raised by the Oklahoma Station Chapter support programs that provide for full-time staff lobbyists & biologists in Washington, DC. SCI is the only <a href="https://www.hunting.organization">hunting.organization</a> that has full-time lobbyists & biologists working to provide sound scientific information to influence legislation and regulations that affect hunting both at the federal and state levels. OVER 75% of funds raised by the Oklahoma Station Chapter are used in Oklahoma for hunting-education, wildlife-conservation and humanitarian-services programs.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO OTHER CHAPTERS FIGHTING ANTI HUNTING REFERENDUMS IN THEIR STATES. Support to Alaska Chapter to defeat a wolf referendum that would decimate ungulates (DEFEATED!).

## Conservation

effort but it was key!

### **OKLAHOMA HABITAT DONOR PROGRAM -**

- Financial support for the <u>Hackberry Flats Wetlands</u> <u>project, Frederick, OK.</u>
- Financial support for a "Quality Deer Management" program in Lincoln County, OK.

#### RESTORATION OF RUFFED GROUSE & PRAIRIE CHICKEN -

Financial support towards restoration of ruffed grouse and Greater Prairie Chicken habitat in Oklahoma. Support for Audubon Society/OSC conservation project to protect the threatened Lesser Prairie Chicken in Northwest Oklahoma in conjunction with the Lesser Prairie Chicken festival.

SE. OKLAHOMA - Chapter financed the purchase, transportation and release of 5 mature bred cow elk and 2 mature bulls plus radio-collar transmitters for monitoring purposes. These 8 elk will improve the gene pool in the existing elk herd in SE Oklahoma which is in cooperation with the Timberline Elk Ranch, Cushing, Oklahoma, and the ODWC. WE HAVE AN ELK HUNT! Way back OSCSCI populated the herd, now it is a reality! OK, not just OSCSCI

INTRODUCED EIGHT (8) ELK INTO THE EXISTING HERD IN

AIR BOAT (18 X 8'), 502 CU. INCH CHEVROLET ENGINE 502 HP RATING WAS PURCHASED FOR OKLAHOMA DEPT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION USE. Over the past several years, the ODWC has worked to develop comprehensive lake-level plans supporting Japanese millet-seeding programs on Oklahoma Corps of Engineers lakes. Most of these areas are inaccessible to conventional boats due to very shallow water depths and are quite extensive in size, ranging from just a few acres to several hundred. The airboat offers a much higher degree of safety and durability, in addition to increased accessibility to the seeding areas, essential to ensuring the program's continued success.

<u>ODWC Contributions</u> – Since the foundation of the Oklahoma Station Chapter of SCI, <u>over \$ 300,000</u> has been funded for various Wildlife Department programs either through direct funding or purchase of equipment for ODWC use.

## **Education**

OSU SHOTGUN CLUB — OSU Gun Club Representing Oklahoma State University, is dedicated to practicing and teaching gun safety while also participating in recreational shooting. We participate in competitions with other universities all over the United States, including but not limited to Wyoming, Colorado, Texas, Kansas, and others. OSCSCI worked with the gun club to fund their new Trailer and cargo container for on-site storage for all equipment as well as Liberty Safe for storing shotguns used by club members.

**SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR YOUTH EDUCATION & OUTDOOR PROGRAMS** – Archery in the Schools program (\$ 19,500), Last Frontier Council - Boy Scouts of America; Eddy Eagle Gun Safety program; Make a Wish Foundation, Youth Hunter Education Challenge, & the 4H Youth Shooting Team. Further provided initial funding to the ODWC to facilitate The Oklahoma Scholastic Shooting Programs and introduction in the schools of the Explore Bow Hunting Program

OKLAHOMA CITY GUN CLUB YOUTH SHOOTING AREA – Helped fund the structures needed to create a separate youth shooting area and the gun club with a \$1500.00 donation

**OKLAHOMA DEPT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COLORING BOOKS** - We purchased 65,000 wildlife conservation coloring books for school children.

creative writing competition -An annual youth essay writing contest that focuses on America's hunting heritage sponsored through the Okla. Dept of Wildlife Conservation. Two students in the 11-14 age category win scholarships to attend a weeklong conservation program. One boy and one girl, 15-17, each win a guided hunt and presentation of their mounts at the Annual OSCSCI Awards Banquet & Charity Fundraiser. Norm Strung Youth Writing Contest — all category winners are put in for the National award years. Our Oklahoma kids win this VERY regularly!

CONSERVATION EDUCATION SCHOLARHIP - AMERICAN WILDERNESS LEADERSHIP SCHOOL - Each year, our Chapter and the Okla. Dept. of Wildlife Conservation sponsored two Oklahoma educators, and some years 3, for an 8-day experience at SCI's Granite Ranch near Jackson, Wyoming, in fields of wildlife ecology, firearm safety and shooting sports, camping, white-water rafting, stream ecology, natural resource management with a base knowledge from which to evaluate conservation efforts. They brought this training back to their classrooms to educate thousands of Oklahoma youth on the value of hunting as a wildlife management tool. Outdoor skills are also learned which include wildlife conservation, habitat management and additional outdoor sports skills are taught and leaned including survival and all safety features of the shooting sports and other activities such as camping, hiking, fishing, wildlife and plant identification etc. Now many schools offer more outdoor classes than in the past decade.

STEP PROGRAM – Okla. Dept of Wildlife Conservation's Shotgun Training Education Program ("STEP") – OSCSCI supported this program by originally purchasing a custom built 26-foot long gooseneck equipment trailer. OSC purchased two additional trailers. These trailers carry the program's portable trap machines, firearms, ammunition, safety and gun maintenance equipment. In the past 10 years, 100,000 persons in the state of Oklahoma (65% are youth under the age of 18) have participated in STEP, leaning the importance of hunting as a conservation and management tool and improving their shooting skills to ensure the humane harvesting of wildlife.

OPERATION GAME THIEF TRAILER – Okla. Dept of Wildlife Conservation's Operation Game Thief ("OGT") – OSC-SCI supported this program by supplying funding in excess of \$28,500. The OGT is a program of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation designed specifically to stop illegal killing of the fish and game which belong to YOU, whether you're a sportsman or not. It's a big problem with no simple solution. Help from the public sportsmen, makes a difference.

One day before the opening of a recent deer season, two men killed four whitetail bucks. Late one summer night, three men steered their boat across a state reservoir, stopped at their illegal net site and hauled in a load of striped bass and other open-water fish they could sell for \$1 a pound on the commercial market.

In each of these examples, you were the loser. You lost hunting and fishing opportunities or the chance to view wildlife in their natural surroundings. At the same time, lawabiding sportsmen received a bad reputation from those who fail to distinguish between legal and illegal hunting. OGT is something everyone can do to help wildlife and help us apprehend the poachers.

OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE EXPO - Our Chapter supports the ODWC - Wildlife Expo with significant funding and with workers. This is the biggest and the most successful comprehensive hands-on outdoor education experience and recreation event in State history. Approximately 45,000 attend annually. In 2008, OSC began "Predators of Oklahoma" with a game for thousands of youth to identify the animals and win a prize for successfully doing so (all eventually won). This program continues each year.

#### WILDLIFE HERITAGE CENTER MUSEUM, ANTLERS, OK. -

Our Chapter contributed to the building of the museum/learning center in SE Oklahoma. The operation is a joint agreement of the Okla. Dept of Commerce, Okla. Tourism and Recreation Dept and the Okla. Dept of Wildlife. The facility will be utilized as a regional tourism attraction while at the same time serving as a wildlife and natural resource conservation public education center.

SAFARI IN A BOX - Safari in a Box is a K-12 education kit designed to provide exciting, hands-on learning. It gives teachers and others who work with young people resources and ideas to introduce youth to important concepts of habitat, wildlife management and impacts resulting from human and wildlife interactions. Initial SIB placement was in memory of OSC member David Rocker.

"SCI SAVES CSI" - 2009 support of OSU's "Insect Adventure", a project which teaches basic conservation principles to over 300,000 individuals in Oklahoma each year (and also contributes to the conservation of the endangered American burying beetle, a species valuable in Crime Scene Analysis).

## **Humanitarian Services**

SAFARI-CARE – On numerous occasions, OSCSCI members have traveled internationally and carried medical, educational and relief supplies to villages in need of support.

SPORTSMEN AGAINST HUNGER - OSCSCI originally funded 100% of operating expenses for the program in excess of \$200,000 annual budget. OSC also managed the program State-wide for over 10 years. OSC continues to financially support this program annually, with a \$ 2,000 contribution to ODWC.

**SENSORY SAFARI DAY** - A hands-on adventure for sightless and sight-impaired children and adults. Members loan their animal mounts for these people to see for the first time, through their fingertips, animals from around the world. The event is co-sponsored by the Okla. Dept. Wildlife Conservation, Oklahoma Station Chapter - SCI and the H&H Gun Range.

**VETERANS' HUNTS** – OSCSCI organized Mid-East-Conflict veterans' hunts in conjunction with Jay Barczak of Wild Game Outfitters-Duchess Creek Ranch, Porum, OK, and in conjunction with other supporters.

- Three veterans were drawn from public nominations for guided elk and deer hunts, which were complete with all accommodations.
- OSCSCI and Mankazana Safaris presented a Purple-Heart veteran the hunt of a lifetime. OSC supports our troops who protect our freedoms!
- OSCSCI hosted a disabled Marine Sniper Scout on a PERECT July Sheep hunt with Windsong Adventures in Eastern Oklahoma.

OSCSCI BLUE BAG PROGRAM - We project sending 1000's of dollars with our world travelers to buy supplies and needs to the kids and area needs of the paces they travel. Upon returning the blue Bag, we will embroider the Family Name, Country of Visit and Year on the bag. The next trip, repeat. Lets see how many place of the World the OSCSCI can impact!!

All of the wildlife mounts in the Arcadia Oklahoma training center for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation have been donated to the Department by an Oklahoma Station Chapter SCI member -value of the donation in 2010 was valued in excess of \$49,000 at the time of the donation by a certified master UB INTERNA

appraiser.



# Creative Writing Competition 2024



Essay Contest Sponsored By:

**Theme:** Students must use the theme, Hunting: Sharing the Heritage, Archery: What I like about Archery in the Schools and Bowhunting or the concept of the theme to develop an expository essay or short story.

**Eligibility:** Students ages 11-17 currently enrolled in any Oklahoma School and home school students are eligible for participation. Winners of the 2023 contest are not eligible. Applicants must have successfully completed an Oklahoma Hunter Education course by the entry deadline.

Number of Entries per school: There is no limit to the number of entries per school.

#### **Specifications:**

- Essay or short story should be double-spaced on white, 8 1/2 x 11 paper, with 1 1/2 inch margins on top, bottom and sides. Typewritten copy is preferred. All essays or short stories must be legible.
- Length should not exceed 1,000 words (four typewritten pages) for short stories, or 500 words (two typewritten pages) for essays.
- Students must have successfully completed an Oklahoma Hunter Education course by the entry deadline.
- Papers should be carefully proofed for spelling, punctuation, capitalization and grammar.
- A completed entry blank must be used as a cover sheet and stapled to the essay or short story. Entry must be typed or clearly printed and signed by the teacher or youth group leader.

**Judging:** Applicants will be judged on the use of the theme concept, creativity, neatness, proper grammar and punctuation. Winners of the statewide competition will be notified by phone.

### **Prizes:**

- In the 11-14 age category: One boy and one girl will get a hunting trip at Rack Attack Outfitters in Fairview, Oklahoma or similar and receive a scholarship to the Outdoor Texas Camp for hunting during the summer of 2025. The Oklahoma Station Chapter Safari Club International will reimburse the winners' travel expenses up to a maximum of \$500 per Essay Contest Winner.
  - **Apprentice Hunter Program Information:** Outdoor Texas Camp's hunting camp is a unique, hands-on camp designed for girls and boys aged 9-16. The program covers hunting techniques, shotgun skills, survival, GPS use, tracking and interpreting sign, small and large caliber rifle skills and scoring and aging deer.
- In the 15-17 age category: One girl and one boy will go on a guided hunt at the Rockin S Exotic Game Ranch near San Angelo Texas. Each boy or girl may choose 1 Aoudad, Blackbuck, Axis, or Scimitar Horned Oryx. OSCSCI has the right to change locations or animals at any time. The Oklahoma Station of Safari Club International will reimburse the winners' travel expenses up to a maximum of \$500 per Essay Contest Winner where driving is a possibility. If we are required to fly, to help control overall costs, all airfare for the contest winner and their guardian will be reimbursed by the Oklahoma Station Chapter Safari Club International. Also included will be all meals and lodging during the hunt as well as all license and permit costs.
- The four statewide winners and their legal guardians will be invited to to attend an awards ceremony in 2025. In addition, the top 25 essay entrants will receive a one-year membership to Safari Club International. The four state winners' entries will be printed in the Oklahoma Station Chapter Safari Club International Newsletter "Safari Trails".



# 2023 Winners Congrats on Your Hunts!!





Allie Hayes Dahl Sheep



Adalee Ward Corsican Sheep



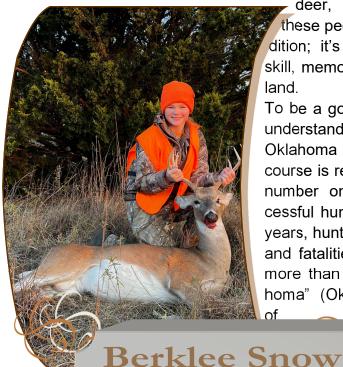
Skylar Ayers, Sam Munhollon, David Shupe Scimitar Horned Oryx



Cooper Davidson Texas Sheep



Coy Davidson, Sam Munhollon, David Shupe Scimitar Horned Oryx



deer, a new record. For these people, hunting is a tradition; it's a heritage built on skill, memories and love for the land.

To be a good hunter, you must understand the skill. First, an Oklahoma Hunter Education course is required. Safety is the number one factor to a successful hunt. "Over the past 40 years, hunting-related accidents and fatalities have declined by more than 70 percent in Oklahoma" (Oklahoma Department of Wildlife, 2024).

This is largely due to these required courses.

learning how to

correctly handle a

Junior Division Girl

Grade: 8 Teacher: Travis Bradshaw

Age: 13 School: Elgin MS

firearm, hunters must understand wildlife and how they live. For example, deer have strong sight and smell, so you must be very still and wear no scent when hunting.

Coming from a family of avid deer hunters, there was no question I would become a part of this heritage. I started hunting long before I was able to harvest my own animal. My dad began taking me with him when I was very young. I will always cherish the memories made with my dad and papa while in the tree stand.

There is nothing like watching the sun come up and listening

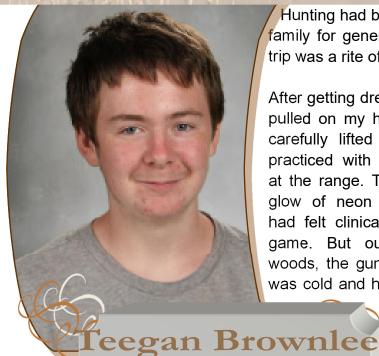
to nature. It is an escape from the world. I have now harvested my own deer, and I can remember stories from each one. However, what I remember most is being there with family, whether it was my dad, papa or sisters. Hunting is a tradition for our family – a true heritage.

Finally, hunting is about loving the land. We should take care of our resources, and hunting is one way to do that. The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife provides a lot of information about wildlife conservation and the importance of hunting. By harvesting deer the right way, we are helping both "protect and enhance" our resources (Oklahoma Department of Wildlife, 2024).

According to Google's English dictionary, heritage means an inheritance, something passed on. When I think about the heritage of hunting, I think about skill, memories and love for the land. To be a successful hunter, you need both skill and a desire to take care of the land. However, memories are the most important. Heritage is about passing our love of hunting on to the next generation. I am thankful my family has passed it on to me, and I look forward to passing it on to my 2-year-old niece. Soon enough, she will hear the crackle of leaves, see the flicker of a whitetail, and hear the snort of a doe nearby - and then, she will know.

# Hunting Sharing the Heritage:

If you are a hunter, there are certain sounds and sights that explanation. need no The crackle of leaves under their feet as they walk, the flicker of a whitetail off in the distance, and the snort of a doe nearby if you know, then you know. All of these bring excitement to the deer hunter. According to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife, for the 2022-2023 season, hunters reported taking 134,158



Hunting had been a part of my family for generations, and this trip was a rite of passage.

After getting dressed in layers, I pulled on my heavy boots and carefully lifted the rifle I had practiced with countless times at the range. There, under the glow of neon lights, shooting had felt clinical, almost like a game. But out here in the woods, the gun felt different. It was cold and heavy, not just in

weight but in meaning. I

followed my dad outside.

ek /here the air was sharp and biting, the smell of pine and damp

earth filling my lungs. He handed me a thermos of coffee. I took a sip and winced—it was strong, bitter, and as dark as the sky overhead. He chuckled, his breath misting in the cold air. "It'll grow on you," he said.

We walked side by side up the trail in silence, the only sounds the crunch of frost-covered leaves beneath our feet and the occasional creak of branches swaying in the wind. After about a mile, we reached a small clearing, and my dad held up a hand, signaling for me to stop. He knelt down, gesturing for me

to do the same. I crouched beside him, feeling the damp earth beneath my knees, and took in the world around me.

The first slivers of dawn were just beginning to edge over the treetops, casting everything in a soft, muted light. The forest was waking up slowly, like a living, breathing thing. The silence I'd found oppressive in the dark now felt serene, almost sacred. I closed my eyes, letting the sounds seep in: the distant rustle of leaves, the faint calls of birds, the soft, rhythmic trickle of a nearby stream. Each noise felt magnified, as though the forest was trying to tell me something if I could only listen closely enough.

After a while, my dad reached over and pointed toward a fallen log a few yards ahead. "This'll be a good spot to wait," he whispered, barely audible. Together, we moved over and settled in, rifles resting in our laps. The minutes dragged on, and I found myself shifting uncomfortably, my fingers growing numb even inside my gloves. Every rustle of leaves made my heart race, only to sink again when it turned out to be nothing but the wind or a squirrel darting by.

...(To Be Continued) ....

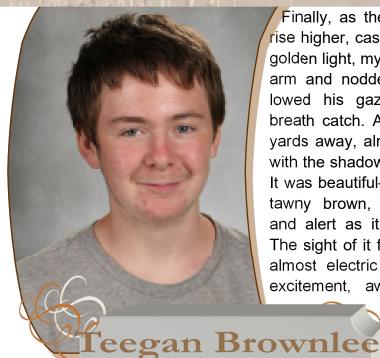
## Junior Division Boy

**Grade:** 8 **Teacher:** Matthew Belicek **Age:** 13 **School:** Weleetka PS

# Hunting: Sharing the Heritage:

\*\*"My First Hunt"\*\*

It was still pitch dark when my dad woke me. I had barely slept the night before, and it wasn't because of the lumpy cabin mattress or the cold draft seeping in through the walls. I was excited and nervous, my mind replaying every instruction my dad had given me in the weeks leading up to this moment. Today was my first hunt, and while I didn't know exactly what to expect, I knew it was a big deal.



Finally, as the sun started to rise higher, casting the forest in golden light, my dad nudged my arm and nodded ahead. I followed his gaze and felt my breath catch. About a hundred yards away, almost blending in with the shadows, stood a deer. It was beautiful—its coat a rich, tawny brown, its eyes bright and alert as it grazed quietly. The sight of it filled me with an almost electric thrill, a mix of excitement, awe, and some-

thing I couldn't quite put my finger on.

Junior Division Boy

Grade: 8 Teacher: Matthew Belicek

Age: 13 School: Weleetka PS

# Hunting: Sharing the Heritage:

..(Continued)

My dad, however, was the picture of calm. He watched the forest with a quiet, almost reverent patience that fascinated me. This was the same man who, in everyday life, was always bustling around, fixing things, organizing, constantly in motion. Here, though, he was different. Hunting, I realized, brought out a quiet side of him that I hadn't seen before.

ek / fly dad gave me a reassuring nod, reminding me of everything

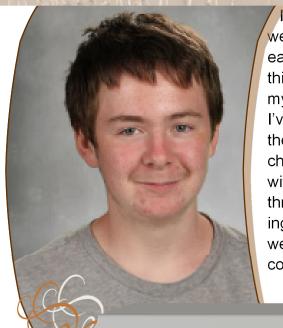
we'd practiced. I lifted my rifle, settling it against my shoulder, and peered through the scope. The deer was right there, clear and close in my sights. My finger hovered on the trigger, and I took a deep, steadying breath. But as I looked at the animal, something shifted inside me. The deer wasn't just a target—it was a living creature, oblivious to my presence, peaceful in a way I couldn't describe.

I glanced at my dad, searching for guidance, but he simply watched me, his expression unreadable. I could tell he was leaving the decision up to me. I looked back through the scope, my finger still hovering on the trigger, and felt a wave of hesitation. I thought about the stories he'd told me of respecting the hunt, of the importance of only taking what you needed, of the unspoken agreement between the hunter and the hunted.

In that moment, I knew I wasn't ready. The thrill I had imagined didn't match the reality before me. I slowly lowered the rifle, letting out a breath I hadn't realized I'd been holding. My dad didn't say a word, but he placed a hand on my shoulder, giving it a gentle squeeze. There was no disappointment in his eyes, only understanding.

The deer, unaware of how close it had come to danger, lifted its head, ears twitching. It stood there for a moment, almost as if acknowledging us, before it turned and bounded off into the trees, vanishing as quickly as it had appeared.

...(To Be Continued) ....



In the years that followed, I went on many more hunts, each one teaching me something new. I eventually made my first successful shot, and I've filled my share of tags since then. But that first hunt, when I chose to let the deer go, stayed with me. It wasn't about the thrill of a kill: it was about learning patience, respect, and the weight of responsibility that comes with hunting.

> I still go hunting with my dad every season,

something raw and real. That

morning in the woods with my

dad taught me that the greatest

rewards aren't always in the tro-

phies we bring home. Some-

times, they're in the quiet choic-

es, in the moments when we let

life continue. And for me, that

first hunt will always be a re-

most meaningful part of the

journey is knowing when to low-

er the rifle, to step back, and simply be a part of the world

minder that sometimes

around you.

me I return to hose woods. I'm reminded of that first morning. I see

and each

my younger self in every firsttime hunter, that mix of excitement and nervousness, that need to prove something. And every time, I find myself hoping they'll come to understand what my dad taught me that day. Hunting is a tradition, yes, but it's also a privilege—a chance to connect with nature, to honor the lives within it, and to walk away with memories and lessons that last long after the hunt is over.

Hunting has become a way for me to find peace in the chaos of life, a way to reconnect with

Junior Division Boy

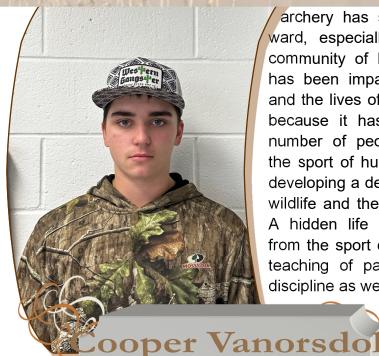
**Grade:** 8 **Teacher:** Matthew Belicek Age: 13 School: Weleetka PS

eegan Brownlee

## Hunting: Sharing the Heritage:

..(Continued)

On the way back down the trail, my dad put his arm around my shoulder, pulling me close. "Hunting isn't just about taking a shot," he said softly. "It's about understanding when the time is right, and knowing when it's not. You did good today." I felt a warm swell of pride at his words, a sense of validation that went deeper than any trophy ever could.



archery has skyrocketed upward, especially in my small community of Depew. Archery has been impactful to my life and the lives of my community, because it has increased the number of people involved in the sport of hunting as well as developing a deeper respect for wildlife and the great outdoors. A hidden life lesson resulting from the sport of hunting is the teaching of patience and self discipline as well.

The amount of deer harvested in Oklaho-

ma during 023 was the highest it's ever been, setting a

The

record.

archery aspect rose drastically as well. Although in some regions of the United States bow hunting rates the highest, in Oklahoma rifle hunting is still ranked number one. What leads bow hunting to be highly successful considering that not as many people hunt archery in Oklahoma, is its season runs so much longer than the others. Personally I hunt both rifle and bow, but bow hunting has to be my favorite. It is simply to me more challenging. Just by having to get the deer closer into range, and then getting to hear the pop of the string on the si-

new

lencer is like heaven! The anticipation bow hunting brings is like no other, which makes it that much more fun. One of the things I love most about bow hunting is when you finally get up to your harvest and you get to hold the rack of the buck in your hands, and get to take a picture with your kill and bow. You just can't beat that on a cold, crisp November morning.

Another thing archery has taught me is patience and self discipline. If archery has taught me anything, it is that you have to be willing to correct your mistakes. Whether it's resighting in your bow or aiming longer and more steady. When I first started NASP in my AG class, I had to learn to be more steady on my aim and release. Every time I fire my bow and hit the 10 circle in NASP, or when I hit the 10 circle on the turkey in varsity it's like a sigh of relief.

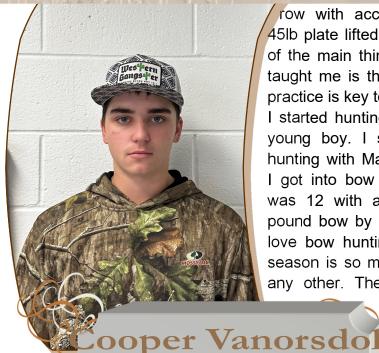
... (to be Continued)...

## Senior Division Boy

**Grade:** 9 **Teacher:** Mandy Buck **Age:** 15 **School:** Depew Public

## Archery: What I like about Archery in the Schools and Bowhunting:

Imagine a classroom where students, instead of just learning core subjects such as English and math, also learn patience, precision and respect for nature through the act of archery and bowhunting. Since archery was brought into schools, the amount of youth participating in



row with accuracy is like a 45lb plate lifted off of you. One of the main things archery has taught me is that patience and practice is key to success.

I started hunting when I was a young boy. I started out rifle hunting with Marlin 30-30, then I got into bow hunting when I was 12 with a Mission Compound bow by Mathews. I now love bow hunting because the season is so much longer than any other. Then you can get

> bucks before thev start

doe's in the rut, /hich typically

chasing come during rifle season. During bow season you

can catch them on corn piles usually at dawn and a little before dusk. When in the stand on a crispy, cold November morning before dawn, you get to see magic happen, as squirrels start to come out of the trees, or as rabbits come out of their dens. But the best of all is the beautiful Oklahoma sunrise you get to witness in nature's glorious beauty.

Like a skilled bow hunter or an archer consistently draw backs their bow with accuracy and precision to the target circle or lungs of a deer, we too must in life guide ourselves with accu-

racy and determination, like an arrow flying through the air. Life is like archery, in that the journey may present difficulties like if the wind is howling in the wrong direction and the deer smell me and they run off. I don't get to shoot one that day, but that doesn't mean that I'm supposed to give up. You have to have determination and never give up when you face

difficulties. In embracing this consistency we can transform our dreams into reality, like a master bow hunter shooting a big buck with precision, accuracy in the woods. In my mind the sport of archery and hunting are legacies that not only have been passed down to me but I will surely pass down to my children in the future.

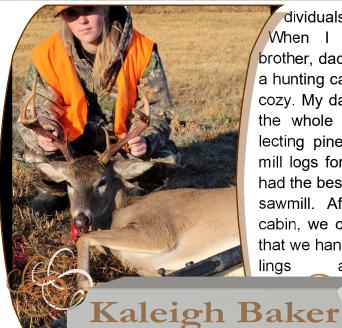
Senior Division Boy

**Grade:** 9 **Teacher:** Mandy Buck Age: 15 School: Depew Public

Archery: What I like about Archery in the Schools and Bowhunting:

...(continued)...

One thing archery and bowhunting gives me is a sense of accomplishment. Whether it's successfully tracking a deer, or it's watching a comet of hope fly from the 15 meter line in NASP. It just gives you the feeling you have something to be proud of. Every time you release an ar-



dividuals.)

When I turned eleven, my brother, dad, grandpa, and I built a hunting cabin. It was small and cozy. My dad and brother spend the whole summer before collecting pine and cedar trees to mill logs for building materials- I had the best place controlling the sawmill. After we finished the cabin, we cleared hunting areas that we hand selected for my siblings and I to hunt. I chose

> to place my stand

through green briar thicket with arge walnut tree overlooking

small creek running

Senior Division Girl

**Grade:** 11**Teacher:** Matthew Belicek

**Age:** 16 **School:** Weleetka HS

My grandpa lived in a small community outside of Henryetta, Oklahoma. When I was ten years old he retired and purchased 80 acres on a mountainside near a town called Weleetka. It was a beautiful property. It had fields flowing with tall crisp grass, cedar trees along the newly build fences, and new ponds across the property. My grandfather loves being out in nature! He is nearly 80 years old and continues to maintain cattle, hunt, fish, and enjoy his days of retirement. (I suppose anyone who served in

a world war would want a place

to escape car horns and loud in-

Sharing the Heritage:

into one of the ponds. We worked very hard with my family to build a place and spend time together. The cabin was complete, I dug out ponds for wildlife with my grandpa, and now I could focus on getting a bigger deer than my brother! I woke up on Saturday morning to put out a corn feeder for all the mothers and yearlings to snack on their nightly adventures. In addition, I put out a motion camera out near my deer feeder to see what animals were enjoying all our hard work! You would not believe what images and animals I was capturing on film. I saw many yearlings, raccoons, a few opossums, and a couple monster bucks. I was so excited.

A few weeks of impatiently wait-

ing and it was my time to shine. It was opening season morning. I dressed warm, gathered my gun, and loaded up the ATV with my siblings. It was about 6' o-clock when I climbed up my walnut tree. The smell of wet bark was soothing to the cold brisk air. I played with the moss growing on the tree for a few hours. I was loosing hope. I can be a little impatient at times... I was singing Strawberry Wine by Deana Carter in my head when I noticed a flicker of white along the creek bed. It was a doe and her yearlings! She took her time walking towards my feeder. The doe occasionally looked behind her so I prayed that it was my buck. It was my buck! I was very happy and surprised. Immediately I began to shake in disbelief. I swear the temperature dropped at least 10 degrees as soon as I saw him. I grabbed my 30-06 slowly and looked through my scope. There he was, a 12 point buck! He strolled towards the other deer eating corn. He through the green briars in my direction. As soon as he turned horizontally in perfect view the deer feeder turned on, scaring them. I panicked. I knew it was time. I took a deep breath and squeezed the trigger. The gun roared as I took my shot as my deer fell right where he stood.



## The Top 25

Along with the winners, these top 25 young writers' receive a 1 year membership to Safari Club International and the Oklahoma Station Chapter. (A Note from the Editor: **NEVER STOP WRITING** my literary gang. If you are looking for a place to display your next masterpiece, **PLEASE** feel free to send them to me. I am always looking for content for our Safari Trails and would be honored to receive your articles and put them into press within our pages!)

http://www.facebook.com/oklahomastationsci

editor@oklahomastationsci.org

Avery Mercy Sand Springs OK 74063

McKinnlee Tramel Inola. 74036

Catherine Burden Weleetka OK 74880

Emma Ridenour Weleetka OK 74880

Zain Haviland Claremore OK 74019

Austin Zimmerman Marlow OK 73055

Hunter Hughes Hammon OK 73650

Jason Harrel Sentinel OK 73664

Luke Polson Dustin OK 74839

Mark Smith Bixby OK 74008

Trey Secratt
Tahlequah OK 74464

Baylor Adams Boynton OK 74422 Beretta Neal Weleetka OK 74880

Devvony Vest Claremore OK 74019

Maddie Harrel Leedey OK 73654

Tarryn McCaa Elmore City OK 73433

Shannon Steeley Stilwell OK 74960

Peyton Baker Henryetta OK 74437

Cooper Davidson Elgin OA 73538

Caleb Saylors Weleetka OK 74880

Brecker Tubbs Owasso OK 74055

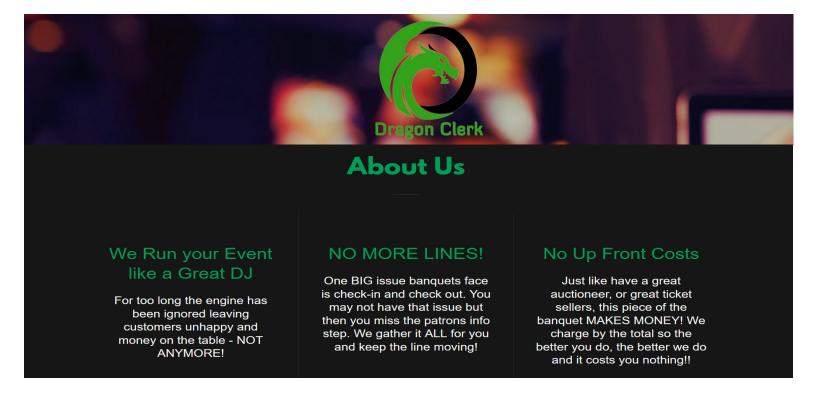
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Jayden Lewis Henryetta OK 74880 Noah Hunter Choctaw OK 73020

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# OSCSCI 39th Annual Banquet & Fundraiser Apr 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ Showplace Theater, Riverwind Casino, Norman OK.

Come enjoy a night of fun and fellowship with your fellow sportsman as we celebrate
A night of memories, vendors, food and Premium Open Bar. Don't miss out!

Doors Open at 5PM

## **Special Notice**

The hunts and trip included here will be present at the banquet for your bidding and buying fun, but they are not labeled as silent or live auction, some may be in ticket games and there even may be a few more added.

The included pages should not change but this is a changing world. There may be some small modifications but you can hang your hat on them as is. If you have a personal preference if you want to battle for them in Silent or Live Auction, let us know and we will try and make it so. Also, if there is one you definitely want, contact us so we can make sure it is included at the event Some items simply will not make the cut.

One last note, if you know an outfitter who would like to donate to the cause and get involved in saving his business, feel free to send me contact information or have them contact me for inclusion. We don't close the door until days before so there is still time.

Network Larry Gerads editor@oklahomastationsci.org 580-609-0900





#### **SPECIAL NOTE:**



# 39th Annual Convention Banquet and Fundraiser

## **Current Trips/Hunts List**

David Denies	Argentina - 4 People, 4 Days Dove and Pigeon		
Kido Safaris	Photographic safari for 2 people at our Big Five endangered species reserve with the option to hunt at a discounted daily rate.		
HP Wingshooting	Argentina 4 Hunters, 2 Day Pigeon, 2 Days Dove - Open Bar All meals and accomidations		
HP Wingshooting	Argentina 4 Hunters, 1 Day Pigeon, 1 Day Fishing, 2 Days Dove - Open Bar All meals and accomidations		
De Dune	2 Hunters, 5 Days, Sable, Gemsbuck, Zebra, Springbuck (Shared)		
Kuvhima Safaris	2 Hunters, 12 Days, Limpopo, \$3000 shared		
Safari-eha	Roe Deer in Serbia, 2 hunters, 6 Nights, 3 hunting 2 tourism, 1 Roe deer up to 350		
Safari-eha	Golden Jackel in Serbia, 2 hunters, 7 days, 3 hunting 2 tourism, 1 Golden Jackel		
Safari-eha	Racka Sheep - in Serbia, 2 hunters, 7days, 3 Hunting 2 Tourism, 1 Racka Sheep and 5 Roe deer females		
Safari-eha	Crotia Serbia - Photo Safari (Tourism) 3 days, 2 hunting 2 people		
Safari Unlimited	Belieze Jungle Adventure - 2 Adventures incuding Fishing		
Safari Unlimited	Missouri Squirl Hunt 2 hunters		
Safari Unlimited	Sonora Mexico - 2 Hunters - Sonoro Gould		
Safari Unlimited	Sonora Coues Deer - 2 Hunters - 4 Days 5 Nights		
Safari Unlimited	Sonora Cast and Blast - 2 Hunters/Liars - with one paying hunter at \$3000		
Safari Unlimited	Texas Sand Hill Cranes		
Safari Unlimited	Sonora Goulds Turey - 2 Hunters		
Cajun Queen	Louisiana Fishing Adventure for 6 3 days/ 4 nights		
International Adventures	Scotland - 7 Day Red Stag		
International Adventures	Scotland - 7 Day Roe Buck		
Limcroma Safari's	Limpopo - 10 days - 2 Hunters, 1 Zebra or Blue Wildebeest and 1 Impala, Blesbuck or Warthog ea		
Sabudawn Safaris	South Africa - 4 Hunters, 6 Days, (2 of Impala, Warthog, Steenbuck or Duiker) or 1 Zebra each		
Catena Safaris Argentina	5 Hunting Days for 4 Hunters - 1 BLACKBUCK + 1 PATAGONIC RAM + 2 WILD BOAR shared. Each must take 1 animal at full price.		
Catena Safaris Argentina	5 Days, 2 Hunters 1 day of fishing Golden Dorado and 1 Wildboar per hunter included. Each must take 1 animal at full price.		
DragonClerk	A Day on the Lake		
Deko Safaris	South Africa - 6 Nights;7 Days; 4 Hunters; 2x Impala; 2x Blesbuck		
Deko Safaris	South Africa - 6 Nights;7 Days; 2 Hunters + 2 Non Hunters; 1x Impala; 1x Blesbuck; 1x Zebra		
Deko Safaris	Soth Africa - 6 Nights;7 Days; 4 Hunters + 4 Observers ; 2x Impala; 2x Zebra		
Giuseppe & Curro Carrizosa	Spain - 3 days - Iberian Red Deer - \$5900 trophy fee included		
Iabamaba	South Africa, 4 Hunters 7 Days \$1000 credit per hunter		
Iabamaba	South Africa, 2 Hunters 7 Days \$1000 credit per hunter		
Iabamaba	South Africa, 1 Hunter 7 Days \$5000 credit for Cape Buffalo		
Iabamaba	South Africa, 1 Hunters 7 Days \$3000 credit for Sable or Roan		
Thaba-Tala Safaris	South Africa, 1 Hunter, 10 Days, Zebra, Warthog, Impala		
Thaba-Tala Safaris	South Africa, 1 Hunter, 10 Days, Blesbuck, Warthog, Impala		
Thaba-Tala Safaris	South Africa, 1 Hunter, 10 Days, Blue Wildebeest, Warthog, Impala		

This list will change so till the event = many many more to add PLUS – FURS, GUNS GUNS GUNS and other things 😂



## Oklahoma Station Chapter Safari Club International



## Exhibitor/Merchandise Donation Program

Oklahoma Station Chapter SCI is your partner in Oklahoma that protects the freedom to hunt worldwide for all hunters and not for any specific species. We do this through; millions of dollars of funding special programs, trailers to the ODWC and OSU, ELK purchases for state lands, Habitat program funding, Education Programs, and much more. OVER 70% of ALL donations stay right here in Oklahoma to support our state.

We have over 400 VIP's who attended our banquet each year that spend 100's of thousands of dollars. That is (400 sets of eyes) that your product, logo and name gets direct marketed to. 95% of all of these eyes live in the state of Oklahoma and are focused!

Our banquet on Apr 5th 2025 at the Riverwind Casino and will have 40 booths for Exhibitors/Vendors. The price of a space is \$325 and includes 2 tickets for the evening's banquet. Setup will start at 11AM, the space will be open for spectators from 4PM till banquet close around 11PM. ALL vendors will be published in our "International Award-Winning Banquet Program!" in print and online for the entire year!!

Payment can be done in direct dollars OR in donation. Donate to us over \$325 in items we can use in our banquet and get your booth for free!! This is the 4th year of this vendor program and future years it is expected to grow. Get in now or a future booth request may have you looking in from the outside.

Please support the Heritage of Hunting for Future Generations by simply filling out the form below!

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HUNT OR TRIP DONATIONS MUST FILL OUT THE SECOND PAGE OF THIS FORM. KEEP A COPY OF THIS FOR YOUR TAX PURPOSES, OSCSCI is a 501c3 organization.



# Oklahoma Station Chapter Safari Club International



## Exhibitor/Hunt Donation Form

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Total Value Donated \$	Item(s) Do	nated Descri	ption
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# 39th Annual Convention Banquet and Fundraiser

Apr 5th, 2025

Oklahoma Station Chapter SCI is proud to announce we will have our banquet and convention at the "Riverwind Casino in the Showplace Theater"!!

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We hope to see you all there!!



## CALL FIRST

## \$10,000 Philanthropist – (Philanthropist SPONSOR FOR THE BANQUET!!)

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## \$4,000 (Early Bird \$3500) (PLATINUM)

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## \$900 (Early Bird \$850) (GOLD)

Gold Reserved Table with special recognition in the Program, Website, and Safari Trails Magazine for one year. Two Raffle Tickets for Sponsor Raffle — worth \$500! 8 Person



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