



 Snapshot





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National Wild Turkey Federation

PO Box 530

Edgefield, South Carolina 29824

Phone (803) 637-3106

Fax (803) 637-0034

Education and Outreach Sponsors

JAKES, Women in the Outdoors and Wheelin' Sportsmen:



L.L.Bean



Camp Younts Foundation

Sara Jane and Ruste Via



Mentored Hunts:



Learn to Hunt and Field to Fork Events:



Recruitment

The NWTF has been investing in hunter recruitment for decades with programs like Women in the Outdoors, JAKES and Wheelin' Sportsmen. The Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation (R3) of hunters and shooting participants led the NWTF to expand programming to focus on mentored hunts and Learn to Hunt Clinics, diversifying audiences and moving toward a multi-pronged approach.

The key ingredient to our success has been partnerships. Our NWTF volunteers/members, state and federal partners, outfitters, industry and other nongovernmental organizations have made great strides in our R3 work.

Keys to Success

- Expand opportunities for non-traditional audiences to participate in education/outreach events.
- Evolve the NWTF's Education and Outreach Programs to include hunter education and adult/family/college mentored hunt programming as well as food-centered events.
- Recognize different motivations among audiences.
- Recruit dedicated mentors and landowners.
- Expand active partnerships between state agencies, the outdoor industry and NGOs.

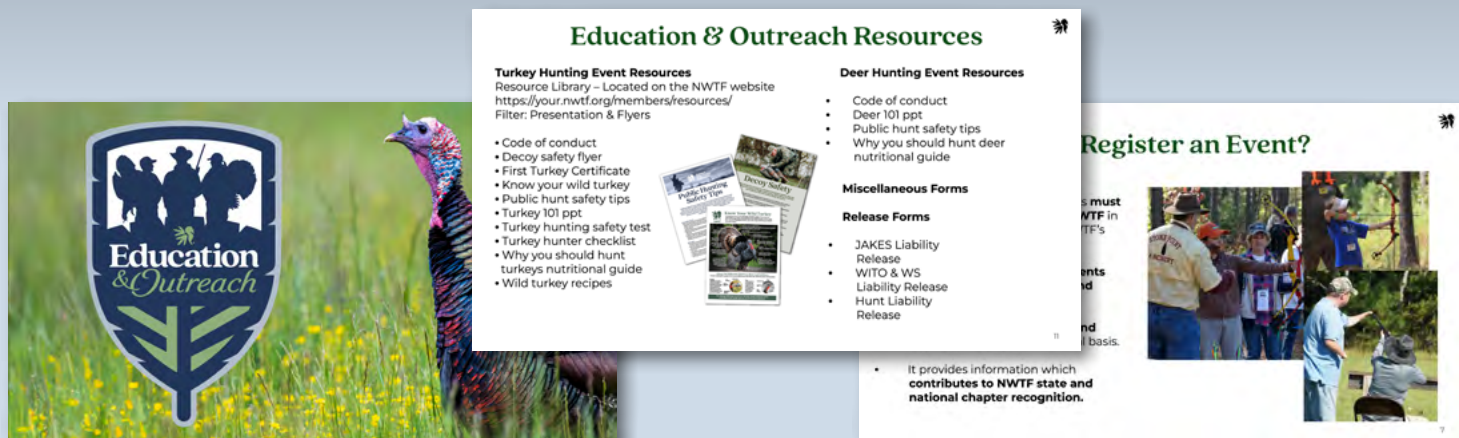
Opportunities

Engagement and support for hunting are declining. Through NWTF's Education and Outreach programs, our volunteers, partners and sponsors are working to preserve our hunting heritage. Join us as we work to recruit, retain and reactivate hunters and shooting sports enthusiasts.



PHOTO CREDIT: CLIFFORD PRICE

Resource Highlight Education and Outreach Presentation



As we welcome new staff, volunteers and mentors into the organization, there is the learning curve to introduce all facets of our Education and Outreach programming. Many trainings take place at the state's individual annual meetings, and we hope to provide a resource for our staff and volunteers to use. This

encompasses insight into our programming types, event registration and resources available. Through usage and growth in the years to come, we can update and adapt the presentation to the needs of our volunteers.

CLICK  **NWTF Resources Page**

NWTF Learning Hub

CLICK  **nwtf.outdooreln.org/**

Kalkomey Turkey 101 Course

CLICK  **todayshunter.com/turkey101/**

Support Hunt for Good

CLICK  **HuntforGood.com**



Education and Outreach Podcast Episodes



Turkey Call All Access Ep. 114: Conservation Week — Preserving Our Hunting Heritage

Summary: It is an exciting time in the NWTF Education and Outreach arena, especially as we continue to grow our programs.

The NWTF's vision has always been to unite a nation through the power of the outdoors, and through talking with NWTF Education and Outreach staff, one can see how far we've come.

To celebrate National Hunting and Fishing Day for 2025, we sat down with Mandy Harling, national

director of Education and Outreach Programs, Morgan Evans, the national R3 and relevancy coordinator, and Jennifer Davis, hunting and shooting R3 coordinator for Michigan, about what R3 is, the Hunt for Good Campaign, our amazing volunteers and all things hunting heritage.

If you're craving an inspiring, feel-good conversation, tune in and enjoy!



<https://turkeycallnwtf.libsyn.com/ep-114-2025-nwtf-conservation-week-preserving-our-hunting-heritage>



PHOTO CREDIT: ETHAN COLLINS



JAKES HUNT OF A LIFETIME 2025

Bryce Draper and dad, Reid Draper from Mississippi

Partner Highlight: Vortex



One of our long-standing partners within Education and Outreach is Vortex. Many volunteers have experienced the support with Learn to Hunt and Mentored Hunt events, and Vortex's impact is helping us amplify the NWTF mission and vision. At the core, Vortex states, "We will continue the fight to give wildlife a home, and hunters and outdoor lovers a place to be free." And they stick by that through their support of our mission at NWTF.

NWTF in the Classroom: Resources in Action

Washington State

This fall, volunteers in Washington were invited into their local elementary school classrooms to discuss all things turkey on the heels of the approaching Thanksgiving holiday. Nisqually River Chapter President Justin Grimm took his knowledge of turkeys and hunting, and paired it with the NWTF resources to provide an engaging and interactive experience for students.

"We had around 60 first graders take part in these presentations. We went over adaptations, turned their teachers into turkeys with those adaptations; they got to pet my educational mount Tom, and every student received their own wild turkey feather," shared Justin Grimm in reflection of the experience.

As the pictures show, there was fun had by all. It is such a great way to share with youth the heart of NWTF and the wild turkey, from a biological, habitat, and behavioral perspective.

If you come across similar opportunities, here are some tips and resources below to help you get started:

- **Know your wild turkey** (Resource Library) is a visual aid to assist with covering the anatomy of the turkey. You can put this on a screen and talk about the turkey. It also is great if you happen to have someone who will let you borrow a taxidermy turkey to take with you. Sometimes the local DNR folks will provide.
- **Stayin' Alive** (Resource Library) It takes some prep to find things around the house/dollar store that will work for the anatomy (hat, jacket, etc.). This activity gets the teachers involved and that makes it so much fun!
- **Coloring Sheet of the Wild Turkey** (Resource Library)
- **Callin' All Turkeys and Turkey Talk** are both on the resource library and involve callmaking activities.







■ Maryland Unites a Community Through the Shared Appreciation for the Outdoors

The recent National Wild Turkey Federation Maryland chapter used a “Family Field Day” to bring together families, volunteer and outdoor-enthusiasts for a day of outdoor education, conservation awareness, hands-on demonstrations and fun. Kids and adults took part in activities such as trap-building demos, archery, safe-recreation stations run by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and even a showcase of deer-processing and drone-recovery operations.

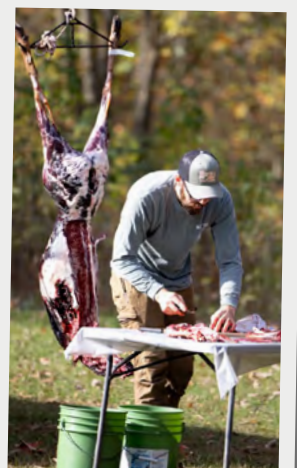
The overall goal — according to organizers — was to foster community, share a love of the outdoors, and build hunting and conservation traditions across generations.

Go online for more and learn how events like these are helping connect families with nature, promote responsible hunting, and support long-term conservation goals in Maryland.

*Read
more*



<https://www.nwtf.org/content-hub/maryland-unites-a-community-through-the-shared-appreciation-for-the-outdoors>





Missouri Governor's Mentored Deer Hunt Inspires a New Generation of Adult Hunters

In early October, the Missouri Governor's Mentored Deer Hunt welcomed a group of first-time adult hunters across 10 Missouri counties for its third annual outing. Instead of targeting youth, this hunt aims at "adult-onset" hunters — people who've never hunted before but want to give it a try.

Participants attended an educational clinic, received mentoring on firearm safety, deer biology, hunting strategy and ethics, then teamed up in small groups to hunt during the state's special antlerless rifle season. The program serves a dual purpose — helping landowners manage rising deer populations while reigniting interest in hunting among adults.

By the end of the weekend, 33 people had participated and 17 deer were successfully harvested — many as their first-ever. The event emphasized camaraderie,

respect for wildlife and conservation-minded hunting as part of preserving Missouri's outdoor heritage.

Go online for more about this initiative and see how it's shaping the next generation of hunters and conservation stewards in Missouri.



*Read
more* 

<https://www.nwtf.org/content-hub/missouri-governors-mentored-deer-hunt-inspires-a-new-generation-of-adult-hunters>



NWTF Volunteers Help Restore El Dorado National Forest

In a recent effort, NWTF volunteers teamed up with the USDA Forest Service to clean up and restore a section of El Dorado National Forest near Placerville, California. The clean-up targeted an area long marred by illegal dumping and a former abandoned homeless encampment, turning it back into usable public land.

The effort was led by two members of the NWTF's local chapter, and their energy and commitment were credited with driving a positive volunteer mood and getting concrete results.

growing partnership between NWTF and federal forest agencies — amplifying previous, large-scale restoration work aimed at improving forest and wildlife habitat.

Want to dive deeper? The full article walks through how volunteers, forest staff and interns came together under a stewardship grant to restore public lands — and why such grassroots efforts matter for wildlife, forest health and future outdoor enjoyment.

Read
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<https://www.nwtf.org/content-hub/nwtf-volunteers-help-restore-el-dorado-national-forest>



Ohio State WITO Celebrates 25 Years of Women's Weekend!

The NWTF Ohio State Women in the Outdoors (WITO) chapter recently celebrated its 25th Annual Women's Weekend, bringing together women from Ohio, New York and neighboring states for a three-day gathering at Skyview Ranch in Millersburg, Ohio. Over 100 attendees participated in more than 80 classes highlighting a broad range of outdoor and lifestyle skills.

The weekend offered a mix of traditional outdoors-oriented and creative/self-reliance activities: participants tried archery and handgun shooting (with help from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife), but also had classes in homesteading, outdoor cooking, beekeeping, edible plants, birding and more. Many of the sessions even included crafts — from making jams and chapsticks to creating art, or using pheasant feathers to fashion hats.

The event created a welcoming, supportive environment for women — whether first-time outdoor participants or longtime attendees — giving them a chance to learn new skills, build community and share in traditions. From cheering each other on at the archery range to enjoying a costume-themed night, this milestone celebration showed how WITO helps make the outdoors accessible and welcoming.

Go online to read more about the weekend, see photos, and explore how WITO is shaping the next generation of women in the outdoors.



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<https://www.nwtf.org/content-hub/ohio-state-wito-celebrates-25-years-of-womens-weekend>

New Avenues to Reach Your Neighborhoods

A Spooktacular Evening of Conservation and Community

The NWTF's Washtenaw County Conservationists partnered with Pittsfield Parks and Recreation and the Leslie Science and Nature Center to host a Halloween-themed "Creatures of the Night" event at Lillie Park, drawing more than 170 kids for hayrides, pumpkin carving, nocturnal animal encounters, decorated trail walks and a festive trunk-or-treat. With hands-on activities like NWTF's "mystery boxes" and plenty of family-friendly fun, the evening blended conservation education with spooky-season excitement. Go online to read more about how this creative outreach event brought the community together and inspired young outdoor enthusiasts.



Read
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<https://www.nwtf.org/content-hub/a-spooktacular-evening-of-conservation-and-community>

Brewing up a Good Time, Celebrating NWTF with Local Businesses

NWTF's Niagara County Gobblers Chapter teamed up with First Line Brewing to throw its first-ever "beer for conservation" fundraiser — launching a limited-edition "Flocktoberfest" beer, hosting live music, raffles and a lively crowd. The event spotlighted NWTF's Forests and Flocks Initiative, with speakers explaining how proceeds support habitat restoration and other conservation work, while the fun, social vibe helped connect

longtime members and newcomers alike. **Raise a glass — and maybe go online to see how creative events like this are helping fuel real conservation action.**

Read
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<https://www.nwtf.org/content-hub/brewing-up-a-good-time-celebrating-nwtfs-conservation-mission>



PHOTO CREDIT: ASHLEIGH DONAHEY (ABOVE); STAFF (BELOW)

Local 4-H Shooting Sports and Wildlife Program

The Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports and Wildlife Program, supported by NWTF, has spent 45 years molding thousands of young people into skilled shooters, ethical hunters and conservation-minded leaders across Minnesota — with over 5,000 youth and 1,000 trained adult volunteers participating annually.

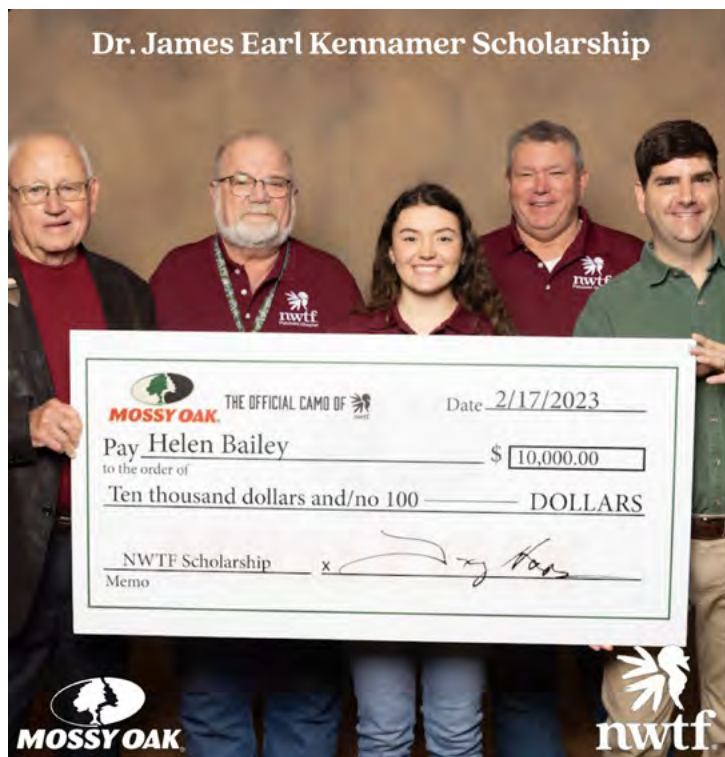
Participants can try disciplines like rifle, pistol, archery, muzzleloading, shotgun or wildlife education, and also engage in conservation projects, skill-athons, calling competitions and mentorship programs. **Through hands-on learning, leadership opportunities and community involvement, the program fosters a lifelong appreciation for nature and responsible stewardship.**



*Read
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<https://www.nwtf.org/content-hub/minnesota-4-h-shooting-sports-and-wildlife-program-45-years-of-growing-conservation-leaders>



Check Deadlines

Login or Register

Purpose of the Scholarship

The purpose of the NWTF Dr. James Earl Kenamer Academic Scholarship Program is to recognize and reward an NWTF member, who is currently a senior in high school, for their outstanding academic achievement, community involvement and leadership roles. The National Scholarship Winner will receive a \$10,000 scholarship sponsored by Mossy Oak.

Eligibility Requirements

- Students should be graduating seniors with a minimum of a 3.0 on 4.0 scale or equivalent grade point average. (If transcript indicates a scale other than 4.0, student should have at least a 3.75 on a 5.0 scale, 4.5/6.0 scale, 5.25/7.0 scale, 6.0/8.0 scale, 6.75/9.0 scale or a 7.5/10.0 scale). Students must upload copies of transcripts for review. Finalist GPA and transcripts will be verified.
- Students must be pursuing a degree at an accredited institution of higher education (i.e. Junior College, Community College, Technical College, College or University).
- Students must actively participate in hunting, support the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of our hunting heritage. A copy of current hunting license is required.
- Students must hold a current NWTF membership. If you are not a current member of NWTF, visit www.nwtf.org or call (800) THE-NWTF to join. Students can request an ID number from our membership department to include with the application for membership verification purposes.
- Students must be involved in school extracurricular activities (i.e. FFA, Ecology Club, Science Club, Beta Club, Student Council, etc.).
- Students must demonstrate leadership among his or her peers.
- Students must demonstrate community leadership and/or involvement (i.e. 4-H, civic group or club, scouting, volunteer work).
- Students must upload an essay (400-600 words) exhibiting dedication to conservation and preserving our hunting heritage. Essay must include:
 - why you will be a good investment if you are awarded this conservation scholarship
 - any experiences and background that demonstrate your dedication to conservation and the preservation of our hunting heritage
 - why hunting is important to you and your family
- Students must upload two letters of recommendation (from teachers, counselors, community or clergy - do not include relatives)
- Students can only apply to one chapter.
- Employees and National board members of the NWTF and their family members are not eligible to participate in the program.

Selection Process

- Students must apply on the official online NWTF scholarship portal by the deadline set for their state. Incomplete submissions will not be considered, students must have ALL documents available for upload before beginning the application process. No paper applications will be accepted.
- The national scholarship committee will select the National winner by April 1, 2026.
- Winners may not be notified until their high school awards banquet.

Contact Us

NWTF Scholarship Portal Open

The National Wild Turkey Federation has provided over \$5.9 million in scholarships to college students across the country!

The NWTF will accept applications for its 2026 Dr. James Earl Kenamer Scholarship beginning Nov. 1. The scholarship recognizes and rewards a current senior in high school for their outstanding academic achievement, community involvement and leadership roles. Through this program, local NWTF chapters award scholarships to outstanding students in their communities. Local chapter winners may also compete at the state level, with the potential to advance to the national scholarship selection.

The national NWTF Dr. James Earl Kenamer Scholarship awards a \$10,000 scholarship to one exceptional student every year.

Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements and submit all application materials for consideration. For eligibility requirements, state-specific deadlines and to apply, visit your.nwtf.org/scholarships.



<https://your.nwtf.org/scholarships/>



Please join us for our 50th Convention and Sport Show!

Join us at one, or both, of the following volunteer training sessions:

**Thursday, Feb. 12 and Friday, Feb. 13
2–4 p.m. (CST)**

Education and Outreach Event Coordinators
Engagement, Networking and Strategies Workshop Day 1 (Thursday)
Engagement, Networking and Strategies Workshop Day 2 (Friday)
Training Wrap-up Reception will follow on Friday from 4–5 p.m.

**Friday, Feb. 13
8–9:30 a.m. (CST)**

Education & Outreach Awards Breakfast (Ticketed Event)

We hope to see you there!



**REGISTER
NOW FOR
VOLUNTEER
TRAINING**

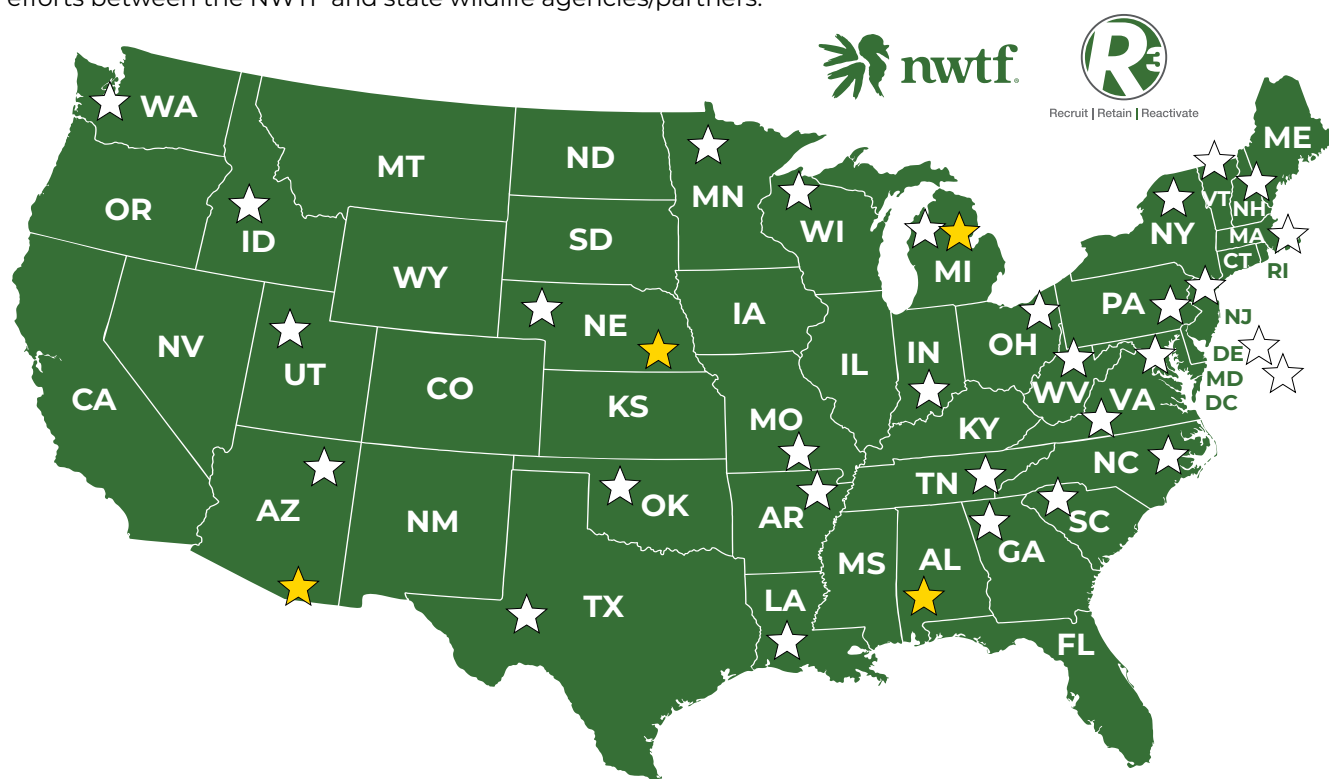


| OFFICIAL SPONSOR |

R3, Volunteer and Staff Positions

State outreach volunteer coordinators comprise a strong network of outstanding leaders across the nation who help recruit, retain and reactivate hunters. This team provides chapter leadership and assists in building a strong foundation to ensure the future of our hunting heritage.

R3 coordinators work in partnership with NWTF staff and volunteers, state and federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations and corporate partners to promote hunting and the shooting sports within their respective states. We co-fund three NWTF and one partner R3 coordinator position that are cooperative efforts between the NWTF and state wildlife agencies/partners.



State Outreach Volunteer Coordinators ☆

AZ Tim Denny	MD Susan Boarman	MO Ben Slaters (JAKES)	NY Stephany Quick (WITO)	SC Aaron Parks (JAKES)
AR Libby Vaught(WITO)	MI Ken Buchholtz (WS)	NE Adam Hohbein	NY Butch Kortright (JAKES)	TN Lindsey Silvey
DE Charles Spray	MI John Gray	NE Jeff Westerby	OH Barry Coffing	TN Doug Monday (WS)
GA Wes Dorsey	MI Jan Kuhtic (WITO)	NE Paul Walkowiak	OK Evelyn Irick	TX Mike Shouse
GA Kimberly Abernathy (WITO)	MI Steve Sharp	NE Jeff Uhl	OK Lisa James (WITO)	UT Matthew Sessions
ID Don Jenkins	MN Ralph Warzecha	NC John Edmondson	OK Aaron Boggs (JAKES)	VA Jeff McCambridge
IN Pat Navarre	MN Nancy McLaughlin (WITO)	NH Rob Skrocki	PA Abbie Shireman	VT Brett Ladeau
LA Javis Noel	MN Billy Schmitz (JAKES)	NJ Cristina McGannon Jones	SC Billie McCarter (WITO)	WA Michelle McDonald
MA Tim Gribbons	MN Tim Scapanski (WS)	NY Bill Wilbur	SC Mike Gainey (WS)	WI John Cler
			SC Aaron Parks	WV Roger Wolfe

R3 Coordinators ☆

AL Justin Grider ALDCNR Employee	AZ Kirsty Paulsen*	NE Shelby Insensee*
	MI Jen Davis*	*NWTF Employee

See state pages on NWTF.org for contact information

MANDY HARLING National Director of Education and Outreach Programs • mharling@nwtf.net
TERESA CARROLL Education and Outreach Programs Coordinator • tcarrroll@nwtf.net
MORGAN EVANS NWTF R3 and Relevancy Coordinator • mrevans@nwtf.net
JESSE WARNER Northeast R3 Coordinator • jwarner@nwtf.net