

# Tired of your kids exploring the outdoors virtually?

Get your kids back to the real outdoors to explore, learn, and challenge themselves at the MN Outdoor Youth Expo May 21st & 22nd. Big on fun, Low on cost!



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**Hugo, MN, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011:** After overwhelming positive feedback from visitors and exhibitors, the MN Outdoor Youth Expo returns to Wild Wings of Oneka Hunt Club in Hugo on May 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9am – 6pm daily.

This 2<sup>nd</sup> annual event is organized and sponsored by Wild Wings of Oneka, offers families the opportunity to get outside and meet over 60 great outdoor organizations, experts and educators. Activities for kids will include; clay shooting and firearm safety, mock hunts, archery, casting, fishing, fly tying, birds of prey demonstrations, outdoor cooking, nature walks, geocaching, ATV rider safety education, canoeing, kayaking, water safety education, camping, dog handling and training, animal education and more. Kids may also try their hand at various sports such as climbing, golfing, basketball, and paintball. Educational seminars and demonstrations are scheduled throughout the event including high speed model boat racing with Twin Cities Model Boat Club, an open Fun Jump with Northern Stars Dock Dogs and dog agility with Washington County 4H.

“This expo’s goal is to help young people develop a lifelong passion for the outdoors,” said Wild Wings sponsor Jeff Hughes. “Doing this has become more important as an increasing number of children have become used to the instant gratification of our electronic world. They are now growing up spending little time outdoors,” he said. “That’s why bringing these organizations together at the Youth Expo is so important. These experiences offer a foundation for a lifetime of rewarding recreation, which will lead them to become good stewards of our natural resources.”

The expo hours will be 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Visitors may choose to come for a few hours or stay for the day, but should plan to wear their walking shoes as the expo is laid out completely outdoors over 65 acres of wooded trails and open fields. The walk through the expo is an adventure in itself. Food concessions will be available for purchase. Admission is \$5.00 for adults (16+), free for kids and parking is free. “Our intention is to make this event very affordable for families to have a day of fun learning and exploring the outdoors together”, says Event Director, Nikki Walters.

More than 60 exhibitors will be at the event to include the MN DNR, MN State Parks, John Glen Cadet Archery, YMCA Camps, Washington County 4H, Walton’s Hollow Petting Zoo, Benson Airport’s Young Eagles, Wildlife Science Center, Pheasants Forever, Boy Scouts of America, Simply Outdoors, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, Wolves & Wildlife, Wings North, Gander Mountain, Wild Mountain, the MN Timber Wolves, Joe’s Sporting Goods, and the National Guard just to name a few. Directions and more information can be found on the website at [www.mnoutdooryouthexpo.com](http://www.mnoutdooryouthexpo.com).