

CLAY TODAY

Camp Chowenwaw recognized as outstanding partner for education, youth programs

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GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Camp Chowenwaw County Park at Black Creek recently was recognized by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network as an Outstanding Partner for the staff’s dedication to providing high-quality environmental education programs and opportunities for youth to appreciate Florida’s great outdoors.

FYCCN is a public-private partnership initiative of FWC developed to inspire a lifelong delight for the outdoors and a passion for conserving Florida’s exquisite natural resources. The network aims to uphold Florida’s outdoor heritage by educating and empowering Florida’s youth and educators with outdoor know-how and conservation concepts.

Camp Chowenwaw has been a partner with FYCCN since 2014 and has been fully engaged in providing fishing and wildlife discovery programs that FYCCN has helped facilitate. The park has also supported a variety of youth and family programs in Clay County and has been a partner location for other partnerships’ summer camps, FYCCN network trainings, and FWC research initiatives. For these reasons and more, Camp Chowenwaw was awarded an “Outstanding Partner” recognition for the year 2020.

Some benefits of being an FYCCN partner include professional development trainings, state-sponsored resources, educational curricula in the areas of wildlife discovery, fishing, archery, and paddle sports, and outdoor equipment loans. Liza McCain, Education and Volunteer Coordinator said, “We have enjoyed the resources and opportunities a partnership with FYCCN provides.” McCain added, “Camp Chowenwaw has been involved with FWC wildlife studies at the park and is currently using an FYCCN Wildlife Discovery Kit containing identification guides, animal skulls, pelts, scat, and prints to help visitors learn more about the park’s native animals.” Learn more about Camp Chowenwaw’s activities and programs here: <https://www.claycountygov.com/community/parks-and-recreation/camp-chowenwaw-park>.

Ben Hines, FYCCN North Central Partnership Coordinator said: “We truly appreciate the work Camp Chowenwaw does every day for the youth and families of their community and

want to recognize them for their dedication to environmental education and the shared mission of “Creating the Next Generation That Cares.”

“Camp Chowenwaw County Park is a wealth of historical and natural resources, which has been meticulously preserved for Clay County residents to enjoy,” Clay County Board of Commissioners Chairman Mike Cella said. “Park staff have done an amazing job developing recreational and educational opportunities for visitors, and this honor is well deserved.”

With the help of the Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida, FYCCN has established a statewide conservation network of 340 partnerships with Florida’s parks, community centers, camps, clubs, museums, zoos, and aquariums to inspire youths from all backgrounds to enjoy and appreciate Florida’s natural areas. Learn more about the Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network here: <https://fyccn.org/>.