

My name is Madison Benedict. I'm an eleven year old female hunter born in Oroville California. I come from a long history of hunters. Great grandfathers, grandfathers and father. Some of the best hunters being my great great grandmother and great grandmothers. I am the oldest sibling to three sisters. We all love the outdoors. I believe that we are here today because of hunting. Our ancestors would have not lived if it wasn't for some sort of hunting. Hunting wasn't a sport it was a means of survival. We the youth will be writing the next chapter of our conservation History. Will it be setting down our guns and picking up our cell phones to get on Face book or another social media? I hope not! With 80% of Americans being non hunters these numbers aren't very promising. I believe that passing on the tradition and educating people on conservation is key. Educating people on simple facts like wildlife diseases, overpopulation, ect... Also allowing people to understand that hunters are actually conserving animals by hunting them. Letting them know if we didn't do that they would become so infested with disease that they would become extinct. This is just one example but the list is a mile long on why hunting is conservation. I personally would love to see a youth hunting conservation group started such as 4-H is to the Commercial Livestock Industry. I am also a 4-H member who shows hogs. I believe that 4-H gives youth the opportunity to see the importance of the livestock industry. I would love to see an organization excepted in our schools or a 4-H program that is specifically for hunters. For now I will continue to carry on the tradition with my family and friends in hope that one day I will be part of a youth organization that can share the truth of hunting conservation and why it is so important.