

### WVSSAC to Recognize Archery as a Sanctioned Sport

The extreme popularity of archery among West Virginia youth has attracted the attention of the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission. Executive Director Bernie Dolan told MetroNews the SSAC is ready to sanction archery as a school sport in West Virginia.

"We're going to be working on it to roll it out in the next year or two," said Dolan. "We want to see how quickly it can become a fully sanctioned sport."

The framework for the sport is already in place through the Archery in Schools program run by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. The A-I-S has teams in almost all West Virginia schools, including elementary and middle schools and the popularity is what drew the attention of Dolan and the SSAC.

"All of our sports come about because of interest in schools," he said. "We don't drive the interest. If there's enough schools doing a particular activity, often they will submit a letter to us to be recognized as a sport and that's the case here with archery."

Dolan said Elkview Middle School Coach Eddie Gray has been instrumental in coaxing the Activities Commission to consider archery. Gray's program is one of the original Archery in the Schools teams and hosts the largest school archery tournament in the state each year. This year's event, due to problems after the 2016 flood, was moved to the Cline Center at Marshall University.

Archery as an SSAC sport, according to Dolan, would start out as a co-ed offering. Dolan likes the even playing field regardless of a participant's physical stature or their means. Since all participants use identical equipment, the challenge lies in a shooter's ability.

Shooters who have a lot of money cannot simply buy better equipment to improve their accuracy. Size and strength also have almost no impact on success.

"The one thing I like about this is the girls shoot as well or better than the boys," said Dolan. "It will be exciting to see the girls competing on the same level."

Dolan thinks it may also attract a whole new group of students who presently do not compete in any extracurricular activities.



# Two West Virginia Youngsters Place Fourth in National Bass Tournament

Seven-year-old Terrance Wiseman (left), boat coach Joe Wiseman and 11-year-old Isaac Shock were all smiles. Isacc's 7-pound largemouth lifted the West Virginia team to fourth place in the recent Bassmaster Junior National Championship tournament in Tennessee.



Congratulations, Issac and Terrance!

#### Did You Know?

A whitetail buck will gain 25-30 percent of their body weight within the last six weeks leading up to the rut. Throughout most of the year, a deer consumes about seven pounds of food each day. During this short window of "bulking up", a buck will consume 10-15 pounds of food per day, and eat every three-four hours.



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#### Member Spotlight

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Name: James David Antill

Lives in: Sod, WV

Siblings: Addison and Pauley

Parents: Chad and Heather Antill

Activities: Swimming

Favorite Food: Pancakes

Favorite Hobby:

Riding the buggy, playing

superheroes and fishing

Favorite TV Show:

Peppa Pig

### Tips for Attracting Deer to Your Deer Feeder

- Use quality deer feed, wildlife feed or goat feed to fill your deer feeder.
- Place only small amounts of food into the deer feeder at a time. The intent is just to attract deer to the area, rather than making the deer become dependent on a human-provided food supply. By offering small amounts of wildlife feed on a consistent basis, deer will visit the feeder routinely in search of their treat.
- Deer love salt. Hang a salt lick near the deer feeder, and deer will return to the area again and again. Salt licks are about the size of a brick, and they last for weeks. Salt licks are also inexpensive.
- Place the deer feeder in an area away from gardens and landscape plantings. The deer feeder will not prevent the deer from eating your prized plants but if it located away from flower beds and shrubs, a feeder box can help to route the deer around your gardens. Planting native and deer resistant plants will also help to reduce the damage from feeding deer, especially in the areas closest to the feeder.

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