

Wickenburg Youth Target Shooting Event

By: Charlie Kelly, AZSFWC Director

The Arizona Game and Fish Department conducted its 5th annual Youth Target Shooting Event on January 17th at the Wickenburg Sportsmen's Club. It provided a chance for young sportsmen to handle and shoot a variety of weapons, ranging from air guns and archery, to rifles and shotguns. The weather turned out to be perfect with over 100 youth participating, and a total turnout of over 200 people.

The Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society and the Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation assisted by running the youth raffle that included prizes donated by the ADBSS, the AZSFWC and Cabelas. Both the ADBSS and the AZSFWC conducted a rifle raffle recently that raised over \$16,000, which was earmarked for youth shooting events. The Winchester Arms "Nearly-Perfect" Rifle Battery set of rifles for these raffles were generously donated by Midway USA.

The ADBSS furnished two Weatherby 20 gauge youth model shotguns, as well as a large selection of gun cases for the raffle. The lucky winners of the shotguns were Colby Hill and Logan Jones. The AZSFWC furnished blaze orange and camo hats to



all youth that participated, as well as two .22 youth rifles. The lucky winners of the rifles were Collin Murnigham and Kathryn Wolfe.

The event also provided an opportunity for youth to learn more about the activities of the ADBSS and the AZSFWC. Recently the family of the late Joe Kiel donated a lifesize mount of his ram taken in unit 13B north to be used as a permanent part of our ADBSS displays. It gives youth the opportunity to see a mature Desert Bighorn Ram up close and will make a great addition to our future events.

AZ. Game and Fish Wildlife Manager Craig Heath has been the main organizer of this event and did an awesome job again this year coordinating the event, thanks Craig! ADBSS President and AZSFWC Director Gary Drake assisted with the raffle and booth this year, kudos to you as well Gary. The Mule Deer Foundation was a sponsor as well again this year.