

# NEWS FROM THE CREW

## CONSERVATION CREW WINTER 2025

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### FROM THE TRAILHEAD

Across the state our lakes are frozen over, but that hasn't stopped Conservation Crew students. Crews have been learning about, conserving, enjoying, and protecting the water we care so much about. While the scope of our Crew projects is vast and varied, our Crew students are consistently showing up to protect Minnesota's 10,000 lakes.

### CREW VIEWS

Students at **Terra Nova School in Buffalo** partnered with the Parks Department to adopt a pond and two storm drains. They visit the pond monthly to conduct water tests, track water quality, and pick up litter. They also set up a trail camera to document the wildlife that calls the pond home. This allows students to understand the important role the pond and its water play in our ecosystem.

The Crew at **Black Hawk Middle School in Eagan** worked in partnership with another nearby school to hand out 250 water conservation kits to interested 7th graders and their families. These kits included low-flow showerheads, kitchen and bathroom faucet aerators, pipe insulation, and a water temperature card so students and their families could easily reduce their water usage. Students explained the kits with a video and a flier they created, which was handed out to parents at parent teacher conferences. "It seemed overall very successful, many families seemed really excited about it" said Liz Hanson, Black Hawk Middle School Crew leader. Because of their work, hundreds of people in their community will be able to take action to conserve water in their own homes.

### CONSERVATION CONNECTIONS

Middle schoolers care about our water, but they often need to rely on water conservation experts to determine how best to protect and enjoy it. The Conservation Crew chapter

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at **Foley Middle School** recently connected with professionals to learn more about water ecosystems.

The Crew welcomed a representative from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to share insights on loon conservation efforts. In addition to learning about loons' habitat and migration, the MPCA staff shared the startling impact lead poisoning has on our loon populations. To do their part to address the issue, the students brought in their tackle boxes and were able to go through their tackle with the staff. If they had lead tackle, they were able to trade it out for lead-free alternatives as a part of the Get the Lead Out campaign.

## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Doug Androli from **Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Schools** recruited volunteers from the Southern Lakes Spearing and Angling Group to bring 35 7th and 8th grade Crew students ice fishing and spearing on Lake Tetonka. Students caught six fish and speared 3 Northern throughout the day on the ice. Mr. Androli worked with a parent who was able to fry up fish on the lake for the kids to enjoy. "I took a survey and six of the kids had never been fishing before. I was able to buy them their own fishing rod, so they get to keep them. They all had a good time out there. Hopefully they continue to get outdoors and fish in the future"

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**CONSERVATION CREW**

**CONSERVATION MINNESOTA**