

Addy York's Whitetail Hunt



By Jim Leonard,
Lansing Area Chapter

The Lansing Area Chapter was fortunate to be able to help a young person with serious health issues become a proud, successful and happy hunter in Fall 2010.

We teamed up with the Tony Semple Foundation for Hope to co-sponsor a hunter in September at Valhalla Ranch. A total of five young people and their parents, all from southern states, enjoyed several days relaxing in beautiful northern Michigan at Valhalla. Our chapter's hunter was a spunky, 4' 10" tall, 98-pound, 17-year-old named Addy York from Tennessee.

Once settled in at the ranch, all the young hunters' adventures started when Craig Mortz presented each with a big camo duffle bag filled with a set of Cabela's camo clothes, warm camo coat and pants, Danner boots, Nikon binoculars, Pro-Ear ear protectors, customized skinning knife, backpack and other hunting goodies, plus some Detroit Lions clothing. Mike Leonard then gave each an authentic and beautifully made flint arrowhead on a neck lanyard to be worn as a traditional good luck charm.

Next it was time to sight in the rifles and assess the hunters' shooting skills. Addy was first up. She proved to be a great shot and made it look easy. She set a high standard and put the pressure on the boys that followed. Addy had a ball and you can see from the picture she can shoot straight. She harvested a great whitetail and thanks to The Wildlife Gallery it soon will be proudly displayed in her home.



Left to right: Tony Semple, Mike Leonard, Richard Buckley, Jim Leonard, Janet Leonard, Mike Ruhlig, Addy York, Craig Mortz.