

“BEARLY” ENTERTAINED AFTER SCHOOL STUDENTS!

Students at the Bullskin Elementary 21st CCLC program in the Connellsville school district had a rare and special treat on May 3, 2022 as they were treated to the Pennsylvania Game Commission’s capture and care to release a Pennsylvania black bear back into the wild.



The Game Commission was invited by the Private Industry Council to provide a mammal presentation for the Bullskin after school program. Just prior to the program, Officer Greevy informed Private Industry Council teacher Michael Lavelle that they had just caught a black bear and could bring the bear trap to the school to do a full bear presentation!

Eyes were wide as the officer explained what is involved in doing a processing while the black bear rattled the cage behind him! The after school program got to see the whole process from the beginning when the officer tranquilized the bear. Eighteen children being still and quiet may have been the most impressive part! Nearly all had never seen a live bear!

During the processing the officers remove a tooth for establishing age (two year old), establish sex (surprisingly female), tag the bear, do checks on its health, and weight (173 lbs.)! Officer Greevy shared some unique bear facts and stories along the way. He then entertained some very good questions concerning bears, and about his job as Game Commissioner from the students!



The next week of the program students made painted/textured bear masks while learning more about our only native bear – The Pennsylvania Black Bear! They then made thank you cards for Officer Greevy to show their appreciation.

Shelly Gillmore, Youth Program Supervisor of the Private Industry Council supervises the 21st CCLC after school program in the Connellsville school district as part of cohort 10. We appreciate the PA Game Commission for offering interactive nature programs as guest presenters to our after school programs!