

If you attended the June membership meeting, you met Kevin Douglas, the 15-year-old young man the chapter sent on a cow elk hunt donated by Elkhorn Outfitters Inc. Here is the start of Kevin's diary. You may read it in its entirety on our website: www.lansingsci.com.

6/02/04: I learned I am going to Colorado. This will be cool. I am going elk hunting. I almost fainted when I heard. I will keep a journal.

6/05/04: I am still so excited about going. When I go, I will use a 30.06. After school gets out I will shoot a gun to get used to it. I haven't shot a gun since hunter's safety. It won't be that hard.

6/7/04: I went to see Carl and he gave me a brand new pair of binoculars. They are Simmon's. They work really good. He said I can use them to bow hunt also. The end is reddish-orangeish. I can't wait to use them.

6/12/04: I have seen Carl and he said that we will be leaving on November 1st and leave to come home on the 8th. I can't wait. The lodge that we are staying at sounds nice. So it will be cool.

6/16/04: I am still excited. I bought a new digital camera to take. It will be nice to use. I can make a short movie that will be nice. Carl will film it.

6/18/04: I am still excited. I have never been this excited. I am hearing that we are going during a competition hunt. I will hopefully see big elk. I wonder if there will be any other kids my age. That would be cool to talk to.

6/21/04: Still seems that it is so far away. But it is only 4 months away. From the sounds of it, if I get a cow the first day, the next couple days we can tour the ranch on horseback. People at the ranch say that if I don't get one on the first day, they will be disappointed.

7/5/04: Haven't written in a long time. I have been in the midst of moving. I am still so excited. I am using a 30.06. I don't remember if I said that in my early entries.

7/15/04: Been a busy summer. I have been talking with Carl. We are really excited. We may be leaving on the 31st of October or on the 1st of November. I will be able to see a lot of cool stuff. I will get to see the mountains. That will be really cool.

7/25/04: Been really thinking about how much fun this trip will be. I hope that I will get a big one. If it is, I will have a ton of meat. Everybody I know will end up with meat. I hope a lot of it will be jerky. I have never tried elk jerky. I wonder if it is good.

8/9/04: I went down to Bath. I first shot a 30.06. Boy that has a big kickback. I was scared the first time I shot it. Then a little later I shot a .22 and got used to it. Then later I shot a 30.06 again.

8/22/04: I was shooting my bow. That will help me with arm strength. I was doing really good. My arms are a little better. They really hurt after shooting. I wasn't used to it. I haven't shot a gun since hunters' safety.

8/29/04: I've totally been waiting for the trip. It doesn't seem like it is that far away. I've been thinking about how much fun the trip will be. It will be a long trip. I'm going with Carl so it will be fun. I hope I won't get a lot of homework. School starts on Tuesday. I am going to a new school. This will be different. See ya later.

9/03/04: I have school off so I am writing. My new school is pretty cool here. I have made a lot of friends. Most of them are hunters. I am still excited about going to Colorado. I am not sure where in Colorado we are going. Gotta go.

9/7/04: I've got less than 2 months until we leave. I am so glad that I got chosen to go. I really appreciate it. This is the best thing that has happened to me. I am really excited about learning from the guide about how to do things. I hope they are happy to teach me. See ya later.

9/12/04: Been thinking about the trip a lot lately. I have been thinking about how much meat I will get if I get an elk. A lot of people I know will get meat. I hope that the processor will get the meat done in time. I have to go. Bye.

9/21/04: I have been practicing positions that I can use in Colorado. Carl told me that he is going to buy a shooting stick for me. I don't know how I will do on the shooting stick. I wonder if it will be really unstable or not? I have seen a few t.v. shows with cows and they are big.

9/26/04: I went down to Bath and shot this weekend. We were shooting at 127 yds. My first shot I hit the nail on the paper plate. That was better than Carl's first 2 shots. I was proud of myself. I shot off the shooting sticks. That went okay. I hope I don't have to shoot off of those. My excitement of the trip is high.

10/2/04: I went shooting again in Bath. I did the same at shooting. I shot again with the .22. I did good with that. Carl said that I might shoot off a backpack on my stomach. If I do that I can get off a good shot. Writing this journal has been kinda hard. I am not used to writing a lot.

10/12/04: Like usual I have been thinking a lot about the trip. I will leave in less than a month. Carl has been shooting the gun a few more times and said that the gun is okay. He also said that I am also good to go with the gun. He has good confidence in me to do good in Colorado. Sorry but I have to go.

10/17/04: I haven't talked about who Carl is. He is the guy that volunteered me for the trip. He introduced me to the outdoors. He is not my dad. He is a guy that I met when I was younger. He is kinda of a second dad to me. Got to go.

10/24/04: Been talking and thinking about the trip. Carl has been talking about it a lot also. I hate to say it but he seems more excited. I am so excited though. He has been telling me about all the bad things that might happen to me. So I am a little scared. I hope that I will get to see a bunch of bulls that other hunters have gotten. Got to go.

10/31/04: I was thinking tonight that I am leaving in 2 days. Tonight I was finishing up a few entries. I had to get my homework from school. I wish that I didn't have to. I am so surprised how fast time has gone by. It feels like yesterday that I found out I was leaving. See ya.

11/02/04: We left this morning at 7:30 a.m. We got on the road and didn't hit any traffic. We drove until we were in the outskirts of Chicago and stopped at 10:00 a.m. for breakfast. Then we got back on the road. I saw a lot of farmland. Then we got into Iowa and I slept for a little bit. Carl didn't do anything bad to me.

11/03/04: We stayed in York, Nebraska last night. We woke up at 6:00 a.m. and got on the road. We drove to Sidney, Nebraska and stopped at Cabela's. That was the original Cabela's and I bought a few things. Then we drove for some more and we got into Wyoming. We stopped at a Welcome Center. Then we got back on the road. We are staying in Rawlins, Wyoming. I have to go.

11/04/04: We woke up this morning at 6:00. Then we left from the hotel in Rawlins. We got on the road and then we got on a two lane highway for a good 50 miles. Then at about 11:00 we got to the outfitter's. This place is really cool. The people here are also really nice. I got to meet a few of the outfitters. So then after we got settled in, I went and shot the 30.06. I was doing okay with that. So then we went in and ate lunch. After that we went to get my license and found out that we couldn't without my Social Security Number. So we called my mom and we waited for her to call us back and she did. So then we went in and got my license. While we were walking out to the R.V. we ran into Dick, who is the owner. He said that in a half hour we would go out to see if I could get an elk. So we went out and went about 10 minutes down the road to see if we could get any cows. So we went off into some land of Dick's. While we were in the woods we saw a lot of wildlife and then Dick said that he had found a few elk. So we went to where I could get a shot off. Dick tried calling them in and they looked at us and then went over the top of a small hill. So then we went back on the road to see where they went and couldn't find where they had gone. So we kept driving and then he saw the ear of an elk. So we got out of the truck and started going toward where he had seen the ear. So we went out a good quarter mile. Then we got down. He put the tripod up, and I saw an elk. So I put the gun on the tripod. Then I looked through the sites and aimed on the elk and then I smoothly pulled the trigger on the gun. Before we left I changed to one of the guns used by one of the guides. It was a .257 rifle. It shot better than the 30.06. So it didn't set into me that I killed the elk until Dick said, "You got it." So we walked up to it and I had to shoot it again to make sure it was dead. So after that Dick went to get his truck. So he got this truck and came back and gutted the elk. Then we went back to camp and told everyone about it. I called my mom, Ann and Mike. See you later.

11/05/04: We woke up this morning at 5:30 and went to breakfast. Then after breakfast we went back to where we left it last night to get it and bring it back to camp. After we got it we took it to the processor's in town. Then after we got back, Carl and I went for a drive on 18. We got back at 1. Then after lunch we went for a drive to Meaker. On the way down there we turned around and came back to camp. When we got back to camp, I took a nap. Then we had dinner and went to watch t.v.

11/06/04: This morning we woke up and had breakfast. Then we packed to go home. We went into town and picked up my meat and the hide. So then we got it and left for home. We stopped in Rawlins for lunch and hit the road again. So then we drove and drove some more. We stopped at Cabela's in Sidney again. Then after that we drove to York, NE. There we stopped for the night.

11/07/04: We got on the road at 7:00. Then we drove towards home. We stopped to get gas and breakfast at 9. Then we got back on the road. Then at 5:00 p.m. we stopped for dinner in Michigan. Then at 7:00 we pulled into Bath. We drove to Kessler's to drop off the meat. Then we went to Carl's house and slept.

11/08/04: We woke up at about 6:30. Then at 9:30, Carl and I went pheasant hunting. Then after that we picked up Amanda from school. Then my mom came and we went home. After that I told her what happened. Good bye.

11/21/04: Tonight I am finishing this and writing thank you letters. I was amazed at how much fun I had and how much I learned. I would like to thank the Safari Club, Elkhorn Outfitters, and Carl. This was a once in a lifetime chance.
THE END.