

JOE JEMIOLO YOUTH LIFETIME LICENSE PROGRAM  
ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN

The annual Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's, (ECFS) 2022 lifetime licenses drawing for children of Erie County residents culminated at the ECFS December meeting at Bison City Rod And Gun club. Six lifetime licenses were awarded at this meeting. The children's families are being contacted and arrangements are being made for the purchase of these licenses.

This program was started by New York State Outdoorsman Hall of Fame member (NYSHOF) Joe Jemiolo in 2013. Joe unfortunately passed away in 2014 and the program was then picked up by Chuck Godfrey who chaired the program annually until 2020. The program was temporarily suspended during the pandemic and reinstated in 2022 when I (Joe Fischer) assumed the chair.

Sixty-one lifetime licenses were awarded from the program inception until 2020 at a cost of approximately \$24,000. The premise of this program is that any child of an Erie County Resident who did not turn 16 years of age before March of the following year was eligible to win one of these valuable licenses. They could choose any license (hunting, fishing, trapping, Sportsmen etc.).

The money for these licenses is obtained through funding from Erie County, raffles, and donations from ECFS clubs such as Deerssearch, Bison City Rod and Gun, Lake Shore Rod and Gun and donations from such clubs as the Fraternal Order of the Eagles Aerie 2692 etc. Also thank you to all the people who bought raffle tickets for our annual Youth License Program raffle. Without this outpouring of local support, it would be impossible to run this GREAT program.

The ECFS is once again looking forward to running this program for Erie County Residents in 2023.

Joe Fischer