## From Canvases to Conservation, Champions of Ducks: Adam and Madison Grimm Season 1, Episode 10

[Intro music]

**Kara Harders:**

Welcome to Home Starts Here. My name is Kara Harders and today I am joined by Adam and Madison Grimm, a father daughter duo, here in beautiful Wallace South Dakota. Today were going to be talking to the Grimms about all things duck. This year Adam won the Federal Duck Stamp contest for the third time and Madison, who is only 18, has won the Junior contest three times herself and is the second person in the nation to legally take in duck eggs from destroyed nests, to hatch out and release them. They do all of this from their home in Wallace, SD. Adam to start us off, can you tell me how a nationally recognized wildlife artist came to live in the tiny town of Wallace?

(Laughter)

**Adam Grimm:**

So it was really interesting cause, I just, never saw it coming. So after my wife and I got married. We were talking about. We're, you know, our life together, and we she had an interest in actually looking at South Dakota as maybe a potential place to move, and I was. I was pretty excited because I never thought that you would really want to but we came out here and ended up buying a house originally we were down in the southeastern part of the State, but then, after about 12 years, we ended up moving up to Wallace, South Dakota, which is much better for ducks, by the way. And so but no, we we love being here. And yeah, we literally moved here because of the ducks and the hunting and but it's not just, and that's what brought us here initially. But it's interesting, because the the people and friendships we've made in this area has made it so much more of a home. And you know we don't feel like out of place anymore. So it's pretty neat, awesome.

**Kara Harders:**

and Madison well, you didn't really get to pick Wallace. Why don't you tell me a little bit about yourself, too? Madison is the a 3 time winner of the junior duck competition, Madison, tell me a little bit about you and your art and what you do.

**Madison Grimm:**

Yeah. So I've just kind of been painting and drawing. As long as I can remember I grew up watching Dad work on artwork and photograph and go hunting with him, so it just kind of seemed natural to go right into that. But yeah, I did my 1st painting when I was 6 and entered the junior duck stamp contest with it, and that was the 1st time I ever won. And so that was kind of like just really threw me right into this this art world, and I mean I wouldn't have any other way. But really, just since I was 6 now, I've just been everything with waterfowl, painting, traveling, photographing, hunting. Yeah, so I won it for the second time in 2020, and I was 13, and then again in 2022, when I was 15, and then just this past year I entered for the 4th time, and I came in second. So pretty good track record with that program I've been pretty fortunate

**Adam Grimm:**

should have been first, In my opinion.

I just have to add real quick. It is so interesting to me as a father, because I was just trying to make ends meet doing art which is not an easy job really, to that. Many people can do it and make a living out of it, yet alone provide for a whole family, and so I was always just so caught up in what I was doing, and I didn't even really notice at first, st when she started showing interest. I never had considered that she might actually want to do art, and, do you know, be into ducks, even though that was her 1st word as a baby. Go figure. So yeah, yeah, not even mom and dad, like, just duck, yeah, so

**Madison Grimm:**

I knew what I wanted (laughter)

**Adam Grimm:**

But so it it was really an interesting thing for me to watch her develop into what she's developed into and come out of this doing what she's doing because I just never saw it coming. Even I mean I was there. I just didn't see it.

**Kara Harders:**

So, and so for context, the junior duck stamp competition goes up to 18. So Madison was 6 years old and beat all these, you know, kids who've been in high school and take an art class and all. So I can see how it probably was hard to notice, because I mean, I think at 6 years old I could barely operate scissors, and you were, you're miles ahead.

**Adam Grimm:**

She was always pretty talented with. She's pretty smart. She seemed even smarter then I think, now it's a little more normal. Yeah. 6 was like the peak. But no, it. It's funny, I mean, she was always like really sharp, and I mean she was good at drawing, like I saw her do drawings when she was little, and I was like, Oh, it's pretty good, but we homeschooled so. It wasn't like I was seeing her stuff next to other kids her age, and I just never really like. I remember saying to my wife like, “That's pretty good, right?” like I don't know, for her age like that. Seems like that's pretty good, but I didn't think that much of it, and when she set out to do that 1st painting she was so serious and committed like. I remember she wanted to get the deadline meet the deadline. And she wasn't going to meet the deadline, and she was so upset, but it was taking her so long because she was trying so hard. And I was like, it doesn't even matter like I didn't think she. I didn't even contemplate that she could actually win it at that age.

**Madison Grimm:**

Actually, the majority of the painting I did when I was still 5. Yeah. So

**Kara Harders:**

Oh, my gosh

**Madison Grimm:**

(I was 6 for) just last month or so.

**Adam Grimm:**

Yeah, yeah, I mean, because I remember telling her like, listen, just focus and just keep working hard. It's looking really good. And I said you could just enter it in next year's contest like it doesn't even matter like I just to me if I mean I know it maybe mattered to her. But I was just like, you know, this is like such a some kids contest like I used to win coloring contest when I was a kid. I didn't, I didn't think that much of it at the time. I thought what she was doing was good. I was like, that's good enough like she might win like a 1st place for her age, group or something. I never thought she'd go in best of show for the whole State of South Dakota and then go on to win the whole Federal Junior contest. Like, I just didn't see that coming.

Kara Harders:

At six years old, well mostly five (laughter)

**Adam Grimm:**

And at Yeah. And there was. There were people that didn't believe she painted it. And like we ended up filming her, doing another piece of artwork with like time, lapse video. And then we, she had her 1st day of sale event. And was it Virginia at a bass pro shops. And there were people there that like? Questioned if she actually painted well, she had to get up and give a speech, and there was probably like 300 to 400 people in attendance. and they even built her her own little special podium. And you can see this. This video is on Youtube still. And she got up and she flipped her hair back and she gave this speech at 6 years old, and everybody was just kind of like. **Oh**. no one questioned it after that, no one questioned it. But I mean, yeah. And it was pretty amazing at that age she was able to do that. I think now she would get a lot more nervous, and probably have more trouble.

**Madison Grimm:**

I was so innocent (laughter)

**Adam Grimm:**

Yeah, she just went with it.

**Kara Harders:**

Adam was your entry into the art world similar, or what was what was kind of the beginnings of your art journey? You know I just always love to draw. I didn't ever think of it like I want this to be my job until I was 11 years old. and I did a drawing of a tiger. and my grandfather, who lived next door, had come over, and he wanted to see what I was working on, and he saw it. And he's like man that is, he just loved it. He was so nice, and he always like showed other people that would come over like my artwork, like he was always like a big champion of mine. And but he really wanted this drawing. And I was like, Oh, yeah, here you can just have it, you know, and he stopped. He's like, no, I think you're at a level. I think I should pay you something for this. and he paid me like 20 bucks, and I remember thinking, like, Wow, because I was 11, right? And that was, this is like, years ago, back, when $20 was like really worth something. And and I remember thinking like, “I wonder what else Grandpa would like?” And so and that was what kind of started. And he did buy other stuff. But that was kind of what started me thinking more about, like, everything I had. That and Teddy bears. It was a craft show.

**Kara Harders:**

Wait you drew teddy bears?

**Adam Grimm:**

Yeah. Someone. Someone had a table at a craft show, and they didn't use very much of the table, and they said, If you want to have some of your artwork up, you know you can have it there. So I did, and I drew some Teddy bear things because someone told me. I think my mom said that. Well, these are a lot of crafty ladies, and like well. They might like things like Teddy bears. So I drew these Teddy bears, and I took like 20 orders, which was great when the money was coming in. And then I actually had to sit and do all these drawings. And I was like. That's it. I'm not drawing Teddy bears anymore. I'm only drawing things that I want to draw. And that was when I started drawing nature stuff like ducks, and they were selling, too, and I actually enjoyed drawing them. And you know I was. I wanted to draw what I was moved by, and I was inspired by, and that was from experiences I was having with my dad at going out hunting at an early age, and you just kind of get this appreciation for nature that I think if you're not out there seeing it, you're not going to have that so. But that was what inspired my work and I secretly always wanted an aviary and Madison asked for one when she was a little older. If she could have one. It's like kind of hard for me to turn that down. So. Yeah, like, I said, it's she's following so much in my footsteps. But even like even more so because I didn't have anyone to help teach me about art or drawing or painting techniques like I had Bob Ross on TV and books from the library, and that was pretty much it. And I mean they were fine, and you could learn a lot from that, too. But yeah, I mean, Madison's grown up watching me work, and then, when she started doing our own, it just seemed to come so naturally to her, and and I know it helps that I can give her some direction as far as what kind of paints to use or board, or you know that kind of, we could talk about color theory. whereas so sometimes that stuff's hard to get out of a book. So yeah, it's been, it's been interesting watching everything happen.

**Kara Harders:**

And you, I mean, we've talked quite a bit about Madison's young, amazing accomplishments. But you are. You are the youngest, or are the youngest, at one point, when you were 21, you were the youngest person to ever win the Federal duck stamp, too. Right?

**Adam Grimm:**

Yeah. And that record still stands. So Madison's thinking, like, maybe she can beat it. I'm like, yeah, good luck. That's pretty pretty difficult. So no, but it is. It is funny. Yeah, I mean, I still remember when I got that call, I was at Art College, and I was not really happy at Art College because I didn't really fit into the whole art scene so much so. And I still remember talking to my parents that I wasn't really that happy at this art college, because I was paying a lot of money out of my own pocket to go there, and I felt like it wasn't worth it. And but my parents looking at me, thinking if he doesn't get a degree, he's going to end up being in his forties, living in our basement. And so they're they're very adamant about like you got to just stick it out and get your degree, and they ended up telling me the only way we would maybe support you leaving the Art College early without a degree is like, if you won the Federal ducks stamp. And later that year I actually won the Federal duck stamp. And I remember calling my mom up at work. And it's funny because she had told me not to bother her because she had like teaching stuff she was doing. She said, Well, unless you like, win the duck stamp. So when she picked up the phone and I told her, the 1st thing she said was, I told you not to call me, you know, and I said, Yeah, but you said I could call you if I won the Federal duck stamp. that was like, the phone just went silent. And I remember I could hear her thinking about what I just said. And it was pretty pretty interesting to to have that news, and and I literally left that day. I still remember driving away, looking in my rearview mirror at my college roommates, just like looking in confusion as I as I left and started driving back to the house. So yeah, it's pretty. It's been a pretty wild ride.

**Kara Harders:**

and that I mean, that definitely puts you on the map. But was that really like the biggest defining change would you say in all this?

**Adam Grimm:**

I mean, because it's like, it's like, you think of someone like Carrie Underwood, right? Lived on a farm, probably singing to the cows and that kind of thing. And then she goes on this show. and she wins this national competition. and now she is like a superstar right? And she so she went from a nobody that no one had ever heard of to what she is today. And the the I mean, this isn't on that level, but it's pretty big for a wildlife artist. There's nothing really bigger. That's going to change your course in life more than winning the Federal.

**Kara Harders:**

And what how would you describe what the Federal duck stamp is in case anybody doesn't know what that is sure. So the Federal duck stamp program was started back in 1934. It was actually designed to help raise money to fund the National wildlife refuge system which was kind of created at that time as well. So that is where most of the money, even today, for the national wildlife refuges comes from is from the sales of the Federal duck stamp. So anyone that wants to hunt any waterfowl like migratory waterfowl species has to buy a Federal duck stamp, and when it 1st started off it was a dollar. Now it's $25, so the price has gone up. But but the money that they raise it's like 98 cents on the dollar goes back into habitat. So it really is a good program. I would say, it's 1 of the few Federal government programs that actually does a pretty good job.

**Kara Harders:**

I don’t think any other program could claim. 98% goes to what they say it does.

**Adam Grimm:**

No, it's it's really amazing. I wouldn't hate if they did like 97%. And like, the artist, got like 1%, that would. That should be a fair trade. But yeah, so it would help a lot, actually. But yeah, because it raises annually, I don’t know how much I thought it was. It's millions of dollars every year that are raised from the sales of the Federal duck stamp, and so I could look it up. But yeah, it's a lot of money.

**Kara Harders:**

I'll put it in the information.

**Adam Grimm:**

Yeah, it's a lot of money that it raises. So it is. It's pretty amazing program. It's done a tremendous amount of good through the years. And yeah, I want to see it continue. I mean, everyone knows that it's a major part of of habitat conservation, and it's got a great legacy to go along with it.

**Kara Harders:**

So, Adam, you've through your success in your art. How do you think that's contributed to habitat protection education.

**Adam Grimm:**

Yeah, I mean, I'm painting things that I'm passionate about. And I'm hoping other people will be passionate about as well. If people don't know about certain wildlife, they're not going to care about it, and if they don't care about it. They're not going to work on conserving the habitat that that wildlife needs. So it's funny because I've done paintings like I don't know if everyone knows what a wood duck is, but they're one of the most beautiful ducks in North America, and I've done paintings of them before, and I've gone to shows. and people will come up to my booth, and they'll see this painting I did of this wood duck, and they will be so amazed. And they're like, wow! That is such an incredible looking duck, you know. Where? Where are those from? And I hear the question, and I, the look on my face must say it all at that moment, because I'm like thinking you've never seen a wood duck like you like they're here like they're all around like you don't, don't you look? But if it's one of those things, if you don't see it up close, you're not going to really appreciate it. And so I started to learn that when I paint something in a very realistic style, people look closer. I think it's in part because they look at my painting and can't believe that someone actually took the time to paint all of that into there, and but in doing so it makes them look closer at how beautiful these birds really are, and I still remember hearing from the one lady, she came back to the show the following year, and she had taken my advice and gone to this wetland area, and actually had seen a wood duck for the 1st time and had binoculars so she could actually see it. And she was just blown away. And I know that now that that area that she saw that wood duck is going to be more important to her, and she's probably going to want to go back and see other things. And so it's kind of a steppingstone thing. Obviously the Federal duck stamp program, which I've been a part of has raised millions and millions of dollars, which is awesome to be a part of, but also groups like Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl, and others also raise money off of my artwork, and I know that they've raised a lot of money through the years with my stuff. So it's neat to know that something I've created has been able to help be a part of that conservation story

**Kara Harders:**

Thank you. Yeah. Just in case anybody wasn't quite sure what we were talking about. So as far as like. Now that you guys are both adult artists and working in the same studio. Different rooms, I presume?

**Adam Grimm:**

No like right next to my table. She's just horning right in, eventually she's just gonna nudge me out, I think is what's gonna happen here. (Laughter)

**Kara Harders:**

So what is it like painting next to each other, or working on the same types of projects next to each other? Or do you tend to work on different things like, how does that? How do you guys interact when you're both doing your art?

**Madison Grimm:**

We're always doing something kind of different, like, I don't think we've ever been painting really like the same duck at the same time, or anything like that, but just like it's fun to take a break and see how his is going, and talk to him about it, and then he'll take a break and ask me questions about mine. And it's fun to just be able to like kind of critique each other's things a little bit and ask for advice. It's just like having. I mean, I'm pretty fortunate to have, you know, a pretty well known wildlife artist sitting like a couple feet away. If I have a question about something.

**Kara Harders:**

I do think that probably gives you an advantage. (laughter)

**Madison Grimm:**

Yeah. It's pretty helpful. I've learned so much just just by sitting and watching him, and even if I'm not working on something sometimes I'll just come over here and just sit and just watch him paint and mixing colors and all that kind of thing.

**Adam Grimm:**

No one of the things that I tell her all the time, though, is like Madison. You got to stop and get back from your painting and look at it, because when you're sitting on top of it, you get like I don't want to say tunnel vision. I don't know. It's like you're just like hyper fixated. You're just too close like you gotta, if you get back and look at the overall, you can say, Oh. yeah, this isn't anywhere near dark enough, right? I'm painting this in too light or whatever. But you see things when you get back from it, and it's, I think, for artwork. It's important to get back and get up close too. I want my paintings to look good both from far away and up close. And I know Madison does, too. So but it's funny, because if you've ever like, if you're a good Baker, for example, and you're watching someone that doesn't know anything about baking, trying to bake. It's probably a little a little frustrating like watching. them crack the eggs open like, no, not like that like. And so yeah. So I know Madison, hears remarks for me quite a bit as she's working. but she’s –

**Madison Grimm:**

but he's a very good critic. He's very honest. It helps.

**Adam Grimm:**

It does help, I know. I'm sure, for her. It's kind of hard sometimes knowing that, like my my parents had no clue when I was painting stuff like they'd come in, and they, whatever I did, seem to look good to them. And I know Madison's got. She knows that when I come over to look I'm going to tell her what I really think, and I'm sure –

**Madison Grimm:**

If something up, and I'll be like I have to just hurry and fix this before it comes over, like I should go lock the door and then run up and like, Don't come up, yet! Yeah, then I fix it. And then he's like, what have you done? And I'm like, I just fixed a major catastrophe. You don't even know.

It does help, I know. Well, no, but it, you know it is amazing, though I mean so recently, I've been busy working on other things and I haven't even been over here. But Madison's been working on her Federal entry for this year's contest, and it's looking really good. yeah, I mean, it's fun. Because when I come over it's like I may not even be over here for a couple of days, and then I'll come over and look, and it's like, Whoa, wow! Like you got a lot done like that actually is looking really good. And I know my wife came over just the other day and saw it, and she was pretty impressed, too. So it is amazing to see when she's just left, you know, without me even over here, how much she can get done, and how good it actually does look. So she's very talented. But yeah, she's getting better and faster all the time way way ahead of where I was when I was her age.

**Kara Harders:**

And you have recently come back from Arkansas for the 1st day of sale from your win, and you're (Madison) working on your entry for next year. So when is the next set of entries due?

**Madison Grimm:**

It's for this this fall, so like they have to be sent in by August 15th, so I have one month from today to finish this painting.

**Kara Harders:**

So a lot of the Federal duck stamp. Art is kind of summer is the Hot time for a lot of that, isn't it?

**Madison Grimm:**

And the contest is September 27th?

**Adam Grimm:**

Something like that.

**Kara Harders:**

Okay, somewhere right in there end of September.

**Adam Grimm:**

Yeah. So it's a stressful time for a lot of artists. I mean, I always tried to work ahead of schedule because I don't like being up against deadlines. But Madison doesn't really have a choice. She's been so busy with her nonprofit. She started, and then we've been. We have a Delta waterfowl expo. We have to go to in Oklahoma, which she's going to come and set up at that as well about her nonprofit. So there's just been a lot going on, so she's got a like.

**Madison Grimm:**

Maybe I can bring my painting and paint in the car? (laughs)

**Adam Grimm:**

Oh, boy, you've got to work hard.

**Kara Harders:**

Well, that's actually a great segue. So, Madison, you're more than just images of ducks. You're very boots on the ground with ducks. You've got a nonprofit rescue called Second Chance Flight. Do you want to tell me a little bit about that?

**Madison Grimm:**

Yeah. So after I started the aviary in 2020 the following year. I mean, a lot of people knew about it, because no one else, even in South Dakota, hardly has an aviary. I think there's only maybe, like one or 2 other aviaries in full state. So a lot of the people in the area were excited to come see the ducks up close, and everything, and a lot of our farmer friends learned about it. And so the following spring, when they were hitting duck eggs, when they were haying their fields. They would call me to see if I could take the eggs if I wanted them. So I was like, well, that's not how this works like those are wild eggs, and even though, like they have no chance which is so sad. I can't take them, and just like raise them. So I ended up actually, after a number of phone calls like this, I ended up pursuing getting licensed to do this. And so through the US Fish and wildlife service. I have a joint special purpose, egg salvage, permit and rehabilitation permit. and those allow me to rescue any orphaned waterfowl, and then the special purpose permit allows me to collect eggs from like, in danger situations where they wouldn't otherwise survive and then hatch, raise, and release those. So I think I'm only like the second person in the country to have a permit to do wild duck egg salvage, and it was not easy to get this permit, but I'm pretty excited that we were able to get it. And I was able to start that this year. So it's very new, and it's actually been not a good year for nesting ducks, either. So very, a non typical year. But so far I've rescued over 150 eggs and ducklings, and even a Trumpeter Swan signet that a guy found up in Minnesota, actually that we drove and met him to pick up its whole family was killed on railroad tracks. And there was just this lone single baby standing like basically over. It's just dead family. And the guy felt so bad. And so he picked it up. And he's like, I don't know what to do with this Trumpeter Swan baby. And somehow he found my number. And yeah, I was able, we were able to go pick it up. We drove like an hour towards the border to go get it, and he met us with it. So that bird's doing really well, getting huge. It's kind of in the ugly duckling stage. So

**Kara Harders:**

I think it's amazing that you're taking a lot of guilty feelings away from people.

**Madison Grimm:**

Probably everyone feels bad when they have a duck fly up, and it just is a puff of feathers or something, and you know there was a nest there, and a lot of the time. The eggs are really close to hatching, which is sad, because, like the hen, made it all that time sitting on those, putting all our energy into it. keeping them from predators, all that. And then just she has no idea this equipment is about to come through. So yeah, I mean, I think it's going to be a really cool program. I'm excited to see kind of how successful it ends up being. And I'd love to like, I don't know. Maybe even get partnership with one of these other organizations and maybe be able to start ones in other critical duck nesting areas. So yeah, I'm excited about it, you.

**Kara Harders:**

So we're gonna talk a little bit about Wallace. But you are in Wallace, and you can drive. You said about half an hour away?

**Madison Grimm:**

like 45 min or so, and then I have a handful of volunteers also that are like positioned around a little bit, and they can help extend that to go pick up eggs also. So all I need farmers to do then is just grab the eggs and just stick them in the cab like in a box, or even an egg Carton, if you have one, is perfect. And then yeah, if they just call me right away, either I'll go pick them up or arrange for someone to meet them, or even right out in the field. So yeah, try and make it as easy to accomplish for farmers, so it doesn't take too much time away from their work.

**Adam Grimm:**

It's amazing. We had one guy, just a few miles south of here was hanging 2 different fields. And he he's a duck hunter and pheasant hunter and stuff, and he cares about the birds and doesn't, he always felt bad, he said. because he knew like he was mowing over so many. But when he found out about masses nonprofit he decided he was going to work on calling if he hit any nests and he, anytime he was mowing. If he flushed a hen, he'd quick stop and jump out and look, and he would look right where the hen got up. and he kept finding the eggs. And he kept calling. He called I don't know how many different times. I mean, one time he'd call about, you know, a dozen mallard eggs or something the next time he's like, hey? I've got 3 different nests worth of eggs here.

**Madison Grimm:**

and he’d drop them off right at our house cause he lives kind of on the way.

**Adam Grimm:**

Yeah, so but it was really amazing. And I mean, he actually accounted for, I think, 75 rescues just himself. And so it's like –

**Kara Harders:**

like employee of the month at your –

**Adam Grimm:**

So I told Madison like, you need to start a contest. You need to start a contest who can rescue the most duck eggs from their fields. But I'm thinking, you know, if that one guy was, you know. It just told me that this one guy was just really diligent, I mean, if he flushed a hen, you know he he was just watching while he was haying. He wasn't like looking on his phone or messing around like he was just kind of watching as he was going, which is is nice. I mean, he was being very mindful and obviously being trying to be a good steward to nature. And yeah, I mean, there's we'll show you. There's a lot of ducklings out in this pen out here that all would have been dead. So if it wasn't for him. So yeah, I'm sure he's their hero.

**Madison Grimm:**

It matters to them so.

**Kara Harders:**

And at 17, 18 years old you went through all the work to get all the paperwork for this thing that only had done been done one time before in the country. To save them.

**Madison Grimm:**

The first time I ever called this office the regional office in Denver for the US Fish and wildlife service. The person that answered I don't even know what who it was now, but they were like. “I don't think that we even have like a way to do this like, I don't even know, like, I don't think anyone else does this” I like think one other organization? I talked to him quite a bit about it, and they're just I mean, they were trying to kind of discourage me, I think, because, you know, it's just some like Random to them. 18 year old girl, that, you know, has this big idea. And yeah, so I eventually was able to get in contact with the chief of the office there. and I think Dad and I both talked to him a little bit. But we got him kind of on board, and yeah, it was funny how everyone's tone there changed.

**Adam Grimm:**

I think it helps when they find out. Like, yeah, I think it helps when people find out just how into ducks we are, and then they kind of get it. It carries a little more weight. I think. So. Yeah, it's pretty interesting how it went, but it was a lot of work, and we jump through a lot of hoops, building big pens and all kind of stuff that really wouldn't be necessary for what she's doing. But you know, they you have to check off certain boxes when dealing with government. So yeah.

**Kara Harders:**

So now, at this point. We've got a 3 time winner of the Junior Duck competition, a 1 of only 2 type in the nation nonprofit, and a 3 time winner of the Federal Duck Stamp, living in Wallace, which is a town of about 94 people. What does,is I mean, you talked earlier about how much you like it here. But how has kind of Wallace being a very small, close-knit community in a really cool area? How has that kind of changed? The trajectory of how you guys have been doing things or experiencing things?

**Adam Grimm:**

Oh, man, I don't know like I said before, I mean we I moved here because of the ducks like I didn't even foresee all of the other wonderful things that we're going to come from living in this town. I mean, I literally drew a bullseye on a map. and I told my wife, well, I'd like to live somewhere more in this area. And she said, Okay, and so she kind of got to work just looking at houses that were coming up for sale, and when she found this one she told me she's like, Well, I think I found a house that might work, and I was like, oh, really! I said, where is it? And she said, It's in Wallace. and I had duck hunted in this area for a number of years. Now, at that time traveling from Ohio coming out here, and I had never heard of Wallace, and I was like, where is Wallace? She's like I don't know. It's in your bullseye that you drew on the map, and I was like it is. And she's like, Yeah, it's like, right by Grass Lake. And I was like, Oh, well, I know where Grass Lake is. That's a pretty good area, like, now you're saying things I've actually heard of. And so, anyway, we came and looked, and I was just so impressed with the area literally the day that I looked at the house. I put in the offer on the house. and I just offered asking price because it was pretty affordable, and it got accepted. So it was just truly a leap of faith I hadn't even met. I don't think anyone in the town yet, so I mean, we could have had some horrible neighbor I wouldn't have even known like I was just like, you know what it's a house we can afford. It's it looks nice. It's in an area that's amazing for ducks. But after we got moved in and started to meet the people in the town, while the wildlife is truly amazing. I mean. The people of the town, I think, are the real treasure here.

**Madison Grimm:**

It's nice kind of having like essentially family here, since almost all of our family is still back in Ohio. Besides, now your cousin, our cousin, that moved here just because we live here he came to visit, and it's like Yup. I'm moving. So he moved here from Ohio, too.

**Kara Harders:**

So you guys are growing a ton of Wallace?

**Adam Grimm:**

Oh, yeah, one of us will end up being the mayor soon. That's what's gonna happen.

**Kara Harders:**

Madison. What was it like? Growing up as a kid in a town with only 94 people.

**Madison Grimm:**

I mean, I was already. I think I was 12 or 13. I moved here, and I actually, originally it was kind of not too excited about the idea, because we grew up on this acreage, and it was I mean, my sister and I were really close, and we just had all this property to do kind of whatever we wanted, and we didn't really have like friends over or anything much growing up. So we just kind of did just whatever we wanted out there. We would build things and play with things. It was really fun. But when I when we're going to move to this town, I was like, I don't know. Like going to be around people all the time like it's gonna be so weird like, we're going to live in a town where people can see all the stuff we're doing out here, and it'll just be weird to be like being watched all the time. And I anyway, I did not know it was this little town. It was a blizzard, and we came to look at the house so we could only see this house. And then just everything else was white. Basically. So I'm like, I don't know, like, I guess it looks nice. But yeah, I was pretty. It was pretty cool to just I don't know. Meet everybody. And they just all accepted us basically right into this big family. So yeah, pretty fortunate to have such nice people in the town. It's nice that the town doesn't like inhibit being out in nature like the nature's in the town.

**Adam Grimm:**

I'm not really. I'm not really painting like Wallace in any artwork, although I did paint some people from Wallace in my artwork.

**Kara Harders:**

What is up next for you both. We've talked a little bit about Madison's next submission. And, Adam, you can't submit for 3 years. Is that correct?

**Adam Grimm:**

Yeah, I'm on a hiatus. I've been incredibly busy for having a lot of free time. I don't know, we we've, so winning the Federal. Most people probably don't know, but it's kind of like you almost have to go on like a tour. It's not like crazy amount of stuff, but I mean there's quite a bit of traveling involved, and you've got to go places and give speeches and all kind of stuff. So we've got a number of, I have a number of trips planned. I don't know if my family will be able to go with me to all of those trips, but up upcoming we have the Delta waterfowl, Expo, which is in Oklahoma. And it's, you know, it's like a 4 day or something event. It'll be really fun. I'm gonna wish I could just walk around at the event, but I gotta be in my booth quite a bit and notice I didn't say all the time like I'm gonna definitely slip away a little bit.

But and then we've got August 9th coming up here in Wallace, South Dakota, for anyone that's listening in the area we have. It's it's called like the Adam Grimm Federal duck, stamp hometown celebration. And it's it's one of those things where, if you win a contest like this a lot of times it's the hometown area. People will kind of get together and help do some sort of a celebration thing in honor of the artist that won and so we're having this big event. I guess that's going to be going on in Wallace. I think I mentioned before. It started off like kind of with the smaller idea. And it keeps growing. And it's gonna be an incredible event. I mean, I can just already tell just with all the things we have planned. It's a free event. We're making it, not just about me winning this contest and my artwork, but also about conservation. And we're going to have a number of conservation groups there. We all kind of have a shared goal and message. So it makes sense to sort of have this unified event, that highlights that and not just for adults. I mean, we have a lot of stuff for adults, too. But we are also going to have a lot of stuff for kids. And honestly, it's going to be an amazing event for kids. We have, of course, bouncy house stuff which kids love that. But we're also going to have all kind of activities games, a coloring contest that I actually drew the picture for. And we'll be judging. And then we're gonna have some awesome prizes for that. We've got a number of special things there at the event, too. I think we're going to have some really cool things that we're going to have a silent auction, for if anyone's interested, our fire department is doing like I think they're doing the food, and I think it's just like a free will offering. So I mean, really, someone could come, and for very little money at all spend an entire day having just awesome fun. So we're also going to be showing the film the Million Dollar Duck, which is an award winning documentary about the Federal duck stamp program. So you can learn more about that. And I know people here that there's something about stamps like a movie about stamps. And it sounds like incredibly boring. It is a really good film. It's really fun, and I haven't talked to anyone yet that's watched it and didn't enjoy it. So that'll be a free thing as well, and I'll be there. I'll be there signing Federal duck stamps. If someone wants to come and get a get a stamp signed, or one of the programs, or some other stamp collectibles. It's an event that you can only get certain things collectible, wise at. We actually have a special post office cancel that things will be canceled with at the event, and it's the only place in the country that you can get it. So it's it's kind of a neat item. But yeah, there's just so many things going on. It's hard to even touch base. I think the Watertown Zoo is. Gonna come and bring some animals, and I don't know lots of stuff.

**Kara Harders:**

And that'll be on August 9th the bus tour beforehand will leave at 8am, the free bus tour. They're going to go look at a habitat Restoration project, and I think if the stars align, Madison will do a duck release at that.

**Madison Grimm:**

We should be able to, I still have plenty of ducks.

**Kara Harders:**

I'm excited for that. And then the events here in Wallace will start at 10. The bus tour will get back at 11 and so, and then everybody can eat and play games and watch the ceremony and play trivia and everything to their heart's desire till 5. Then afterwards you said, you guys are having a softball tournament.

**Adam Grimm:**

Yeah. And I mean if if you are interested, you could bring your glove and join in the fun. So it's so. We have something here in Wallace called Fun fest, and that always takes place just before the 4th of July, and we always have a pretty good turnout, and one of the big things at that event is like a big softball tournament, and pretty much anyone that comes that wants to play can play. And after that there's like a big fireworks show. We don't. We're not having fireworks at our event.

**Madison Grimm:**

Not YET… (laughs)

**Adam Grimm:**

Haha yeah, great Madison (laughs) Who knows who knows what things could happen? Our event officially ends at like 5, I guess. But that doesn't mean the fun has to stop there. So if you, if you have an interest in hanging around, it should be a good time.

**Kara Harders:**

Well, thank you guys so much for all this. It's been really cool talking to you and hearing about everything that you guys do here. A couple of links for anybody that might want to know more. **AdamGrimm.com** is Adam's art site, **MadisonGrimmArt.com** is Madison's art site. **SecondChanceFlight.com** is the website for Madison's nonprofit to learn more about those duck egg/duckling rescues. The name of the movie is The Million Dollar Duck, and it is available on Amazon, and Adam is a star in the movie, and Madison is featured as a much younger version of herself. And finally, these infamous duck stamps we've been talking about are available at the post office. So if you feel like you have been moved to own a little piece of Adam's art or donate to conservation definitely. Stop by your post office and you can get one for 25 bucks. So thank you again, guys, and we'll talk to you soon.

**Kara Harders:**

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