



The 4-H Wildlife Habitat Education Program is designed to teach youth about the basics of wildlife science and management. The concepts used in the program encourage understanding of wildlife biology, habitat and management. The contest activities increase knowledge about wildlife and fish conservation and develop skills in application of that knowledge. Additional benefits come from the development of leadership capabilities and meeting young people and professionals from other states.

Youth can participate in state-level W HEP contest in teams of 3-4 or as an individual. Senior division 4-H members compete at State Congress with the winning team being invited to the National Invitational Judging Contest. Junior division 4-H members are eligible to compete at county events as well as at their respective Project Achievement Day, but will not be invited to a national event.

Leader curriculum/instruction:

No formal instruction or training is required for an agent or volunteer to field teams of senior-age youth at State Congress or junior-age teams at their respective Project Achievement Day. Trainings will be available on an as-needed basis.

4-H Thrive

Positive Youth Development

Developing Competence

Adults create environments where youth can develop competence in their chosen project area.

Building Confidence

Youth build confidence as they learn to think for themselves, build mastery, and are recognized for their efforts.

Nurturing Caring

Adults nurture a caring environment where mutual trust between youth and adults is established. Caring relationships with adults are key to resilient youth.

Finding Connection

Youth build solid connections which are critical to their well-being.

Forming Character

Create a community where youth play an active role in developing their character.

Determining Contribution

Youth actively contribute to their clubs and communities.

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an equal opportunity
institution.***

Expand your experiences!

Junior and Senior age youth are responsible for various parts of the contest as listed in the chart below:

Seniors	Event	Junior	Event
Wildlife Identification: Identify select wildlife from photographs or physical specimens	Individual	Wildlife Identification: Identify select wildlife from photographs	Individual
General Wildlife Knowledge: Answer multiple-choice wildlife knowledge questions	Individual	General Wildlife Knowledge: Answer multiple-choice general wildlife knowledge questions.	Individual
Recommendation of Wildlife Management Practices: Indicate necessary wildlife management practices relevant to specific scenarios given for the contest	Individual		
Written Management Plan: Write a wildlife management plan relevant to specific scenarios given for the contest	Team		
Oral Defense of Plan: Answer questions about the written management plan before a panel of judges.	Individual		

Resources

All the information needed to train and equip youth for WHEP contests is contained within the *Wildlife Habitat Education Handbook: A Manual for Mississippi* (available at <http://msucares.com/pubs/publications/e0040.pdf> or <http://msucares.com/wildfish/education/whep.html>) and the *National 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Handbook*, available at www.whep.org.

All relevant forms for the competition are also contained within the handbook. The information found in this handbook is provided for learning wildlife habitat management concepts in both urban and rural settings and to prepare participants for judging events. Additional training materials can be found at <http://msucares.com/wildfish/education/whep.html>.

While not necessary, additional training through visits to managed lands (for example, national refuges and state wildlife areas) and with resource professionals is beneficial. Only material presented in the state manual will be eligible for inclusion in the state contest; no extraneous content will be included in the contest. The senior 4-H'ers selected to participate in the national invitational contest will be responsible for the material in the national manual.