



4-H NATURAL RESOURCES PROJECT



Image: National 4-H Council

Step It Up!

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

Are you Into It?

Ashley Osborne,
Extension Specialist for 4-H Youth Development

Learn about and explore Kentucky's natural resources!

- Learn about tree identification and measurement.
- Collect, identify, and create an insect collection.
- Participate in a stream study.
- Learn about native wildlife.
- Take part in a bird hike.

Communication

- Give a presentation on native wildlife commonly found in your county.
- Teach your club how to use a dichotomous key to identify trees.

Citizenship

- Plan and conduct a litter clean-up event.
- Coordinate a tree planting in your community.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling event.

Here's what you can do all year!

Starting Out Basic/Level 1

- Learn about native plants and animals.
- Visit a bird blind.
- Participate in a nature hike.
- Learn how to use a dichotomous key.
- Create a leaf collection, leaf print collection, or insect collection.
- Learn about minerals, fossils, and rocks.
- Learn how to use a water testing kit and identify aquatic insects.

Learning More Intermediate/Level 2

- Identify plants and animals in Kentucky.
- Plant native plants.
- Learn how to take tree measurements.
- Expand upon your leaf collection, leaf print collection, or insect collection.
- Create a rock collection.
- Participate in a stream study.
- Learn about the properties and classification of soils.

Expanding Horizons Advanced/Level 3

- Participate in a citizen science project.
- Create a wildlife habitat garden.
- Take part in Kentucky's Adopt-a-Tree Program.
- Develop a Stem, Fruit, and Leaf Display.
- Lead a stream study.
- Design and plant a rain garden.
- Organize a stream clean-up event.
- Install a rain barrel.
- Lead a nature hike.

Leadership

- Lead a bird hike at a nursing home or senior citizen center.
- Teach a class on how to use a water testing kit.
- Present a session at Teen Conference.

4-H is a community of young people who are learning leadership citizenship and life skills.

Learn more at www.kentucky4h.org or contact your county extension office.





Take Natural Resources Further!

Here are some other opportunities to explore natural resources:

- Enter an exhibit in county and state fair.
- Assist younger 4-H'ers in creating leaf, insect, or rock collections.
- Plan and coordinate an Earth Day Festival.
- Join your county's 4-H Land Judging Team. If your county doesn't have a team, start one.
- Compete at a 4-H Forestry Judging Competition.
- Be a 4-H Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Academy Scholar. Website: <https://4-h.ca.uky.edu/NRESci>
- Attend the Kentucky Forest, Entomology, and Wildlife Leadership Program. Website: <https://kflp.ca.uky.edu/>
- Job shadow or interview a forester, wildlife biologist, entomologist, geologist, hydrologist, or soil scientist.
- Schedule a visit with the University of Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Program. Website: <https://nres.ca.uky.edu/>

Exhibit Ideas

- Exhibit a leaf collection, leaf print collection, insect collection, or rock collection at the county and state fair.
- Create a dichotomous key featuring trees located your home, county Extension office, 4-H camp, local park, or school.
- Develop a field guide for plants and animals commonly found in your county or at your 4-H camp.
- Create a Stem, Fruit, and Leaf Display to exhibit at the county and state fair.
- Compare the water quality of a rural stream and an urban stream. Create a presentation showing the results.
- Develop a display featuring soils from forested, agriculture, and urban areas. Present the display at an environmental camp or field day event.
- Create an interactive display to present to younger 4-H'ers on protecting and conserving our natural resources.

Resources

4-H Resources	Other Resources	Record Keeping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-H Forestry Project: Introducing Yourself to Trees • 4-H Geology Project • 4-H Land Judging in Kentucky • 4-H₂O Ambassador Project • Amphibians and You • Backyards and Beyond • Exploring Your Environment • Kentucky 4-H Forestry Project • Project Butterfly Wings • Soil to Seed • Teaming with Insects • There's No New Water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cornell Lab of Ornithology • Healthy Water, Healthy People Educator's Guide • Healthy Water, Healthy People Field Monitoring Guide • Leopold Education Project • Project Feeder Watch • Project Flying WILD • Project Food, Land, and People • Project Learning Tree • Project Underground • Project WET • Project WILD Aquatic • Project WILD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track seasonal changes in plants and animals observed in your yard, county Extension office, or 4-H Camp. • Identify and record on a calendar or in a field journal the different animals seen in your yard or county Extension office for each month for one year. • Record water quality data when conducting stream studies. Include date and time of day, location, weather conditions, and results.

