



4-H FISHING PROJECT



Image: Cumberland County 4-H

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?

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Learn about and explore Kentucky's fish and wildlife resources!

- Learn basic fishing skills.
- Identify Kentucky fish species.
- Learn how to select and assemble a fishing pole.
- Prepare fish for cooking and storage.
- Participate in fishing trips.

Communication

- Give a demonstration on how to tie a proper fishing knot.
- Teach your club how to prepare and cook fish.

Citizenship

- Plan and conduct a litter clean-up event at a local fishing site.
- Organize a community fishing day for individuals in your county that don't know how to fish.

Leadership

- Plan and conduct a fish quiz bowl and skillathon event.
- Teach younger 4-H members how to cast.
- Organize a 4-H Fishing Derby.

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

Here's what you can do all year!

Starting Out
Basic/Level 1

Learning More
Intermediate/Level 2

Expanding Horizons
Advanced/Level 3

Learn about the following:

- Safety and regulations
- Fishing knots
- Fishing gear and tackle
- Casting
- Baits
- External and internal parts of a fish
- Fish species
- Cleaning a fish
- How to properly cook and store fish

Learn about the following:

- Fish adaptations
- Fish habitats
- Water quality
- Casting techniques
- Fly fishing
- How to tie an artificial fly
- Fish recipes

Learn about the following:

- How to disassemble, clean, lubricate, and reassemble a fishing reel
- Making artificial flies and lures
- How to debarb and sharpen a hook
- Identifying insects that fish eat
- Ethical angling behavior

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





Take Fishing Further!

Here are some other opportunities to explore fishing and wildlife:

- Tour a fish hatchery.
- Participate in a fishing tournament.
- Take the Kentucky Boater Safety Course.
Website: <https://www.boat-ed.com/kentucky/>
- Establish a 4-H Stream Team in your county.
Website: <https://4-h.ca.uky.edu/content/kystreamteam>
- 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 fisheries biologist, game warden, or hydrologist.
- Schedule a visit with the University of Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Program. Website: <https://nres.ca.uky.edu/>

Exhibit Ideas

- Create a poster on fishing safety and regulations. Display the poster at all club meetings and events.
- Develop a field guide for fish commonly found in your area or at your 4-H camp.
- Create a display for your 4-H camp of local fish commonly found there.
- Assemble a tackle box of common items needed during a fishing trip. Label each item. Display the tackle box during your club meetings.
- Create a poster featuring different fish habitats and the fish commonly found at each habitat.
- Make an aquatic insect collection featuring common insects that fish eat.
- Create a display on aquatic invasive species to exhibit at a local business that sells fishing supplies.

Resources

4-H Resources	Other Resources	Record Keeping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take the Bait: Fish Talk 1 • Reel in the Fun: Fish Talk 2 • Cast into the Future: Fish Talk 3 • Sportfishing Helper's Guide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Website • U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife Service Website • Take Me Fishing Website 	<p>Keep a Fish Field Journal. Record where you were fishing, what you were fishing for, the fishing method you used, the bait or lures you used, what you caught (including species, weight, length, and bait used), weather conditions, water conditions, habitat description, and other observations. See the Keeping a Field Journal Activity in the Cast into the Future: Fish Talk 3 Guide for more information.</p>

