



# 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?

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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 in tree identification.
- Create a leaf 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](http://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-Hers 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.
- 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 at 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, agricultural, and urban areas. Present the display at an environmental camp or field day event.
- Create an interactive display to present to younger 4-Hers on protecting and conserving our natural resources.

## Resources

4-H Resources	Other Resources	Record Keeping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment: Exploring Your Environment</li> <li>• Entomology: 4-H Bee Ambassador Leader's Guide</li> <li>• Entomology: Teaming with Insects</li> <li>• Forestry: 4-H Forestry Project: Introducing Yourself to Trees</li> <li>• Forestry: Kentucky 4-H Forestry Project</li> <li>• Geology: 4-H Geology Project</li> <li>• Soils: 4-H Agricultural Land Judging and Homesite Evaluation in Kentucky</li> <li>• Water: 4-H<sub>2</sub>O Ambassador Project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cornell Lab of Ornithology</li> <li>• Healthy Water, Healthy People Educator's Guide</li> <li>• Healthy Water, Healthy People Field Monitoring Guide</li> <li>• Leopold Education Project</li> <li>• Project Feeder Watch</li> <li>• Project Flying WILD</li> <li>• Project Food, Land, and People</li> <li>• Project Learning Tree</li> <li>• Project Underground</li> <li>• Project WET</li> <li>• Project WILD Aquatic</li> <li>• Project WILD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Track seasonal changes in plants and animals observed in your yard, county Extension office, or 4-H Camp.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Record water quality data when conducting stream studies. Include date and time of day, location, weather conditions, and results.</li> </ul>

