

4-H Wildlife Proficiency Program A Member's Guide

OVERVIEW

The **4-H Wildlife Proficiency program** helps you learn what you need to know about your 4-H project. Your project leader will assist you in setting and achieving your goals. Through your project, you will learn different aspect of Wildlife. You will also learn about Wildlife and Resource Management, as well as Wildlife Conservation.

There are many resources to help you learn more about your project:

- ◆ The **4-H Publications Catalog** lists a variety of project materials and resources recommended for use in your project.
- ◆ The **4-H Educational Resources Lending Library** at your county 4-H office includes other books, videos and reference materials that can be checked out by members and leaders.
- ◆ Check to see if there is a Wildlife or management resource agency in your community that conducts educational activities. Wildlife Visitor's Centers are excellent sources of help and information.

There are five levels in the Project Proficiency Program. You may choose how many levels you wish to complete:

- **Level I – “Explorer”**, you begin to learn about the many different aspects of Wildlife.
- **Level II – “Producer”**, you practice and refine the many skills involved in learning about Wildlife and Conservation.
- **Level III – “Consumer”**, you become experienced in Wildlife and Resource Management.
- **Level IV – “Leader”**, allows you to show your own leadership potential.
- **Level V – “Researcher”**, you carry out a demonstration or experiment on some aspect of Wildlife, and prepare a paper or portfolio.

As you work through the proficiency program, your leader will date each skill item as you complete it. When all items in a proficiency level are completed, your leader will sign the Certificate of Achievement and notify your 4-H office.

WILDLIFE

Level I – Explorer

Date _____
Completed _____

- _____ 1. Attend 80% of project meetings and events.
- _____ 2. Participate in at least one wildlife observation hike.
- _____ 3. Define the following terms: _____Habit _____refuge _____wildlife
- _____ 4. Name at least 5 local wildlife species and some of their characteristics.
- _____ 5. Identify at least 3 characteristics of the following animal groups: insects, amphibians, reptiles, fish, birds, and mammals.
- _____ 6. Name some factors that affect the death rates of wildlife.
- _____ 7. Make a wildlife resource map of an area where there is wildlife.
- _____ 8. Visit a local State Park and Visitor's Center.
- _____ 9. Make a plaster cast of wildlife tracks.
- _____ 10. Match 5 wildlife tracks to the animals who made them.
- _____ 11. Explain 4 safety rules when dealing with wild animals.
- _____ 12. Keep a record of wildlife observations to share with other members.
- _____ 13. Give a report, demonstration, or make a display about wildlife for the project, club, county, or fair level.

Member's Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

KEEP IN YOUR RECORD BOOK WITH YOUR PROJECT RECORDS.

Approved by Lake County 4-H Council, 1999

WILDLIFE

Level II – Producer

Date _____
Completed _____

- _____ 1. Attend 80% of project meeting and events.
- _____ 2. Attend at least one wildlife and resources observation hike.
- _____ 3. Explain or demonstrate how some animals prepare for winter.
- _____ 4. Collect and identify 10 plants that are wildlife foods.
- _____ 5. Keep a record of wildlife observations to share with other members.
- _____ 6. Participate in a group discussion on Wildlife Dynamics.
- _____ 7. Name and describe four habitat factors.
- _____ 8. Make a wildlife resource map of an area where there is wildlife. Indicate where human influences occur in this area, and whether they are positive or negative to the wildlife.
- _____ 9. Participate in a community or public service project related to wildlife, habitat or conservation.
- _____ 10. List items that should be included when taking a day hike.
- _____ 11. Describe how to leave a minimal impact on wild area when visiting, hiking, or camping.
- _____ 12. Identify a minimum of 5 occupations or professions that deal with wildlife, wildlife management, or resource management.
- _____ 13. Identify 5 resources for information on wildlife, conservation, or management in this county.
- _____ 14. Discuss the duties of the game warden.
- _____ 15. Explain how hunting is used as a management tool.
- _____ 16. Discuss what hunters need to do to be good sportsmen.

Member's Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Level III – Producer

Date _____
Completed _____

- _____ 1. Attend at least 80% of the project meetings and events.
- _____ 2. Attend at least 2 wildlife observation hikes.
- _____ 3. Report on the history of your breed or species to your project group or club.
- _____ 4. Interview someone in a wildlife or resource related profession and report to the Project group of what was learned.
- _____ 5. Design or enhance wildlife habitat: build nesting boxes, provide shelter, participate in a creekbed restoration project, etc.
- _____ 6. Identify a minimum of 10 occupations or professions that deal with wildlife, wildlife management, or resource management.
- _____ 7. Research a wildlife related occupation or profession and give a detailed report to the project group.
- _____ 8. Identify at least 5 organizations, either local, state, national or international, who are concerned with and focused on wildlife preservation and/or management.
- _____ 9. Request information from at least one organization, and share the information received with the project group.
- _____ 10. Participate in or organize a community or public service project related to wildlife, habitat, or conservation.
- _____ 11. Present a talk, demonstration, or display that shares your knowledge with others.
- _____ 12. Visit a local wildlife or management resource agency and investigate what science is involved in their work. Share this with the project group.

Member's name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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WILDLIFE

Level IV – Leader

Date _____
Completed _____

- _____ 1. Attend at least 80% of project meeting and events.
- _____ 2. Attend at least 2 wildlife observation hikes.
- _____ 3. Complete one year of Junior or Teen Leadership in the Wildlife project.
- _____ 4. Prepare at least one project lesson to teach.
- _____ 5. Assist younger members in preparing some aspect of their own projects.
- _____ 6. Prepare and give a presentation related to the project outside of the project group.
- _____ 7. Organize at least one event related to the project, such as a hike, community service project, etc.
- _____ 8. Assist at a community level event in a leadership role, such as acting as a docent at a State Park Visitor's Center, helping to organize a habitat restoration project, etc.
- _____ 9. Maintain records for the project group such as proficiency sheets, attendance, etc.
- _____ 10. Organize, plan, and carry out one project of your own design. Project must include a plan, record of development and progress, analysis of successes and problems, and a final report of the results to the project group, club level, or other.

Member's name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Level V – Researcher

Date _____
Completed _____

- _____ 1. Report on the results of an experimental phase of research. The researcher must show the results of a comparison of measurable differences in some aspect of the project. (Example may be: inhabitation rates of nesting area, birth or hatch rates of an observed population, population size related to habitat resources available, etc.)

- _____ 2. Prepare a paper of 300 words or more on an area related to the project.

- _____ 3. Prepare a speech or illustrated talk to orally summarize your findings and present at a club, project meeting or other educational event.

Member's name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Certificate of Achievement

This certifies that

has completed the _____
Proficiency

in _____ *County.*

Explorer

Producer

Consumer

Leader

Researcher

Date

Date

Date

Date

Date

Leader's Signature

Leader's Signature

Leader's Signature

Leader's Signature

Leader's Signature

NOTES

Acknowledgments:

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