



Wildlife Project



This project is for all youth, whether living in the city, the country, or in between. Kansas wildlife are an important part of our state heritage and environment, ranging from buffalo to birds to fish to deer and more. In this project you will learn about wildlife behavior, habitat requirements, how wildlife species fit into nature's scheme, how they are managed, and how they relate to humans. Without wildlife, this world would be very dull! If we learn to take care of the wildlife, it will continue to exist for everyone to enjoy.

Starting Out *Beginner*

- Learn about the six basic animal groups and their characteristics.
- Learn to tie fishing knots.
- Learn about food webs and chains.
- Identify local animal and plant life at a nearby park or outdoor area.
- Visit a nature center or attend a sponsored nature education event.

Learning More *Intermediate*

- Explore animal adaptations and niches.
- Become efficient with fishing skills (casting, handling, identification).
- Learn about basic wildlife management practices.
- Attend a Hunters Education course.
- Catch, clean, and cook a fish.

Expanding Horizons *Advanced*

- Conduct a nature hike.
- Create specific wildlife habitat for viewing opportunities.
- Participate in WHEP.
- Shadow a professional in a wildlife- or fisheries-related career.
- Participate/orchestrate in a habitat restoration project.
- Investigate human impacts on wildlife.

Inspire Kids to Do

Explore

"I might like to do this."

Youth who explore a variety of interests before high school, through experiences like 4-H camps and educational events, can develop early interest in a career path and improve their academic performance.

Learn

"I can do this."

4-H project-based learning, guided by adult volunteers, improves youth understanding of skills and concepts, as well as their ability to problem-solve and collaborate.

Practice

"I'm interested in this."

Youth who have participated in sustained hands-on learning and engaged with professional mentors and volunteers before entering high school are more likely to explore studies and potential career paths.

Experience

"I will be this."

Real-world application is key — 91% of Kansas 4-H members have a plan for reaching their goals. Youth that have been active participants in hands-on learning, combined with strong decision-making skills, are more able to effectively navigate life.

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Expand Your Experiences!

Healthy Living

- Explore natural areas through hiking.
- Study birds in your neighborhood by walking around the block.
- Research nutritional benefits of wild game and fish.

Science and Agriculture

- Track seasonal changes of wildlife habits in your yard.
- Research and produce an action plan to improve wildlife habitat and reduce invasive species in your area.
- Investigate an environmental issue affecting the health of a wildlife species and its habitat or community.

Community Vitality

- Present an idea for improving a wildlife habitat or conservation area.
- Educate others on invasive species prevention.
- Help organize a park or waterway clean-up with your club.
- Volunteer at a wildlife rehabilitation center.

Communication and the Arts

- Read and report on the “Sand County Almanac” or another conservation book.
- Create an educational display on a wildlife topic and display at an event.
- Teach others about the wildlife in local schools.
- Create artwork using wildlife inspiration (feathers, tracks, etc.).

Career Development

- Visit the biology or outdoor recreation department at a local college.
- Job shadow or visit with a wildlife management professional.
- Attend an outdoor education camp or contest.

Career Possibilities:

- Biologist
- Game Warden
- Naturalist
- Outfitter
- Researcher
- Primary or Secondary Educator

Local Contact Information

| Resources and Events | Curriculum and Resources | 4-H Record Keeping | Project Exhibit Ideas |
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| <p>Participating in educational events and learning opportunities will expand your knowledge and skills in the project area. Contact your local K-State Research and Extension office for local opportunities. Take part in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-H Club Day • Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP) • Hunting Skills (Shooting Sports) • Discovery Days • Kansas 4-H Wildlife Project | <p>Project materials to assist youth in learning may be available through your local extension office or you can order directly from the 4-H Mall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing Curriculum, 3 Levels 4-H Wildlife Science, 3 levels Backyards and Beyond At the Interface Between Livestock and Predators Project Butterfly Projects Wet, Wild, and Learning Tree | <p>Learning to keep accurate records is a life skill. The following forms can help you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting 4-H Project Goals (4H1100) • Kansas 4-H Record Keeping | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make an educational display about hunting, fishing, birding, or another outdoor activity. • Make a notebook that depicts information from observing wildlife. • Construct a report on a certain wildlife species. • Display a habitat improvement project. • Education poster over identifying wildlife tracks or fish species. |

