

4-H WILDLIFE HABITAT EDUCATION PROGRAM

State Contest

The Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP) is a hands-on, experiential, and practical program to learn about wildlife and its management. The program teaches 4-H youth and leaders ecologically sound principles of wildlife management, strong leadership and teamwork skills, and the ability to apply learned knowledge. Participants will learn and compete in these areas:

- 1) Identify common wildlife species (Junior and Senior individuals)
- 2) Identify common wildlife foods, interpret aerial photos, and exhibit knowledge of ecological concepts and wildlife practices (Junior and Senior individuals)
- 3) Understand and prescribe wildlife management practices (Juniors - teams and Seniors - individuals)
- 4) Write a wildlife management plan (Senior teams)
- 5) Present an oral defense of the plan (Senior individuals)

The handbook and training materials for Arkansas WHEP are available online at: http://www.kidsarus.org/go4it/Activities_Events/whep/default.htm. Those lacking online access can request a CD from their county office or the state contact (Becky McPeake).

Participants may compete as an individual or on a team. A county team will consist of no less than three and no more than four entrants who are 4-H members in their county during the current year. Individuals without a county team will be assigned one for participating in team events at the contest.

Senior team members must all meet the age qualifications for senior 4-H'ers which is ages 14-19 as of January 1 of the current year. Likewise, junior team members must all meet the age qualifications for junior 4-H'ers which is ages 9—13. Cloverbuds can participate in the Wildlife Identification activity if junior or senior 4-H'ers from their county will be competing. Cloverbuds will not be scored, but will receive a participation ribbon or similar recognition.

- Who:** Open to all 4-Hers ages 9—19 years
Teams consist of 3 or 4, or compete as an individual (those without a qualified county team will be assigned a team at contest)
- When:** April – See Quick Reference Guide.
- Where:** Varies depending on habitat selected for the contest – See Quick Reference Guide.
- Cost:** \$12 per Junior or Senior contestant (\$24 for late registration)
\$ 5 per Cloverbud participant (non-competitive, open only to counties with competing Juniors or Seniors, \$10 for late registration)
\$ 5 per non-contestant age 5 years and older, including adults (\$10 for late registration)

The winning Senior team is eligible to represent Arkansas at the 4-H Wildlife Habitat Education Program Invitational. Out-of-state trip expenses will be partially covered based on funding availability.

Application Information:

Regular registration is due April 1. Late registration (double the regular registration fee) is accepted until April 15. In counties with more than one team, the county agent (or designated leader) is responsible for sending the team list to the state contact (Becky McPeake) by April 15. Registration includes lunch.

Registration will be through Arkansas 4-H Online (<https://arkansas.4honline.com/>). Registrations paid by check through the county office must be received prior to the event. One check per county is due, payable to the "Arkansas 4-H Foundation" and sent to the Little Rock State Office – 4-H Youth Development, Attn: Sheri Green. The 4-H refund policy is in effect.

Health cards (Health Statement and Parent's Release), Code of Conduct, and Media Release forms must be completed as part of the application. Mail or fax copies to the state contact (Becky McPeake) prior to the event.

Contact: Becky McPeake, Professor – Wildlife Extension
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Practice Session

This Practice Session for the 4-H Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP) is an opportunity for youth and leaders to learn about key concepts of wildlife ecology and management. The practice session helps contestants prepare for the state WHEP contest, though any 4-H youth or leader may attend. Qualified instructors and contest judges will be on hand to review the contest sections, provide background information, and answer questions from participants and leaders.

- Who:** Open to all 4-Hers ages 9—19 and their adult leaders
- When:** February - see the Quick Reference Guide
- Where:** To be announced, usually in Central Arkansas – see Quick Reference Guide
- Cost:** \$12 per person ages 5 years and older, including adult leaders and other non-contestants (\$24 for late registration)

The handbook and training materials for WHEP are available online at: http://www.kidsarus.org/go4it/Activities_Events/whep/default.htm. Those lacking online access can request a CD from their county office or the state contact (Becky McPeake).

Application Information:

Regular registration is due Feb.1. Late registration (double the regular registration fee) is accepted until Feb. 10. Registration includes lunch and handouts.

Registration will be through Arkansas 4-H Online (<https://arkansas.4honline.com/>). Registrations paid by check through the county office must be received prior to the event. One check per county is due, payable to the “Arkansas 4-H Foundation” and sent to the Little Rock State Office – 4-H Youth Development, Attn: Sheri Green. The 4-H refund policy is in effect.

Health cards (Health Statement and Parent’s Release), Code of Conduct, and Media Release forms must be completed as part of the application. Mail or fax copies for each participant to the state contact (Becky McPeake) prior to the event.

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