

General Rules and Regulations

I. Contestants and Eligibility

- A. A county Junior or Senior team consists of no less than three and no more than four official entrants who are 4-H members in their county during the current year.
- B. Competing individuals must be official entrants who are 4-H members in their county during the current year. An individual participant may also be a member of the county team.
- C. All individual and team members must be bona fide 4-H Club members who are actively enrolled in a 4-H project or activity. 4-H membership must be through one of the Cooperative Extension Service's 75 county 4-H programs in Arkansas. A youth becomes a 4-H club member when he/she completes an individual enrollment form, CES-617, which must be on file in the county extension office.
- D. Age requirements:
 - a. Senior individuals or team members are youth who in the contest year are age 14 as of January 1 until December 31 of the year they celebrate their 19th birthday.
 - b. Junior individuals or team members are youth who in the contest year are age 9 as of January 1 until December 31 of the year they celebrate their 14th birthday.
- E. All individual and team members must declare a "home county" for membership in order to qualify for competition. Members cannot compete for awards in more than one county during the contest year.

II. Registration

- A. County entries must be submitted to the state 4-H office on an official entry form (FY4-H-636) by the specified due date (typically the first day of the month before the contest). Entries received after the deadline will be charged a late fee.
 - a. Counties should collect in advance and deposit all monies from individuals required for registering for the event. A bill will be issued to the county after the event.
 - b. An original form must be submitted to the state 4-H office. Faxed registrations (fax: 501-671-2028) will assist with planning and organization, but the original form will serve as the official entry and be used for calculating registration fees.
 - c. One check per county will be due upon receipt payable to the "Arkansas 4-H Foundation."
 - d. The refund policy is as follows: 100 percent refund for 15 or more working days before the contest, 50 percent refund for 7 to 14 working days before the contest, and no refund for cancellation from 0 to 6 working days before the contest, except for personal or family illness, or death in the immediate family.
 - e. No switching of team members 14 days prior to contest.

- B. Every person who attends a 4-H WHEP state practice session or contest must be listed on the official entry form prior to the event. This includes 4-H'ers, coaches, parents, siblings, and county extension agents. No "walk-up" registrations are accepted.
- C. Official entry forms are available to 4-H youth and leaders through county extension offices. A county agent must sign the registration form to be valid.

III. General Contest Rules

- A. Only contestants and designated officials shall be within the perimeter of an activity. All adults, except contest officials, will be separated from the contestants at all times while the contest is in progress.
- B. Contestants compete in individual and team activities. Those who sign up as a team are also competing as individuals. Individuals who sign up without a team can also compete. (They will not be eligible for team awards.)
- C. Junior contestants work independently on Activities I (Wildlife Identification), II (Wildlife Foods and Concepts and III (Interpreting Wildlife Habitat from Aerial Photos). No talking is allowed.
- D. Junior contestants working as teams on Activity III (On-Site Recommendation of Wildlife Management Practices) will be allowed to talk with team members.
- E. All contestants must provide their own pencils and clipboards. Extra pencils or pencil sharpeners will not be available at the contest. Contestants are not allowed to have any electronic devices including cell phones, PalmPilots, BlackBerries, MP3 players, etc. with them.
- F. Contestants are encouraged to wear field clothing and heavy shoes, as the contest will be held outside.
- G. The contest will not be canceled because of inclement weather, unless lightning or heavy thunderstorms are in the immediate area. Contestants should come prepared. Bring rain gear and plastic to cover the clipboard.
- H. Each year, a region is selected for the contest and announced well in advance of the contest date. Regions found in Arkansas are eastern deciduous forest, southeast mixed and outer coastal plain forest, wetlands, tallgrass prairie and urban. Only those species which occur within the selected region are used in the contest. An exception is species listed for the urban region which are always included in Activity I (Wildlife Identification).
- I. An official committee scores the contest and tabulates the results. All decisions of the scoring committee are final. Interference with the scoring committee by contestants, parents, leaders, coaches or others associated with a team or individual will result in disqualification of that team or individual.
- J. The team coach is the only individual who can issue protests about the contest. All protests must be made to the Contest Coordinator (Protest Judge) at any time prior to the awards ceremony the day of the contest. Protests disregarding these procedures

will not be considered. Protests and challenges will be decided by a review board appointed by the Protest Judge. Their decisions are final.

- K. A signed code of conduct form must be on file in the county extension office prior to participation and will be used as the official document for dealing with infractions by 4-H members. If a 4-H member is found in violation of the code of conduct and receives discipline issued by a review board, his/her parents will be notified, and the 4-H member may be sent home immediately at the parents' expense and may be suspended from participating in future 4-H activities.

IV. Awards

- A. Every contestant receives a Certificate of Participation in the state contest. Typically these are dispatched to the county office after the state contest is held.
- B. Junior **individuals** achieving the highest accumulative score for Activities I and II are recognized. First, second, third, fourth and fifth places will be awarded. In case of a tie, the individual with the highest score in Activity II will be declared the winner. If a tie remains, the individual with the highest score in Activity I will be declared the winner. If the tie cannot be broken, both will be declared winners.
- C. Junior **teams** with the highest overall score are recognized. First, second, third, fourth and fifth places will be awarded. The Junior team score will be the sum of the three highest individual scores on the team plus the team score for Activity III. If a team has a fourth member, the lowest accumulative individual score will be dropped. In case of a tie, the team with the highest score in Activity III will be declared the winner. If a tie remains, the team with the highest accumulative individual scores in Activity II will be declared the winner. If a tie remains, the team with the highest accumulative individual scores in Activity I will be declared the winner. If the tie cannot be broken, both will be declared winners.

V. On Contest Day

- A. All contestants must provide their own pen or pencil and clipboard.
- B. No electronic devices of any kind are allowed at the contest site. This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones.
- C. Absolutely no talking by contestants will be allowed during the contest except when working on designated team activities.
- D. Anyone caught cheating will be disqualified.
- E. Scorecards must be turned into an official judge immediately after each event.
- F. An official committee will score the contest and analyze results. Their decision is final.