



National Invitational

The first place Senior team is eligible to represent Arkansas at the 4-H WHEP Invitational. Information about the national Invitational is available at www.whep.org. Typically the Invitational is held in late July.

State contest funds, when available, are used to pay registration costs, including all meals and lodging at the Invitational. The team is responsible for travel expenses to and from the contest location and any extra expenses associated with registration fees. The state contest is held in April or May to allow adequate time for county teams to conduct fundraising activities. Note that many “fun-day” activities associated with the Invitational are part of the registration fee, but some activities (e.g., whitewater rafting) may require an extra charge. The Arkansas 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program Committee reserves the right not to pay extra activity fees.

The team coach must notify the 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program Coordinator in writing within 7 days after winning the contest of the team’s intention to attend the Invitational. If the winning team is ineligible, unable to attend, or no notification is received, the second place team will be given the opportunity to represent Arkansas at the Invitational. After being notified, this team will have 7 days to notify the 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program coordinator of the team’s intention to attend the Invitational. If the second place team is ineligible, unable to attend, or no notification received in 7 days, the third place team will be offered the opportunity, and so on, until a team agrees to attend the Invitational.

An attempt may be made to fill teams with only three members. With permission of their county agent, individual winners who are not affiliated with a team, starting with first place, will be asked of their interest in joining the winning team. Individual winners who are also part of a team will not be asked as they will become ineligible to participate in state and national WHEP contests after attending the Invitational. Exceptions are those individual winners who are 18 or 19 years old and thus ineligible to be a 4-H member next year.

The team coach and a member of the Arkansas 4-H WHEP steering committee will accompany the winning Senior team to the Invitational, unless the steering committee forfeits this option. In that instance, the team coach selects a chaperone who will attend the contest. It is recommended that if a team has both male and female members, then one male and one female adult attend the contest as coach and/or chaperone.

Coaches and chaperones must be either an employee of the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, a member of the steering committee, or have a current 4-H Volunteer Application form (CES-643) on file in the county extension office and qualify under the CES Youth Protection Policy. Coaches and assistant coaches (extension employees excluded) must be age 25 before chaperoning an out-of-state 4-H trip. Extension employees must have prior approval from their supervisor before attending.

Members of the winning senior team are invited to continue participating in the 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program as student leaders. Responsibilities include assisting with the practice session, state contest, and training the new state winning Senior team.

University of Arkansas, United States Department of Agriculture and County Governments Cooperating.

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