



State Contest

The state contest recognizes those youth who excel in their understanding of wildlife and habitat management. This one-day event typically concludes with the awards ceremony in the early afternoon for Juniors and late afternoon for Seniors. Educational and/or recreational opportunities are available to non-contestants (e.g., parents, coaches, siblings) and Juniors who complete the contest after lunch. A different contest location is selected each year to develop a greater understanding and appreciation of the different habitats in our state.

Achievement is assessed through competitive scores in contest events. Information about each of these events is available in the handbook found under Leader Resources. The Arkansas handbook closely follows the national invitational's handbook. The handbook is designed to provide uniformity for state and national contests. Recommended management practices are presented in a generalized way using representative species occupying major habitats. The reality of wildlife habitat management is often more complex. Emerging knowledge about wildlife and management, financial and political issues and technological improvements affect how habitat is best managed and restored.

A winning team of 14-19 year-olds (i.e., 4-H Seniors) is eligible to represent Arkansas at the national Invitational in which winning state teams compete for recognition and awards.

What to Bring

Each contestant needs to bring an unmarked clipboard and several pencils with erasers. (Pencil sharpeners are not available.) The contest is held rain or shine, so dress according to the weather and be prepared to be outdoors. Wear close-toed shoes. Sunscreen, hats, raingear and insect repellent are advisable.

Cloverbuds

Cloverbuds are invited to learn about wildlife along with the Juniors and Seniors. If your county is already bringing Juniors and Seniors, your Cloverbuds can participate non-competitively. Supervised Cloverbuds will be given time typically during the lunch hour to complete the wildlife identification station while Senior contestants eat lunch. Adults are allowed to read questions to Cloverbuds. This is a wonderful educational opportunity for these youngsters.

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

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