

4-H Wildlife Project



Step It Up!

Pass it on! Share what you learned in the project with others. Here are ideas to get you started!

Citizenship/ Leadership

- Present an idea for improving a wildlife habitat or conservation area
- Help organize a park or waterway clean-up with your club
- Volunteer at a wildlife shelter
- Build bird houses and bird feeders to attract birds to a local park

Are you Into It?

Do you enjoy learning about wildlife?

In the 4-H Wildlife Project, you will:

- Learn about different wildlife including deer, birds, reptiles, manatees, turtles, and much more
- Explore and investigate the different Florida wildlife habitats such as pine forests, coral reefs, mangroves, salt marshes, and sandy beaches
- Learn what wildlife scientists do and what other career opportunities involve wildlife
- Visit parks and nature centers and engage in their education programs
- Conduct investigations about wildlife and the ecosystems in which they live
- Share what you have learned through service learning projects and by teaching others

Communication

- Create an educational display on a wildlife topic for a community event and/or state event
- Teach others about the wildlife in local schools
- Present an illustrated talk at the local and/or state level on a wildlife topic

Here's what you can do all year!

Starting Out Basic

- Visit a park or wildlife science center to learn more about Florida wildlife
- Help your club plan a trip to a park or preserve
- Investigate wildlife by observing birds and mammals
- Choose an animal to research and share what you learned with others
- Learn about Florida's endangered native animals

Learning More Intermediate

- Investigate how animals are adapted for living in their habitats
- Visit a nature center and learn about the creatures that live in that area
- Learn about endangered species and what is being done to protect them and why they are ecologically important
- Learn about invasive species and how they affect native wildlife
- Learn about rehabilitating injured or captive wildlife back to their natural environments

Expanding Horizons Advanced

- Use scientific tools and information to measure changes in a wildlife habitat area over time
- Compare different wildlife habitats as to the kinds of organisms, food webs, and water conditions found in each
- Investigate an environmental issue affecting the health of a wildlife species and its habitat or community
- Research and produce an action plan to improve a wildlife habitat and reduce invasive species in your area

Healthy Living

- Investigate the nutritional value of foods that wildlife offers us, create an educational display on the info, and present at a community event
- Get outside and walk while enjoying nature by going to a nature park with your club to learn about wildlife first-hand

Science

- Conduct your own experiment on a wildlife science topic and share the results at a local science fair or other county/state event
- Be a citizen-scientist and help a wild life scientist conduct his/her research
- Research invasive species issues and volunteer to help combat them



Expand Your Experiences in the Wildlife project

- Encourage your fellow 4-H club members to participate in The Great Backyard Bird Count. gbbc.birdcount.org
- As a senior, attend 4-H University and give a demonstration or talk on a marine topic, attend workshops, participate in community service events, hear keynotes, compete in contests, have fun, and meet other youth from across Florida who may share common interests. More info at florida4h.org
- Investigate the kinds of careers that involve wildlife and schedule a visit with those departments at the University of Florida
- Invite a local Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Wildlife Biologist to present at a future club meeting. myfwc.com

Project Sharing Ideas

Apply what you have learned in the project by doing an illustrated talk or demonstration at the county, district, or state level. Here are a few ideas:

- How to identify wildlife tracks
- How to create a wildlife-friendly backyard
- Explain symbiotic relationships of different wildlife

Resources

4-H Project Resources

Project materials to assist youth in learning may be available through your county 4-H office or can be ordered directly.

Available at UF EDIS:
edis.ifas.ufl.edu

- [Bluebirds and Other Cavity-Nesting Birds: Leader and Youth Guides](#)
- [Bird Monitoring Projects for Youth: Leader's Guide](#)
- [The World Around Us: 4-H Wildlife](#)

Available at National 4-H:
4-hmall.org

- [Exploring Your Environment](#)
- [Backyard and Beyond](#)

Connections and Events

Attending events and taking advantage of opportunities that expand your project learning will provide you with valuable skills in leadership, citizenship, and communication in 4-H.

Take part in:
Local workshops and day camps

- 4-H County Events Day

Experience:

- 4-H Summer Day and Residential Camps
- 4-H University

Participate in:

- Forest Ecology Event
- 4-H Photography Contest

Attend other statewide events
Check them all out at
florida4h.org

Record Keeping

Learning to take good records of what you do and what you spend for your project is a 4-H life skill. The following record keeping forms can help you keep a record of your activities. These forms can be found at florida4h.org

- Junior (grades 4-6)
- Intermediate (grades 7-8)
- Senior (grades 9-12)
- Financial Summary
- Member Portfolio (ages 8-13)

Specific project materials in Wildlife science may have their own record forms, please check edis.ifas.ufl.edu.

Awards and Recognition

Florida's Recognition Program involves feedback through:

- Participation
- Setting Goals
- Meeting Standards
- Peer Competition
- Cooperation

Certificates, pins, ribbons, trophies, trips and/or scholarships are awarded based on quality of performance at the county, district, state and national levels.

To learn more about current recognition opportunities visit the Florida 4-H website at florida4h.org or contact your county 4-H agent.

Learn more at florida4h.org
or contact your local UF/IFAS Extension County Office

4-H
GROWING TOGETHER