



# Wildlife WHEP & Forestry 2025 Overview

*Participation in Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry activities are open to all 4-H members from every project area.*



## Goals of Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry:

- ✚ Our goal is to provide an opportunity for youth to gain valuable forestry and wildlife knowledge, develop life skills, and provide new experiences.
- ✚ Provide career opportunity explorations.
- ✚ Provide youth with guides for competition preparation and contests.
- ✚ Utilize art and photography to create and retain memories.
- ✚ Recruit, train & retain youth leaders and adult 4-H volunteer leaders.
- ✚ Encourage family participation in natural science activities.
- ✚ More time outdoors means more fun for everyone!

**Wildlife & Forestry “Backyard & Back 40” Hands-on Activities:** There are 15 different categories of hands-on activities for youth to develop their skills and learn about their environment. Activities include urban and rural topics.

**Backyard & Back 40 “Kit-To-Go” Activity Boxes:** There are 15 different Backyard & Back 40 wildlife & forestry related programs. Each program offers many different hands-on educational opportunities for kids and adults of all ages. Programs can be presented by your own 4-H youth & adult leaders. We'll provide the instructions for you to build your own 4-H Club “Kit-To-Go” hands-on activity boxes. Email: [wi4hwildlife forestry@gmail.com](mailto:wi4hwildlife forestry@gmail.com) Request “Kit-To-Go” boxes.

**Statewide County 4-H Activities:** Wildlife WHEP WI 4-H & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry committee members do age specific hands-on activities for county 4-H programs each year. Typically, there are 20-40 youth at each program. We help train the youth and adult leaders while doing the activities. Kids have several take-home items from the classes.

**Community Events & School Programs:** Wildlife WHEP & Forestry members promote 4-H at community events. Wildlife WHEP WI 4-H & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry committee members also provide programs each year at schools and school forests. Participation ranges from 10 to 300 youth at the events.

**Wildlife & Woods Explorations - Virtual Sessions:** Winter & spring statewide monthly virtual sessions are provided for grades K5 – elementary school youth. The interactive sessions presented by 4-H youth leaders are for the entire family. Youth from 53 counties participated in the sessions. Free registration is available for your family 4-H Online account under the events section. Questions? Email: [wi4hwildlife forestry@gmail.com](mailto:wi4hwildlife forestry@gmail.com)

**Wildlife & Woods Careers & Competition - Virtual Sessions:** Winter & spring statewide monthly virtual sessions are provided for middle – high school youth and their families. The interactive sessions use 4-H projects to learn more about potential career possibilities. Free registration is available for your family 4-H Online account under the events section. Questions? Email: [wi4hwildlife forestry@gmail.com](mailto:wi4hwildlife forestry@gmail.com)

**Wildlife & Forestry Skill Level Booklets:** There are digital copies that have 10 pages of worksheets. The booklets have reference guides for the worksheets. There are beginner level and advanced level booklets. Counties may edit them.

**4-H Wildlife & Forestry Statewide Art Contest:** Typically, 100-150 wildlife and forestry art entries from 13-15 different counties are judged at the art contest each year. There are 18 classes in 6 different age divisions from K5 to grade 13. Pictures are included in various “TRACKS” newsletters.

**4-H Wildlife & Forestry Statewide Competition:** Annual competition is held in the spring of each year at West Bend, WI. There are 3 age divisions for the youth. Contest preparation information, study guides, & topics are provided for the participants. Statewide winners can qualify for national competition in wildlife and forestry.

**“TRACKS” Newsletter:** The newsletter is emailed statewide to the 4-H Extension Educators and friends of the programs. Featured topics and current information and announcements are provided in the newsletter.

**Wildlife Connection to 4-H Shooting Sports:** 4-H Shooting Sports was introduced 1983. **Wildlife** was included as one of the “essentials” to be integrated into the shooting sports program. County 4-H Shooting Sports Programs are encouraged to provide wildlife/forestry activities for their project members. This training prepares youth for participation in Statewide 4-H Shooting Sports Tournament Wildlife Contests. Classes are taught by youth leaders with adult supervision. Participation in the wildlife contests is required for 4-H youth to qualify for 4-H National Shooting Sports Competition.

A “Special Thanks” is extended to the supporters of Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry programs.

**Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry website:**

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/outdoor-education/>

Email: [wi4hwildlife forestry@gmail.com](mailto:wi4hwildlife forestry@gmail.com)



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