



Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H Wisconsin 4-H Forestry

Website <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/outdoor-education/>
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“TRACKS” – December 2021

Participation in wildlife & forestry activities are open to all Wisconsin 4-H club members. You can be enrolled in any 4-H project and participate in the activities.

Wildlife WHEP & Forestry 4-H Friends,

Astronomy is one of the oldest natural sciences. Humans have been using the stars and planets to navigate, establish calendars and understand natural phenomenon. One of the oldest and most recognizable constellations is the Big Dipper. The Big Dipper is a clipped version of the constellation Ursa Major the Greater Bear, with the Big Dipper stars outlining the Bear's tail and hindquarters. In the lore of the Mi'kmaq nation in northern Canada, the Big Dipper is a Celestial Bear, and the three stars of the handle are hunters chasing the Bear. In autumn, the hunters finally catch up with the Bear and it's said that the blood from the Bear colors the landscape. When the Celestial Bear is seen on the northern horizon in late fall and early winter evenings, it's a sign that the hibernation season is upon us. The Big Dipper moves about 4 minutes per day - arriving in its same spot one year later. How can you tell stars from planets and satellites? The planets follow about the same path as the sun. During the day, pay attention to where the sun travels across the sky. After dark, look along the same path for the planets. Planets reflect a steady light. With binoculars, a star is a point of light while a planet looks round. The best time to spot a satellite is about one hour after sunset. Since satellites don't have flashing lights like airplanes you will only see them when they are in sunlight. After sunset, it is dark on earth, but satellites are so high that the sun is still shining on them. Most satellites move from west to east.

2022 Wildlife & Woods Virtual Classes – Coming Soon! More Wildlife and Woods Virtual Sessions. Wildlife and Woods is Wisconsin 4-H's statewide natural sciences, wildlife, and forestry virtual event.

Outdoor enthusiasts get to connect with other 4-H youth grades 3-13 from around the state. Together, we explore the natural world with a special focus on wildlife, wildlife habitats, and forests. Participants learn about wild places across the United States following the 4-H Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP) and the 4-H Forestry Program. Each month focuses on a different habitat, some of its plants and critters. Materials are designed for all ages and knowledge levels, so everyone can benefit. Since the sessions are co-led by youth and adult leaders, the youth leadership opportunities are plentiful.

Youth leaders can research about wildlife, trees, management concepts and management practices; prepare slides; lead activities; present topics from slides; record videos; or read announcements. Youth leaders also meet virtually the week before for prep and practice. Being a part of this team is great preparation for WHEP and Forestry competitions. For more information or to join the Wildlife & Woods Leader Team, contact: Shannon Stege: w14hwildlifeforestry@gmail.com

To register for the virtual sessions, watch your e-mail for a message from 4-H online. The registration link will also be in the January TRACKS Newsletter. Mark your 2022 calendars for the third Wednesdays, 7- 8 pm. Jan 19 - Wonderful Wetlands; Feb 16 - Hot Desert; Mar 16 - City Wildlife; Apr 20 - Great Lakes

WHEP & Forestry Contest – April 1st & 2nd, 2022. It's time to start preparing for the upcoming contest. Most of the contest questions come out of the following manuals. The “Wildlife Management Concepts & Terms” is the best place to start learning the wildlife basics. The National WHEP (Wildlife Habitat Education Program) Manual www.whep.org and the National Forestry Manual www.4hforestryinvitational.org are nationally accredited resources. It's also available at <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/outdoor-education/> or email us anytime. Please email us and we will let you know which animals will be covered in the contest.

Wildlife WHEP & Forestry 4-H Art Contest – April 1st & 2nd, 2022. It's time to start taking pictures and getting ideas for entries in the upcoming contest. There are 18 categories & 4 groups: K-5-2nd grade, 3-6th grade, 7-9th grade, & 10-13th grade.

Do you need wildlife & forestry activities to do in your county? Wildlife WHEP WI 4-H & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry committee members and youth leaders can do age specific hands-on activities in your county. We'll train your youth and adult leaders at the same time. Parents, youth, and adult leaders are encouraged to participate to find out how easy it is to lead these hands-on activities. Contact us anytime and reserve your program dates.

We have topic suggestions for you on the “Backyard & Back 40” Wildlife & Forestry Activities – Just let us know and we'll email you: Wildlife/Forestry Activities - Anytime or Anywhere, along with Wildlife WHEP and Forestry Class Topics. There are topics for every interest and age group in the listings and we have more topics if needed. 1.) Raising Beetles to control Invasive Purple Loosestrife, 2.) Building Bat Houses, 3.) Improving Habitat for Pollinators, 4.) Building Butterfly/Rain Gardens & Project Milkweed, 5.) Improving Habitat for Migrating Land Birds & Bird Watching, 6.) Improving Upland Bird Habitats, 7.) Water & Riparian Areas Improvements, 8.) Forestry Fundamentals & Management Practices, 9.) Trees for Wildlife, Recreation, & A Renewable Resource, 10.) Maps, Topography, Compass, & GPS, 11.) Viewing Wildlife & Camera Hunting, 12.) And more.

Kerri, “TRACKS” Editor

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