

Guidelines and Resources

Ingham County 4-H Natural Resource Project

Objective: Explore natural resources including (but not limited to) Water Sciences and Aquariums, Wildflowers, Forestry, Wildlife and Endangered species, Project Fish, Rocks and Minerals, as well as current Environmental Issues and conservation related topics. Develop and exhibit a notebook, poster, or display from the skills and knowledge obtained.

General Information

- 1) Members must remain with their exhibits and talk with the judge to be considered for Best of Show or any other special awards.
- 2) Members may exhibit in more than one class.
- 3) Many of the Natural Resource projects can be developed into other 4-H projects including Computer Skills, Presentation Skills, and Still-life projects such as Creative Arts and Photography. If your project included any record keeping, computer logs, art work or photography, you may want to consider developing these further into another 4-H project.
- 4) There are required study sheets available on the website for the Wildflower, Tree, and Rocks and Mineral classes. These can be downloaded and printed as they are or can be developed to fit the age and/or ability of the member.
- 5) Please read the Class descriptions carefully.
- 6) Please see the Natural Resources Project Evaluation form listed under Natural Resources in the Science Department section of the Ingham County 4-H Still Exhibits online. This sheet is for reference only, and will give exhibitors an idea of how their natural resource-related projects will be judged at fair.
- 7) Field guides can be found at your local library to be used for identification purposes. The internet can be a valuable resource as well. Google: wildflower or tree identification, alternative energy, etc.
- 8) Before you pick, pluck, or take a sample of a wildflower check that it is not protected or endangered. In this case it would be better to leave the sample and take a photograph or make a drawing. The photos or drawings can be included in your notebook along with the study sheets.
- 9) Additional questions? Please email or call your Science Superintendent!

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Specific Requirements

Posters

Members may decide to present a poster on their chosen topic or project. Posters can be regular-size poster board or three sided display boards. Please be sure to attach your fair tag to the back of the poster. Posters can show photos, drawings, charts, maps, graphs etc. If study sheets are required for a project in which a poster is exhibited, please provide a separate notebook to display them.

Notebooks

Wildflower, Forestry, and Rocks and Minerals classes require study sheets that should be bound together into a notebook. Participants are encouraged to provide a table of contents, references or resources, photos, maps, graphs, or other related information. Notebooks should be presented in a logical and easy to follow manner.

Displays

Displays can include models (either fixed or working), dioramas, collections, samples, or examples etc.

Resources

You will find several good resources at the Michigan State 4-H Environmental and Outdoor Education website: <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/msue/cyf/youth/enved.html>

Project Fish: <http://www.projectfish.org/>

Mi 4-H Youth Conservation Council: <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/msue/cyf/youth/m4hycc.html>

Great Lakes & Natural Resource Camp: <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/msue/cyf/youth/glnrc.html>

Local Areas to Visit

Harris Nature Center, Okemos: <http://www.hncfoundation.org/>

Woldumar Nature Center, Lansing: <http://www.woldumar.org/>

Fenner Nature Center, Lansing: <http://www.lansingmi.gov/parks/fenner/index.jsp>

Potter Park Zoo: <http://ingham.org/ppz/index.htm>

Binder Park Zoo: <http://www.binderparkzoo.org/>

Websites to Visit

The Nature Conservancy: <http://www.nature.org/>

Michigan Audubon Society: <http://www.michiganaudubon.org/>

Michigan Forest Association: <http://www.michiganforests.com/>

Junior Forest Ranger USDA: <http://na.fs.fed.us/ceredirect/jfr/>

US Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/> (forestry and wildflower resource)

Endangered Species: <http://www.endangeredspecie.com/>

US Fish & Wildlife: Endangered Species: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>

US Fish & Wildlife: Student page: <http://www.fws.gov/educators/students.html>

Rocks for Kids: <http://www.rocksforkids.com/>

Mineralogy 4 Kids http://www.minsocam.org/MSA/K12/K_12.html

Environmental Kids Club: <http://www.epa.gov/kids/index.htm>

Recycle City: <http://www.epa.gov/recyclecity/>

NIEHS Kids page: <http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/recycle.htm>

Composting for Kids: <http://www.benefits-of-recycling.com/compostingforkids.html>