

2023-2024 Delaware 4-H Wildlife Judging Contest Leaders' Guide

Study Folder

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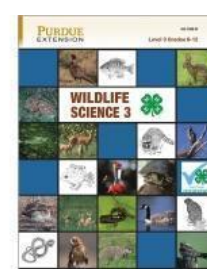
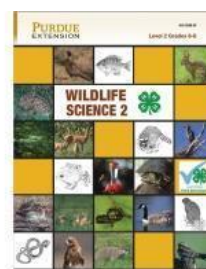
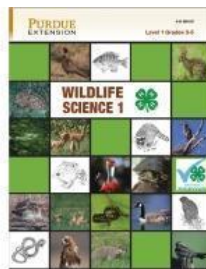
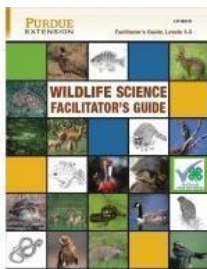
The 4-H Wildlife Judging Contest is an event designed to *teach youth the fundamentals of wildlife management*. Although it is a competitive event, its *primary function is education*. Natural resources management should be learned through involvement in this event, by holding traditional project meetings and related activities; including field trips and guest speakers. Additional benefits to youth include the development of leadership capabilities that focus around team-work, communication, organization and commitment. Meeting and speaking to other adults and wildlife professionals throughout the state provides an opportunity for 4-H youth to grow as well.

There are two divisions for this contest: Junior and Senior. Junior participants must be between the ages of 8-12 in 4-H age. Individuals 13 and older must complete the senior contest. The top ten senior participants from each county are eligible to participate in the state contest.

Resources:

This contest will follow the Purdue Extension Wildlife Science Series Project Books. These books are available at www.shop4-H.com.

Contact your local county 4-H office with questions related to this resource.



Please note: There are sections in the project books, where youth will need to do some research in preparation for this contest. Although there will be word banks and multiple choice/matching, there will also be some opportunity for open-ended responses. Most of the questions that require open-ended responses will have many possible correct answers.

Special Needs: If you are in need of special accommodations to participate in this program, please notify the 4-H office, two weeks in advance of the event.

This program is brought to you by the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, a service of the UD College of Agriculture and Natural Resources — a land-grant institution. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. If you have special needs that need to be accommodated, please contact the office two weeks prior to the event.

The Beginner Contest

Resources:

Wildlife Science Facilitator's Guide

Wildlife Science Level 1

WHEP Manual for Delaware Regions

- **Delaware animals and their foods:**

Be able to identify animals by pictures.

Bluegill

Eastern Garter Snake

Black (Rat) Snake

Red-Tailed Hawk

Great Horned Owl

Short-Eared Owl

Box Turtle

Snapper Turtle

American Crow

Bald Eagle

Ringneck Pheasant

Groundhog

Great Egret

Piping Plover

Coyote

Mole

Opossum

Beaver

Bobwhite Quail

*This is not an exhaustive list of all wildlife found in Delaware

- **Animal Needs:** Be familiar with animals and their needs.
Box Turtle, Great Horned Owl, Piping Plover, Great Egret, Opossum, Coyote, Black Rat Snake
- **Vertebrate Classes:** Be able to identify the 5 classes of vertebrates and be able to identify a vertebrate class given a picture or an animal name.
- **Animal Traits:** Be able to discuss traits of animals:
 - **2023:** Fish
 - **2024:** Herptiles (reptiles and amphibians)
- **Using a Dichotomous Key:** Given a dichotomous key, be able to show how the key is followed and name the animals

The Senior Contest

Resources:

Wildlife Science Facilitator's Guide
Wildlife Science Level 2
Wildlife Science Level 3
WHEP Manual for Delaware Regions

- **Beginner requirements above**

- **Animal Habitats**

When provided a description of the habitat, list the species that you might find there.

- **2023: Fish**

- (Level 2, page 28)**

- Largemouth Bass
 - Brown Trout
 - Northern Pike
 - Channel Catfish
 - Walleye
 - Bluegill

- **2024: Amphibians**

- (Level 2, page 35-36)**

- American Toad
 - Hellbender
 - Cave Salamander
 - Eastern Newt
 - Spring Peeper

- **Special Topics (Level 2, pg 8)**

- **Impact of Climate Change: 2023**

- Be familiar with the following terms / concepts

- Fossil Fuel (s)
 - Industrial Revolution
 - Carbon Dioxide
 - Greenhouse Gasses
 - NOAA
 - Global Warming
 - Climate Change
 - Wildlife populations

- **Pioneers in Wildlife Conservation: 2024 (Level 2, page 4)**

- Be familiar with wildlife pioneers
 - This could be matching names with their impact or as simple as identifying one pioneer, their major accomplishment and how it made a difference in the wildlife sector.

- **Habitat Management (Level 3, pgs 9-13)**

Understand wildlife management concepts and practices.

Be able to match terms with definitions, or fill-in-the-blank (wordbank provided).

- **Habitat Judging: (Level 1-3 Putting it all together)**

Participants will be provided pictures of 4 habitats. Participants will be asked to judge the 4 habitats based on requirements for a given species:

Beaver (2023) Bald Eagle (2024)

Participants will provide written reasons for their decision. Use habitat descriptors, wildlife management terms and other important pieces of information when writing your reasons.

Use this format for written reasons: Introduction, Body, and Conclusion

Intro I placed this class _____ (name class) 3,1,2,4

Body I placed 3 over 1 because...

I placed 1 over 2 because...

I placed 2 over 4 because...

Conclusion For these reasons, I placed this class of _____ 3,1,2,4.

STATE CONTEST:

The state event will include a “role play scenario”. These are found in the Level 3 project book. One topic will be selected from the choices below; participants should be familiar with both.

2021: You are a Teacher

2022: You are a Food and Fiber Producer

2023: You are a Teacher

2024: You are a Homeowner

2025: You are the Mayor

2026: You live in a Wildlife Habitat

2027: You are a Legislator