

4-H CONSERVATION GUIDELINES

The following are guidelines for providing learning experiences in the conservation project area.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL MEMBERS

- * Understand what Natural Resources are; how to enjoy them; how and why they exist.
- * Understand how Natural Resources inter-relate with each other, the environment, and people.
- * Become involved in making the environment of our communities and state better for people through the responsible utilization, development, and preservation of our Natural Resources. (Water, Soil, Forests, Wildlife, Air and Energy)
- * Explore career opportunities in areas related to Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.
- * Bulletins are available from the Cooperative Extension Service office.

IDEAS FOR LEARNING EXPERIENCES IN THE VARIOUS AREAS

Basic Conservation:

Learn about the inter-relationship of one natural resource to another. Get acquainted with the ecosystem.

Learn about ecology. Research wild animals and their habitat.

Conduct outdoor activities with each of the five parts of the environment.

Make a map of your community showing how land is being used.

Include residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, natural areas, etc.

Learn who makes land-use decisions. Visit some planning commission or zoning board meetings.

Discover what factors determine the Environmental Quality (EQ).

Survey your community and gauge what you believe to be its "EQ" rating. Report the results.

Design a public awareness campaign on environmental factors which affect a particular segment of your community's population.

Volunteer and help with an agency that is involved with changes which may affect your environment.

Design a chart which explains the relationship of air to the life of all things.

Learn to identify pollutants in the air, where they come from, and what they do to human bodies.

Survey your community for sources of air pollution.

Learn about laws designed to control air pollution.

Learn how to test for dirty air.

Conduct a demonstration on a source of air pollution, its effect, and a possible control.

Soil Conservation:

Learn how soil is formed. Make a compost pit.

Learn how and why soil sampling and testing are done.

Learn what factors cause soil erosion.

Design a display illustrating soil erosion, its effect on the environment, and possible controls.

Develop a map of your area to show slopes, soil types, land use, and conservation needs.

Start a rock collection. Identify and display the collection.

Water Conservation:

- Learn what is meant by the water cycle.
- Design a display to illustrate the cycle and its importance to the environment.
- Learn what can pollute your community's drinking water and how pollution is prevented.
- Learn how to test water for pollution. Take samples from your area.
- Demonstrate the water quality controls in effect in your area. Show how this protects human health.
- Learn how decisions about water are made in your community.
- Visit meetings and organizations.
- Develop a story, play, or a mural about two valleys - one with a dirty river and one with a clean river.
- Participate in "Marine Science Activities" to learn about plants and animals that live in, on, or around water.
- Participate in "Wetland Activities" to learn about the importance of wetlands in the ecosystem, what are some typical characteristics, how soil and land are interrelated, and how erosion affects the environment.
- Participate in Fish I, "Fish, Fun, Fellowship" to learn the basics of fishing and the habits of fish.. "Fishing For Fun."
- Participate in Fish II, "Conservation and Fishing" to learn the impact of various elements on fish populations and how they are controlled.
- Participate in Fish III, "Fish Pond Management". Learn how to create and preserve a pond and its interrelationship to the surrounding environment.

Forestry:

- Learn to identify trees and what affects their growth.
- Make a leaf collection. Mount and display it.
- Learn about products from the forest and how they are obtained.
- Learn about commercial tree production, tree plantation, and forestry. What impact do these have on our lives and economy.
- Plant and care for a tree(s).
- Demonstrate tree planting for different purposes: ornamental, windbreak, timber, heating, etc.

Wildlife:

- Learn to identify wild animals in your community.
- Learn about these animals' homes, habits, and their role in the environment.
- Design a display illustrating wild animals in your area.
- Find out what kinds of animals used to live in your area 25, 50 and 100 years ago. Learn what happened to those that left.
- Set up an animal observation "hide". Record your observations in writing or pictures.
- Participate in Wildlife I, "Wildlife Where You Live". Learn to identify familiar birds and animals in your area.

Participate in Wildlife II, "Wildlife Management". Learn to recognize, create, and preserve habitat for specific animals.

Participate in Wildlife III, "Deer Management". Learn to recognize, create, and preserve deer habitats.

Participate in Birds I, "Kinds of Birds". Learn to recognize familiar birds and their habits.

Participate in Birds II, "Birds and Where They Live". Learn to recognize common bird habitats and how to construct them.

Participate in Birds III, "Exploring Avian Problems". Identify problems in your area affecting wild bird survival and how they can be remedied.

4-H FAIR CLASSES FOR CONSERVATION

If members want to exhibit at the fair, they may exhibit in any of the conservation classes. No more than one entry per class.

General Information:

1. Exhibits in conservation section must include an exhibit or display of items or articles concerning some phase of conservation that the member has studied.
2. Content and complexity of the exhibit must reflect the age of the member and the amount of experience in the project.
3. Attach index card to exhibit tag if member is disabled or has reached his/her capability. Use card to briefly explain this.

Classes:

*Basic Conservation. Should cover more than one of the elements of the environment. Could show relationships between humans and one or more aspects of our environment.

* Forest Conservation or Forest Products.

* Soil Conservation

* Water Conservation

* Wildlife Conservation

*Energy Conservation. Includes Home Repair and Maintenance, Solar Energy, Wind Energy and Supplemental Heat.