

Youth Opportunities in Forestry Education

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About half of Kentucky's land surface is forest covered, most of it commercially valuable. Management, harvest and sale of both timber and non-timber products contribute significant to Kentucky's economy. It is important for the upcoming generation to know about how forests work, how they can be most appropriately managed, and how valuable they are to our lives, both in their presence and in their products. There are several opportunities for our youth to learn about the forested ecosystems that surround them through hands-on educational experiences.

PROGRAM OPTIONS

- Youth in 4-H programs (ages 9-18) can use one of several 4-1-1 publications for a 4-H project in forestry.
- 4-Hers can also make leaf collections, leaf prints, educational exhibits or a stem, fruit and leaf display to compete at both county level and at State Fair.
- There are training options available to both 4-H agents and classroom teachers in a nationally acclaimed program called Project Learning Tree that will help with understanding of basic forestry concepts. Materials in this program can be used both in classroom and in 4-H clubs.
- *Junior 4-H Forestry Field Days* – There are four field days scheduled annually, in September (check the Extension Calendar). 4-Hers aged 9 to 13 are eligible to participate. In one day, the 4-Hers are taught and tested on the basics of tree identification, tree measurement, and the use of a compass and measuring distances by pacing. In the afternoon session, the 4-Hers experience "Wood Magic", which raises their awareness of the importance of forest products.
- *Senior 4-H Forestry Field Days* – Senior 4-Hers (ages 14 to 18) compete for the opportunity to send a four-person team to the National 4-H Forestry Invitational which is usually held in West Virginia the last week of July. Kentucky may host a statewide judging event to field a team if there is sufficient interest. In addition to the three topics covered in the junior event, senior 4-Hers are tested on forest health (insects and diseases), topographic map reading, forest evaluation, and compete as teams in the forestry bowl. (see below)
- *Forest Leadership Program* - Older teenagers who are entering their junior or senior years in high school may register for this program, which is sponsored by the Kentucky Forestry Council. These students must have at least a C academic average and a sincere interest in natural resources. During this week-long program, students learn all the basic tools needed to manage a forest, and have a group plot to work with in a real life situation. This is an educational, not recreational program. The work is all "hands on" for the students, and they are guided by personnel from the Kentucky Divisions of Forestry, Conservation, and Fish and Wildlife and by Cooperative Extension personnel. Through an agreement with the local conservation districts, scholarships are often available to cover most of the cost for this week-long event. This program is usually held the first full week of June at the Leadership Center near Lake Cumberland.



4-H FORESTRY JUNIOR FIELD AND SENIOR FORESTRY JUDGING

Purpose

The purpose of the Forestry Field Days for juniors and the Forestry Judging for senior 4-Hers is to provide the opportunity for 4-H Forestry Project members from all counties to:

- Develop leadership skills and work toward achieving character development and effective citizenship.
- Develop an appreciation of trees and their roles in our environment, whether in a yard, park, or forest.
- Develop appreciation of the need and importance of conserving woodland as a source of products and services necessary for quality living.
- Acquire information and understanding of practical forestry skills in forest management and utilization of forest products.

Although these include competition, they are offered as an extension forestry educational experience and provide an opportunity for exploration of the broad aspects of forestry. The setting, contests, leadership and supplementary events are all directed to this end.

Junior Forestry Field Days

MAXIMUM OF 75 PARTICIPANTS PER SITE LIMIT OF 5 PER COUNTY (ALTERNATES ARE POSSIBLE). NO COUNTY SHOULD PRE-PLAN TO BRING ANY MORE THAN FIVE UNTIL THEY ARE APPROVED TO DO SO AFTER PRE-REGISTRATION IS IN. THESE FIELD DAYS WILL NOT BE HELD AT A GIVEN SITE IF FEWER THAN 25 ARE PRE-REGISTERED.

COUNTIES IN WESTERN/WEST CENTRAL KENTUCKY

Pre-registration for September field days is the ***last Friday in August***

West Kentucky 4-H Camp, Dawson Springs

Ballard, Butler, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Daviess, Edmonson, Fulton, Graves, Hancock, Henderson, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Logan, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, McLean, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Todd, Trigg, Union, Webster

Mammoth Cave National Park

Adair, Allen, Barren, Breckinridge, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Grayson, Green, Hardin, Hart, LaRue, Marion, McCreary, Meade, Metcalfe, Monroe, Nelson, Pulaski, Russell, Simpson, Taylor, Ware, Washington, Wayne

COUNTIES IN CENTRAL/EASTERN KENTUCKY

Pre-registration for September field days is the ***last Friday in August***

Cave Run/Twin Knobs, Morehead

Bath, Bourbon, Boyd, Bracken, Carter, Clark, Elliott, Estill, Fleming, Greenup, Harrison, Lawrence, Lewis, Madison, Magoffin, Martin, Mason, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, Nicholas, Powell, Robertson, Rowan

Feltner 4-H Camp, London

Floyd, Johnson, Pike, Bell, Breathitt, Clay, Harlan, Jackson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Owsley, Perry, Rockcastle, Whitley, Wolfe

REMAINING COUNTIES

May Choose CAVE RUN or FELTNER -

Anderson, Boone, Boyle, Bullitt, Campbell, Lincoln, Mercer, Oldham, Owen, Pendleton, Scott, Shelby, Spencer, Trimble, Woodford

***REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

For junior events, each participant will pay \$2.50 and each must bring a sack lunch and drink(s) Each day will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude by around 3:00 p.m. For each field day, an agent will serve as superintendent. Awards – 1st, 2nd, 3rd ribbons in each subject with participation ribbons to all; 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th place overall rosettes.

Senior Forestry Judging for National 4-H Invitational

This event will be held in September depending on level of interest. Minimum = 25 participants

*Pre-registration date for senior: *first Friday in September*

LOCATION

Kentucky Leadership Center, at Lake Cumberland; lodging and meals may be arranged by counties directly with the Leadership Center; lodging may or may not be available at the adjacent 4-H camp facility for those seeking a less expensive alternative.

DESCRIPTION

Forestry Judging for the National Invitational includes contests in tree identification, tree measurements, compass and pacing, forest health (insects and diseases), topographic map reading, forest evaluation, and forestry bowl. The event will be based on the criteria and scoring systems used in the national event.

WHO MAY PARTICIPATE

Senior judging is open only to 4-Hers 14-19 years of age ***who are still in high school*** (cannot be enrolled in or attending any college) ***by the time of National the next August. Counties must pre-register individuals and teams.*** The highest scoring four participants will represent Kentucky at National. ***Counties must commit to participating in the national event in order to compete in the state event.***

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration – 8:30 a.m. ***EDT***; conclude around 3:00 p.m. Registration fee of \$2.50/participant to help pay for ribbons; Must bring sack lunch and drink(s) or arrange lunch with Leadership Center. All taking part receive green participation ribbons; 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place overall rosettes for highest scoring individuals; highest scoring participants receive team rosettes and earn right to represent Kentucky at the national event in late July / early August the following year at Jackson's Mill 4-H Camp, in Weston, WV.

RESOURCES

There are print materials, slide sets and videos available either through the county Cooperative Extension office or from the Department of Forestry at the University of Kentucky.

<i>4-H Projects:</i>	Exploring Natural Resources, 4DD-01PO Kentucky's Useful Forests, 4DF-02PO Tree Planting, 4DF-03PO Introducing Yourself to Trees, 4DF-04PO
<i>Forestry Field Days:</i>	Compass and Pacing, FOR-47 ** Tree Tips, FOR-65 ** Tree Measurements, FORFS-13 ** *Kentucky's Forest Trees and How to Know Them, FOR-1 **
<i>Forestry Judging:</i>	Forest Diseases - (Video) 4-H Forest Pathology Forest Insects – (Slides), contact Dr. Monte Johnson, (859) 257-6693 Tree Identification – (Video) Tree ID (Winter/Summer) Compass and Pacing, FOR-47 ** Tree Tips, FOR-65 ** Tree Measurements, FORFS-13 ** *Kentucky's Forest Trees, How to Know Them, FOR-1 ** *Forestry Bowl Practice Questions for the 4-H National Forestry Website Training materials and current handbook for Invitational: http://www.aces.edu/N4HFI/
<i>Invitational:</i>	

*These are cost items, contact source for price.

**These are available at www.ukforestry.org

CONTACT PEOPLE

<i>4-H Projects:</i>	County Cooperative Extension Office 4-H Department at UK (859)-257-5961	
<i>Junior Field Days:</i>	County Cooperative Extension Office	
<i>Senior Judging:</i>	4-H Department at UK (859) 257-5961	
<i>General Materials:</i>	Deborah B. Hill (859) 257-5961	
<i>Forest Leadership Program:</i>	Doug McLaren (859) 257-2703 University of Kentucky Department of Forestry Lexington, KY 40546-0073	
<i>Project Learning Tree:</i>	Gwen Holt (Central) Kentucky Division of Forestry 627 Commanche Trail Frankfort, KY 40601 (502) 564-4496	Evelyn Morgan (East) Morehead District Office 2375 KY 801 South Morehead, KY 40351 (606) 784-6428

To train youth at the county level for field days or judging, contact your local Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service), Kentucky Division of Forestry regional office, high school biology and vo-ag teachers, other natural science teachers, and local people who know the local woods. Many are willing to help with these programs.