

DEPT D – CONSERVATION & WILDLIFE

Purple award \$3.00; blue award \$2.50; red award \$2.00; white award \$1.00

General Information

- A. SHOW WHAT YOU DID & LEARNED – All exhibitors must show evidence of their personal field experiences, study or observances that relate to their exhibit. This helps judges understand what the 4-H'er did and learned in the process that led to the exhibit.
- B. PROPER CREDIT – Show proper credit by listing the sources of plans or other supporting information used in exhibits.
- C. WHOSE EXHIBIT? – The exhibitor's name, county, and age must be on the back or bottom of all displays.
- D. WILDLIFE & WILDLIFE LAWS – "Animal" or "wildlife" in the following classes includes wild fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, or mammals. Please make sure you are following all appropriate-wildlife laws.
- E. ENTRIES PER INDIVIDUAL – Each individual may enter up to one exhibit per class.
- F. PROJECT MATERIALS – Related project booklets include Exploring Your Environment series, 4-H Shooting Sports, Amphibians, Bird Behaviors (EC 59381), Fishing for Adventure project manuals, Wildlife Conservation (4H125), Geology, and Outdoor Adventure. Other resources include Learning Science in the Outdoors Series (Science Signature Outcome Program) outdoornebraska.gov/afterschool/ and www.whep.org.
- G. BOARD AND POSTER EXHIBITS – Mount all board exhibits on ¼" plywood, Masonite, or similar panel no larger than 24" high by 24" wide. Poster exhibits should be on regular poster sheets, no larger than standard size (22"x28") but half size, 22"x14", is recommended.

It is a violation of federal wildlife protection laws to collect actual nests of birds. For educational displays of nests, it is suggested that photographs be used.

Classes

Wildlife and How They Live

- D-340-001 Mammal Display
- D-340-002 Bird Display
- D-340-003 Fish Display
- D-340-004 Reptile or Amphibian Display

Displays may show any aspect of wildlife, wildlife habitat, or related conservation. Examples: Life history or other facts about one type of wildlife; how to manage wildlife on a farm or in town; managing habitat for one kind of wildlife; life requirements for one kind of wildlife during one season or through the year; wildlife behavior and habitats.

- D-340-005 Wildlife Connections – Board or poster exhibit. The purpose of this display is to show inter-connections and related aspects among animals, plants, and other habitat components. All displays should show two or more interactions (connections) that occur between/among animals or between animals and their habitat. Displays might show how animals interact with other animals, with people, or with their habitat.

Examples:

- 1) Food chain display. Use pictures, drawings, or other items to illustrate the source of food energy and where it goes – who eats whom or what. Use arrows to show the direction of the energy (food) flow.
- 2) Show the role of predators, scavengers, insect eaters, or others in nature.
- 3) Show how wildlife numbers (population) change through the year.
- 4) Show predation, competition, or other behavioral interactions or wildlife.
- 5) Choose one kind of wildlife and make observations through a season or year, keep notes of interactions, then make a display of what you saw.

- D-340-006 Wildlife Tracks – Board or diorama-type box exhibit. Make a display of animal tracks using plaster-of-Paris casts. There are three options. For all options, include a brief description of your experiences in making the tracks so the judges better understand what you did and learned. Positive casts (impressions as they would be in nature) are preferred, but not required.
1. Option 1 should show plaster-of-Paris tracks of five or more kinds of wildlife along with a picture or illustration of each kind of animal. **OR**
 2. Option 2 should show two or more plaster-of-Paris tracks of one specific kind of wildlife and should include a picture or illustration of the animal, what the animal may eat and what may eat the animal. **OR**
 3. Option 3 should show two tracks and include the animal’s habitat needs including preferred food, shelter, water, and space in addition to a picture or illustration of the animal.
- D-340-007 Wildlife Knowledge Check – Use electrical circuits, pictures, or other methods of teaching wildlife identification or other wildlife conservation or shooting sports related knowledge. Plan size and structure to facilitate transportation and display.
- D-340-008 Wildlife Diorama – Exhibit must be no larger than 24”x24”. The exhibits must show a grassland, prairie, agricultural, woodland, riparian (stream or river corridor), wetland, and/or other area with wildlife habitat. Example: show an area interspersed with several habitats such as windbreaks, farm fields, woods, waste areas, ditches, and pastures for edge-adapted species such as white-tailed deer, Northern bobwhite, ring-necked pheasants, mourning doves, cottontail rabbits, fox squirrels, Northern cardinals, or blue jays. Label the habitats displayed and show at least five kinds of wildlife in their proper habitats.
- D-340-009 Wildlife Essay – Learn how to share educational information by writing. Choose a conservation or wildlife topic that interests you and write an essay about it. For example: write about a particular species of wildlife that you have observed or about the values of wildlife (commercial value, game value, genetic value, aesthetic value, ecological value, scientific value). You might write about wildlife on a farm, in town, in a backyard, at a backyard feeder, or at other places. You might write about ethics, proper behavior in the outdoors, hunting, or fishing.
- These essays are between 100 and 1000 words long and typed, double spaced on 8 ½” x 11” paper. You might use books, magazines, or personal interviews as resources, but you must give credit to all sources by listing them.
- D-340-010 Wildlife Values Scrapbook – Make a scrapbook about the various values of wildlife. This would include aesthetic, scientific, commercial, game, genetic, and/or ecological. One resource would be the Wildlife Conservation project booklet (4-H 125).

D-340-011 Wildlife Arts – The purpose of this class is to allow artistic exhibits that contain educational information about conservation and wildlife. Examples might include paintings, photographs, wood carvings, painted duck decoys, or songs or poems written by the exhibitor. Entries must be appropriate for fair display and no larger than 24" x24". For example: paintings or photographs should be displayed in notebook format or mounted on a sturdy display panel. All entries must include a title and brief explanation of the purpose or message (what is the exhibit meant to show).

Wildlife Habitat

- D-342-001 Houses – Make a house for wildlife. Examples: bird house (bluebird, purple martin, wood duck, kestrel, barn owl, etc.) or bat house, no insect houses. Make the house functional so that dimensions, hole size, etc. are appropriate to fit the intended species needs. Include the following information: 1) the kinds of animal(s) for which the house is intended, 2) where and how the house should be located for best use, 3) any seasonal maintenance needed, and 4) any evidence of your personal observations or experiences. Tips: Check NebGuide on feeding birds.
- D-342-002 Feeders / Waterers – Make a bird feeder or bird bath. Examples: seed, suet, or nectar feeders. Squirrel feeder okay; no insect feeders. Indicate the kinds of animal(s) for which the feeder or waterer is intended. Make the feeder or waterer functional so that it fits wildlife needs. Include the following information: 1) where and how the feeder or waterer should be located for best use and 2) how it should be maintained. Tips: Check NebGuide on feeding birds
- D-342-003 Wildlife Habitat Design – Board or poster exhibit. Choose a backyard, acreage, or farm, and design a habitat plan to meet the food, water, shelter, and space needs of at least three kinds of animals you would like to attract. Draw an outline of the area and show what plants or other habitat will be provided. Indicate how the various parts of your plan provide the desired habitat needs. You might include an aerial photo of the area if you have one

Harvesting Equipment

- D-343-001 Fish Harvesting Equipment – Board exhibit. Display of equipment used in fish harvesting. Examples: fishing knots, hooks (with corks over ends for safety), and lures. Label all items displayed. Include in your exhibit the following information: 1) purpose of each item, 2) when or where it is used and 3) any personal experiences you've had with the item(s).
- D-343-002 Build a Fishing Rod – Rod building kits with instructions are available for this purpose. A fishing rod education exhibit may not exceed 96" length. Exhibit must be mounted on a board. Included with the exhibit: Explanation of cost of materials/components, where materials/components were purchased, how made and number of hours required for construction. Label all parts. Necessary components which must be included are grip, line guides (based on manufacturer's specifications), guide wraps, and hook keeper. Reel seats needs to be aligned with guides, and guides aligned accurately down rod. Guide wraps of size A to D, nylon, or silk thread. The exhibit will be judged on: workmanship, labeling of parts, correct information and neatness.
- D-343-003 Casting Target – Make a casting target for exhibit and use. Target must be under 48" x 48". The bullseyes must be 2 feet, the outer band must be 1 foot in diameter and can have up to 3 rings.

The exhibit must be easy to store, durable, and weather resistant. Include the purpose and rules of using your casting target.

D-343-004 Wildlife Harvesting Equipment Board Exhibit. - Display of equipment used in harvesting wildlife. Examples: expended ammunition casing (no live ammunition permitted) steel traps, hide stretchers, fleshers, etc. For displays of shotguns, rifles, or bows, use drawings or pictures. Label all items displayed: 1) purpose of each item, 2) when or where it is used 3) any personal experiences you've had with the item(s).

D-343-005 Inventing Wildlife/Fish Harvesting Equipment, Aid or Accessory – Use engineering principles to invent or adapt equipment that helps you harvest fish or wildlife. This could include wildlife calls, adapted fishing pole for shallow water, a blind, decoys, etc. Share your drawing (or adapted plans), how the equipment works, how you tested it, and the results of testing your prototype and any adjustments you made.

Taxidermy

D-346-001 Tanned Hides – Exhibit of a wild animal hide properly processed by the member. No requirement as to mounting but must meet the size requirement listed above. Include the following information: 1) the animal's name, 2) information about the exhibitor's personal field experiences, study or observations that relate to the exhibit. 3) Written explanation on how project was completed. 4) Pictures of the process.

D-346-002 Taxidermy – Any legal fish, bird, or other wild animal properly processed by the member. No requirement as to mounting but must meet the size requirement listed above. Include the following information: - the animal's name – information about the exhibitor's personal field experiences, study, or observations that relate to the exhibit.

Other Natural Resources

D-361-001 Design your Own Exhibit in Natural Resources, Conservation, or Ecology

This class is for educational exhibits about natural resources, conservation, wildlife, or ecology that do not fit in to other categories. Examples may come from the Exploring Your Environment series, or the exhibitor may determine what the exhibit will be. Entries must be appropriate for fair display and no larger than 24"x24". All entries must include a title and should be clear (a brief explanation or other method) about the intended purpose or message – what the exhibit is meant to show. Think about accuracy, creativity, educational value for viewers, and evidence of exhibitor's personal experiences and learning.

Outdoor Adventures General Rules

- Display posters must be made of material, e.g. foam board or poster board and measure no larger than 22" x 28". Poster material should be sturdy enough to hold display items.
- Exhibits other than posters to be no larger than 18" x 24"
- Journal/ Binder exhibits measure no larger than 16" x 16".
- Consider neatness and creativity.

Outdoor Adventures – Level 2

- D-341-001 Poster - Topics may include, but not limited to one or more of the following; how to pitch a tent, knot tying, cooking over a campfire, how to start a campfire, wildlife and plants identified while camping, how to set up emergency shelter, dealing with weather, collection of photos from camping trips, "Leave No Trace" and how that was followed while camping, plan a camping trip, camping essentials, environmental issues/protecting natural resources, park or trail clean up, sanitation/hygiene while outdoors or use of GPS.
- D-341-002 Journal/Binder - Written report of virtual, or actual camping/hiking trips with observations OR field journal (notes of actual experiences, sights, sounds, smells, etc.), OR camping or hiking trip diary. Explain growth in project, leading the hikes, planning the camping trip, now being able to identify the wildlife and nature around you and how identified (sight/sound/shape/smell/color). Feathers/leaf/flower pressings must be securely attached, if included. Photos of drawing of observations encouraged. Exhibits measure no larger than 16" X 16".
- D-341-003 Camping/Hiking Safety - Must include explanation of use of item and why selected/purpose, how it fits hiking/camping needs. May include, but are not limited to, one of the following: travel sized poisonous plants guide, camping first aid kit, weather/water safety or hand hygiene kit.
- D-341-004 Digital Media - Use digital media to show video/slideshow/presentation of setting up a tent (include why site is chosen) or protecting natural resources or environmental issues or computer video camping/hiking game. Submit a USB drive or DVD inside a report cover or notebook. If using a slideshow, include printed slides inside report cover or notebook.
- D-341-005 Other Camping Items - Must include what inspired the creation of the item, and its purpose. May include but are not limited to one of the following: nature art, nature haiku poem, spider web sketches or knot display.

Outdoor Adventures – Level 3

- D-341-006 Poster - Topics may include but not limited to one of the following: Topographic map, backpacking trip plan, camp layout, plan an expedition (can be dreamed or lived), collection of photos from your expedition, trails hiked, cost comparison of rental vs purchase or using GPS/compass.
- D-341-007 Journal/Binder - Written report of actual, virtual, or imagined expeditions/camping/hiking, OR field journal (notes of actual experiences, sights, sounds, smells, etc.). Explain growth in project, challenges in leading a group, teaching others about wildlife and nature identification and "Leave No Trace." Exhibits measure no larger than 16" X 16".
- D-341-008 Expedition Safety - Must include an explanation of use of items, why selected/purpose of item, how it meets hiking/camping/expedition needs. May include but are not limited to; travel sized edible plants, creepy crawly guide, tent repair kit, travel first aid kit or weather/water safety.
- D-341-009 Digital Media - Use digital media to show video/slideshow/presentation of one of the following, but not limited to; building a non-tent shelter (include why needed), packing your

backpack/equipment, and getting it onto you, teaching others about environmental issues or a computer video backpacking expedition game. Submit a USB drive or DVD inside a report cover or notebook. If using a slideshow, include printed slides inside report cover or notebook.

D-341-010 Other Expedition Items - Must include what inspired the creation of the item, and the purpose of the item. May include, but are not limited to; nature art, nature cinquain poem, backpacking food recipes, hiking/expedition conditioning plan, charcoal etching, dehydrated meal or snack (at least 1 cup displayed in a re-sealable plastic bag with ingredients, instructions, and nutritional facts included). Exhibits measure no larger than 18" X 24"