



4-H Natural Resource Club

Why? What? Where? When?

4-H Natural Resource Clubs

- **Why** a 4-H Natural Resource Club?
- **What** resources are available?
- **How** do I run the club?





Why have a Natural Resource Club?

2010 Survey by Extension Educator Julia Miller

Participants:

- ▶ 4-H members in grades 9-12 who participated in Forestry, Soil & Water Conservation, Weather, or Wildlife projects for at least three years
- ▶ Purdue Extension County-based staff
- ▶ Natural Resource Professionals

Responses – Youth

Note! 37% of youth participating in 4-H natural resource projects hope to have a career related to the area of 4-H project work

- ▶ Question – “What motivates you to continue to participate in one of these projects?”
 - ▶ Enjoyment/interest, 59%
 - ▶ Family member, 10%
 - ▶ Pursuing a career in a related field, 7%
- ▶ Question – “What are the barriers to participation?”
 - ▶ Low interest by other youth, 32.0%
 - ▶ Lack of a knowledgeable volunteer, 22.0 %
 - ▶ Lack of information, 21.3%

n = 69

Responses – Extension Educators (Youth & ANR)

- ▶ Barriers to participation:
 - ▶ Low interest by youth, 39.2%
 - ▶ Lack of a knowledgeable volunteer, 24.5%
- ▶ Challenges faced when identifying volunteers to help with natural resource projects
 - ▶ Time required by volunteer, 39.8%
 - ▶ Lack of project experts, 26.3%
 - ▶ Difficulty finding people willing to work with youth, 20.5%
- ▶ Comfort level in asking volunteers to help with the NR projects:
 - ▶ None, 14% Somewhat, 62% Very, 24%


Responses – Natural Resource Professionals

- ▶ What resources could 4-H use to increase participation?
 - ▶ Natural resource organizations and associations (SWCD, IDNR, NRCS, and others), 37.7%
 - ▶ Natural resource literature – Historical Maps; Indiana Community Tree Selection Guide; Field Guides; Native Trees of Indiana; 50 Trees of Indiana; lists of forests, nature centers, and wildlife preserves, tools and equipment for activities; storm water Enviroscape module;
 - ▶ Informative brochures from various agencies (ex. DNR brochures), 14.4%

106 respondents: SWCD (59%), IDNR (34%), Weather Service (2%), Foresters (2%), Other (4%)

Suggestions from Natural Resource Professionals

- It may be beneficial to have a project leader for the natural resource projects.
- Natural resource clubs would benefit the kids, they can learn about NR, be outdoors, and perhaps this could get more children out of doors and involved with caring for their NR for the future.
- Involve the students about the importance of water quality and conservation, as hands on.... field trips, workshops, etc.
- Organize a job shadow day or field day with IDNR
- Actual visits to forest
- Work with SWCD's, DNR-Forestry, DNR-Fish & Wildlife to promote the projects in each county.
- Focus group discussion: Wish to be invited speakers but not to run a club



Earthcare 4-H Club, Elkhart County

- ▶ Leader: Janeen Bertsche-Johnson
- ▶ What is the *Earthcare* club?
- ▶ I started the *Earthcare 4-H Club* to integrate environmental education with the 4-H program. Our club does not have traditional meetings, but does hands-on activities to increase the youth participants' knowledge of forestry, soil and water conservation, wildlife, recycling, and weather. We are also intentional about doing activities that benefit our community and the environment. The club had 8 members in its first year, and has grown to 25 participants. We welcome parents and younger siblings to join our activities, so that the older youth learn leadership.
- ▶ See page 8 for a list of activities Janeen did with the club

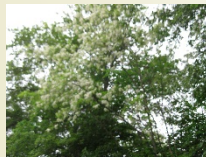
What is in the NR Club Resource Kit?



➤ Beekeeping



➤ Entomology



➤ Forestry



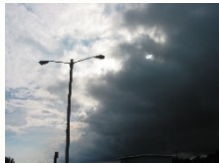
➤ Geology



➤ Soil & Water Science



➤ Sportfishing



➤ Weather & Climate Science



➤ Wildlife Science





What are the NR Club Kits?

- ▶ Geared at the Level 1 age group – grades 3-5
- ▶ Goals:
 - ▶ To introduce more youth to the 4-H natural resource
 - ▶ Provide adult volunteers with resources for the club
 - ▶ Increase natural resource project participation and knowledge




What is in the Natural Resource Kit?

- ▶ An introduction to the NR club and curriculum
- ▶ Subject matter folders
 - ▶ Invited speaker suggestions
 - ▶ Resources and other opportunities in 4-H
 - ▶ Selected activities and answers or facilitation help

The same information is in your spiral notebook and online at <http://www.ydae.purdue.edu/NR,Club/Indiana,4-H,NR,Club.html>




How Can I Use the NR Club Kit?

- ▶ Topic introduction – how you wish:
 - ▶ 1 topic each year
 - ▶ 2-3 topics
 - ▶ All 8 topics
 - ▶ Utilize Junior Leaders and/or older youth who participate in these projects to teach/mentor
 - ▶ Outdoor activities – walks, talks, visit woods, streams, wetlands, and other areas of local interest
 - ▶ Timing: It's up to you
- 


www.ydae.purdue.edu/natural_resources/

Youth Development & Agricultural Education
Youth Natural Resource Education


Home 4-H Projects ▾ Teacher Resources ▾




LEARN *More About* **Our Natural Resources**



- [4-H NR Projects](#)



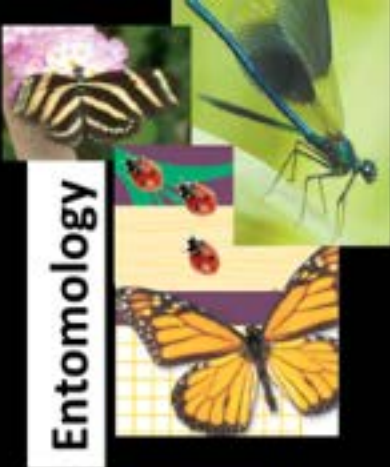
- [Educator Resources](#)
- [Natural Resource Career Development Events](#)



- [Natural Resources Club Activities](#)
- [Soil Health](#)



Beekeeping



Entomology



Forestry



Geology



Soil & Water



Sportfishing



Weather & Climate



Wildlife

- Natural Resource Club**
- Overview
 - Resource suggestions
 - Selected activities



Explore: Plan a NR Club Meeting

Include:

- ▶ Target 4-H member age(s)
- ▶ Meeting length
- ▶ Materials needed
- ▶ When and where
- ▶ Agenda
 - ▶ Topic/topics
 - ▶ Activity/activities (from the NR club kit; review and describe)
 - ▶ Invited speaker
 - ▶ Reflections (experiential learning)
 - ▶ Application
 - ▶ Sources for more information on the topic(s)

Any Questions?



Thank you for your interest and attention!



Natural Resource Club Blog for Indiana 4-H Volunteers



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