

Ohio 4-H Forestry Competition Objectives/General Rules and Regulations

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Ohio 4-H Forestry Competition and the National 4-H Forestry Invitational are to provide the opportunity and atmosphere for 4-H members to:

1. Develop leadership talents and to work toward achieving character development and effective citizenship;
2. Develop an appreciation of the importance of conserving forests as a source of income, raw material, and enjoyment necessary for quality living; and
3. Acquire information and understanding of practical forestry skills in forest management and the use of forest and wood products.

In addition to meeting these objectives, the event encourages and promotes increased knowledge of forests and forestry by 4-H members, volunteer leaders, and Extension agents at local, county, district, state, and national levels. Although they may never be forest landowners, as future adults, 4-H members will learn to weigh and understand renewable resource management needs. Preparation of youth in this event:

- (1) Presents, identifies, and locates the renewable resources of the forest environment such as forest products, water, outdoor recreation, wildlife, and selected grazing;
- (2) Establishes a natural resource value system for participating 4-H members;
- (3) Helps 4-H landowners understand the techniques of managing their land and improving the understanding of 4-H'ers as potential landowners; and
- (4) Furnishes facts and scientific procedures for future landowners, administrators, and planners who are not professional land managers.

The Competitive Team Approach, which is used in both the National 4-H Forestry Invitational and Ohio 4-H Forestry Competition, develops at all levels the following benefits:

- (1) Intensified learning opportunities using correct management information and factors concerning forest resources;
- (2) Standardizes, or presents, similar references, materials, guides, and understanding on tree identification, forest measurements, and use of silvicultural problems of management, insects, diseases, etc.;
- (3) Encourages rural, suburban, and urban teens to share ideas and visit potential management areas with a new perspective of 4-H forestry;
- (4) Provides new insight to senior members who serve as teen leaders with younger 4-H members in beginning forestry projects;
- (5) Allows teen members to formulate goals and discuss management procedures with other 4-H'ers and with professional land managers; and
- (6) Provides a new dimension for older 4-H member activities and incentives for younger members beyond the present project-oriented program.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

This event will comply with all "Policies and Guidelines for National 4-H Competitive Events" as approved by USDA Extension Service, 1990.

Contestants and Eligibility

1. Each club is allowed to enter only one team. A team will consist of no less than three and no more than four official entrants who are 4-H members in Ohio during the current year.
2. All contestants must have passed their 14th birthday on or before December 31 of the preceding year, and must not have passed their 19th birthday on January 1 of the contest year.
3. An individual may enter the National 4-H Forestry Invitational event only once.
4. The team of contestants moving on to the National Invitational must be certified as the official state entry by the State Extension Director or by a person designated by the Director. The individuals or team may be selected by any procedure which a state considers appropriate.
5. All states participating in the Invitational must provide a signed statement from the State 4-H Office verifying that the team has insurance coverage while traveling and attending the Invitational.

General Contest Rules

1. Team entries must be registered by the specified due date.
2. Each team shall have no more than one head coach and two assistant coaches. Current 4-H members may serve as coaches for the team, but those individuals will be ineligible as future contestants.
3. Adult representatives from states not competing in the current Invitational are welcome to observe. They may be asked to assist in the Invitational administration.
4. Only contestants and designated officials shall be within the perimeter of an event. Once a contestant has started an event, he/she will not be allowed to talk with anyone other than a designated official until completion of that particular event.
5. A team may be composed of either three or four members. Team scores will be based on the three highest scoring team members in each individual contest area. Individual contestants will compete for high-scoring individual honors.
6. Each contestant will bring a clip board or writing board, pencil, and calculator. Binoculars and hand lenses are permitted for use during contest events. Contestants are encouraged to wear field clothing and heavy shoes. Raingear is highly recommended.
7. No image or audio recording device such as cell phones, I-pods, still cameras, video cameras, movie cameras, or tape recorders will be permitted during competitive events. No competition participant (4-H team member, coach or adult chaperone) is allowed to write down or record any questions from the written exam.
8. The use of alcoholic, tobacco or other controlled substances will NOT be allowed. Rules of the 4-H camp will be enforced.
9. After the state competition, individual and team scores will be distributed to the team coach. Contest score sheets will not be distributed.
10. Closed-toed shoes will be worn by all participants in the forestry skills events. Sandals or other open-toed shoes will not be worn during participation in any of the forestry skills events.