

## NATURAL RESOURCES - Section G

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### NATURAL RESOURCES RULES

- a) Exhibits must have been completed during current year AND since the last Fair.
- b) There is no maximum number of entries per class in this section. When more than 1 entry is exhibited in a class, each must be of a different variety and be distinctly different.
- c) Collections and notebooks may be entered as either a notebook/binder or poster display not to exceed 22" x 28".
- d) **All exhibits must include a project story (essay) stating why your project was interesting to you, its relevance to natural resources education and detailed information you learned while completing project. The project story (essay) may be included in the notebook/binder or poster or must be attached to the exhibit.**
- e) Exhibits showing processes, products, skill development and relevance to environment/natural resource projects are strongly encouraged.
- f) Exhibits will be evaluated on the basis of their content, quality of expression and presentation. Creativity is encouraged as is display of materials showing observational skills (e.g., journals or sketchbooks).
- g) Please consult listed 4-H project materials for additional project ideas and information.
- h) Please note: If a birdhouse, birdfeeder, or bat house is completed as a Wood Science project, it should be entered in Section J.

### AWARDS:

**Blue \$3.00 Red \$2.50 White \$1.50**

Classes 1 - 7

### Class #

#### 1. Environmental Education

- Nature Trails – e.g. display of 4-H constructed nature trail or observation made along another nature trail
- Geology – Simple collections must include the specimen's names, dates of collection, specific site(s) of collection (distance and direction to nearest town, county, state or province) and collector's name for 15 specimens. Inclusion of field journals is strongly encouraged and identification criteria must be completely and clearly defined. Exhibits showing evolutionary histories, adaptations of fossil organisms, vertical or horizontal studies of strata, or similar studies are encouraged.
- Field Identification Projects – Collections of preserved specimens, photographs or sketches properly labeled and showing identification criteria may be displayed for any habitat in New York. Consult your local Department of Environmental Conservation for guidelines and permission in collecting specimens from the wild. Consult *Field Guides Made Easy* for additional activities and ideas.
- County or Self Initiated Projects that Relate to Environmental Education – Examples include but are not limited to: interpretation of aerial photographs; vegetation maps; plant adaptations; demonstrations of ecological principles; or computer models like GIS. Transfer of display ideas and concepts from other project areas are encouraged.

#### 2. Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

- Exhibits may be displays or records of any fisheries and aquatic resources related activity including but not limited to fishing techniques, aquatic sampling methods, aquatic insect ecology, habitat improvement or fisheries management and biology. Other fishing projects may be found in 4-H publications.
- Water monitoring – project ideas may be found in *Water Worlds*, *Water Wise*, *Pond* and *Stream Safari*.
- County or self-initiated projects related to fish or fishing, including mariculture, aquaculture, commercial fisheries, sport fisheries or related equipment, skills or observations.

#### 3. Forestry

- Displays and presentations may be based upon, but are not limited to, the following projects: *Know Your Trees*, *Timber Management for Small Woodlands (IB 180)*; *Wildlife and Timber from Private Lands*; *A Landowners Guide to Planning (IB 193)*; *Woods of New York*; *Trees: Dead or Alive*; *Know Your Tree Diseases*; *Maple Syrup Production for the Beginner*; and other forestry exhibits based upon national, regional, county or self-initiated projects.

#### 4. Resource Based Recreation

- Shooting Sports – Any exhibit or record based upon content of the NYS Shooting Sports Programs or any of the New York State DEC certification programs.
- Other Outdoor Recreation – Exhibits based upon related outdoor recreation activities, e.g. orienteering, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, wilderness camping, or outdoor cookery.

#### 5. Wildlife

- Bird Study – Consult *Bluebirds of New York*, *Birds of Prey*, *Introduction to Bird Study*, or any other bird materials for exhibit ideas. Bluebird houses will be judged using the criteria from *Bluebirds of New York*. **Please note, if a birdhouse is completed as a wood science project, it should be entered in Section J, Wood Science.**
- Habitat Improvement – Consult *Wildlife Habitat Enhancement*, *Enhancement of Wildlife on Private Land*, *managing Small Woodlots for Wildlife* for exhibit ideas.
- Trapping Furbearers – Exhibits based upon the NYS DEC Trapper Training Program are acceptable, as are displays of equipment, pelf preparation, and discussions of the role of trapping in wildlife management.
- Other Wildlife Projects – Exhibits based upon New York's wildfire resources, *Environmental Awareness:Wildlife*; *Managing Small Woodlots for Wildlife*; *Wildlife Discover*; *New York's Wildlife Resources (fact sheets)*; and *Wildlife in Today's Landscapes*. County projects or self-initiated projects are acceptable. A good source of potential project is the 4-H Forestry and Wildlife Invitational.

#### 6. Solid Waste

- Exhibits based on recycling or composting projects in the home or community.
- Clothing, crafts and other items created using post-consumer waste materials. Consult *Composing: Wastes to Resources*; *Wastewise*; *Woody's Resource Goldmine*; *Recycling in Your School Makes Good Sense*; *Composing in the Classroom*; or *Recycling Mining Resources From Trash* for exhibit ideas.

#### 7. Miscellaneous

- Any other 4-H natural resources exhibit.