

Natural Resources/Environmental Education opportunities in South Carolina 4-H

4-H2O (May to August)

It is a water-based, summer science camp that runs in more than 15 counties across South Carolina, allowing youth an opportunity to learn and experience this state's water resources first-hand. Targeted to 9-13 year olds, 4-H2O is a hands-on science inquiry program that provides children and adults with knowledge about their local water resources and teaches them the field, analytical and critical thinking skills they need to intelligently participate in making decisions that affect the quality of these aquatic systems. School-enrichment versions of this program are available in some areas.



Forestry Clinic (February)

This is a 3-day, 2-night immersive experience. This clinic opens the world of forests to youth ages 14-18 years. Youth engage in activities to learn about trees, forestry practices, ecology and human reliance on forests. Youth discover forest resources near their home and around the world. Youth are recruited from their participation at the Forestry Clinic to join South Carolina's National Forestry Competition Team.



Jr. Naturalist (year round)

This is a program developed to grow the next generation of environmental stewards through immersive, hands-on learning experiences in nature. Jr. Naturalist is a nature-based program that takes place in the outdoors, provides experiential learning, and encourages teamwork and stewardship. This program will impact the young citizens of South Carolina by providing educational experiences about natural resources, forest and aquatic ecology, and wildlife.



Project WET (year round)

This is a K-12 education program offered by the Project WET Foundation that promotes awareness of water and empowers community action to solve complex water issues. Most 4-H and Water Resources Agents are certified Project WET educators, trained to deliver this program in South Carolina.



Pollinator Program (February to August)

One component of a South Carolina 4-H Pollinator Program, the Honey Bee Project is an independent-study project that engages youth in the active role of beekeeping, learning the basics of entomology, and gaining an appreciation for the role of pollinators in our world. This program encourages utilization of The Bee Cause Project curriculum for in-school educational enrichment.



School Gardening for SC Educators (year round)

This program is a collaborative, train-the-trainer effort. It is a comprehensive online course paired with a hands-on workshop designed by Clemson Extension Horticulture Agents to teach basic school gardening skills. Our focus is on safety and gardening 101 with the goal to create sustainable school garden “classrooms”.



Shooting Sports (year round)

This program is offered to youth across the state from a network of certified instructors in disciplines of archery, air rifle, and shotgun. Youth learn marksmanship, the safe and responsible use of firearms, the principles of hunting and archery, and much more. The activities of the program and the support of caring adult leaders provide young people with opportunities to develop life skills, self-worth, and conservation ethics.



Small Garden Project (April to August)

This project is a hands-on environmental education program and an independent-study project that allows youth an opportunity to establish, maintain, and observe a small garden. Youth learn concepts of goal setting, plant identification, pest management, and fiscal responsibility and have the opportunity to put that knowledge into practice.



Wildlife Food Plot Project (August to January)

This project is a hands-on environmental education program and an independent-study project that allows youth an opportunity to establish, maintain, and observe a wildlife food plot. Youth learn concepts of wildlife conservation, plant identification, and habitat management and have the opportunity to put that knowledge into practice.



Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP) (year round)

This is a youth natural resource program dedicated to teaching wildlife and fisheries habitat management to junior and senior level (ages 8-19) youth in the United States. Studying a science-based manual, participants learn wildlife terms and concepts, about wildlife habitat and management practices, how to judge the quality of wildlife habitat, and about wildlife damage management.

In addition to these specific programs, 4-H Agents have access to additional peer-reviewed curricula and research-based, hands-on educational resources for non-formal education. Contact your local 4-H for opportunities in your area! clemson.edu/4h

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