

TEXAS 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Texas 4-H Wildlife Habitat Education Project State Contest

WHAT IS THE Wildlife Habitat Education Project (WHEP)?

The Texas 4-H Wildlife Habitat Education Project (WHEP) is an interactive program that teaches youth about wildlife, habitat, habitat management, and natural resources stewardship. In addition, life skills such as team work, critical thinking, public speaking, and observation are underlying objectives in this youth development effort. Creating educated and involved stewards of natural resources is the long term goal.

Various practice and competitive contests are associated with this program. Participation is not required in these to be involved in this wildlife study program but often a contest enhances the learning experience of the youth involved. All contests within the state are open to all ages within 4-H membership.

The WHEP State Contest is held annually in a different part of the state so a different ecological region can be explored and studied each year. This contest uses the current WHEP Manual posted on the 4-H Wildlife & Fisheries webpage and the specific Rules and Procedures written and posted for this contest. The contest is designed for each age division in 4-H; Junior, Intermediate, and Senior. The contest is held outdoors in wildlife habitat as described in the Rules and Procedures.

WHEN: April 28-29, 2018

LOCATION: Camp Tyler, Whitehouse, Texas (Smith County)

<http://www.campt Tyler.org/about.html>

WHEP Manual Region of Study: Southeast Mixed and Outer Coastal Plains Forest

WHEP Manual: 4-H Wildlife and Fisheries Webpage

<http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/wildlife-fisheries/>

(on the '4-H Members' tab, scroll down to 'WHEP Manual'. All 11 pdf files apply.)

ELIGIBILITY:

Any current 4-H member is eligible to register as a team member or an individual. This contest does not require a participant to qualify in any other way. Each youth contestant must register on their personal family profile.

REGISTRATION PROCESS: March 1 - April 9, 2018

Registration is completed online through 4-H Connect (<https://texas.4honline.com>).

Registration deadline is April 9, 2018. Registration fee per individual youth contestant is \$25.

- **Youth Participant:** This registration is only for youth who will be contestants in this event.
- **Coach:** This registration is only for coaches of WHEP teams/individuals. This registration is designed for coaches to list their teams by age divisions so that registered youth contestants can be arranged in teams on the official scoring template and be provided for in terms of appropriate answer sheets and materials. There is no registration fee for coaches. Only one coach registration is required per county to list teams.

There will be no lodging or meal accommodations arranged for this contest. All lodging and meals will be the responsibility of the individual county teams. Lunch on Saturday must be available to contestants on site so that time is not lost with families going in separate directions and returning at different times. Participating counties and families are encouraged to pack their own picnic lunches. The contest area is located in a remote area several miles from any town.

Hotels are plentiful in Tyler and camping is available at multiple locations around Lake Tyler. The two closest camping areas are listed below with the first being approximately 1 mile from the Camp Tyler gate and the other approximately 14 miles away.

The Boulders – <http://www.boulderslaketyler.com/contact.html>

Lake Tyler Marina - <http://www.laketylermarinaresort.com/>

TENTATIVE ITINERARY:

Saturday, April 28

9:30 a.m. – Team Check-in
10:00 a.m. – Contest Begins
12:00 noon – Lunch Break
1:00 p.m. – Contest Continues
3:00 p.m. – Contest ends for the day

Sunday, April 29

8:00 a.m. – Contest Activities Continue
11:00 a.m. – Awards Presentation
Depart for Home

Additional details will be sent to each registrant after registration closes in April.

Contact for questions or additional information:

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