



## Forest Resources and Wood Science

Georgia 4-H, the state's largest youth leadership organization, empowers young people with life skills. Through the cornerstone program, Project Achievement, students prepare a presentation and a portfolio for competition—with both comprising the score. This guide provides 9th—12th graders with examples for getting started.

### Description of Project:

4-H'ers may explore the science of managing, using, conserving, and repairing forests and associated resources. Through this project 4-H'ers may:

- understand and appreciate the fiber products of the forest
- identify trees and understand their environmental and economic value
- acquire knowledge and develop skills in the selection and use of various types of wood and wood products
- acquire knowledge and develop skills in the selection, care, and safe use of woodworking tools and machines
- learn of environmental protection and the wise use of natural resources
- understand the business and economics of forestry and forest products
- appreciate the importance of woodlands as a source of income, raw materials, and enjoyment necessary for quality living
- identify methods for forestry management and conservation
- practice appropriate and beneficial forestry practices
- explore career opportunities related to forestry

### Overview:

- ⇒ Choose project
- ⇒ Develop skills in:
  - Project
  - Leadership
  - Service
- ⇒ Prepare portfolio for work completed from January 1—December 31
- ⇒ Prepare presentation
- ⇒ Practice
- ⇒ Compete
- ⇒ Reflect

### Examples of Project Development Experiences:

- Examine growth rings on tree stumps in newly cut timberlands to see how trees grow
- Learn to identify common Georgia tree species
- Safely use woodworking tools to build wood projects
- Attend a forestry day camp and compete in the Georgia 4-H Forestry Field Day
- Interview a Georgia Forestry Commission Forester and/or shadow a Park Ranger for a day
- Learn how Georgia Forestry Commission personnel protect timberlands from wild fires
- Visit an arboretum and/or national forest to learn about forestry management and conservation

## Project Sharing and Helping Examples:

- Lead a club to plant trees
- Organize a talk with a local logger and allow your group to learn about harvesting, equipment, and forest products
- Mentor younger 4-H'ers on the 4-H Forestry Judging Team
- Share what you have learned in the Forest Resources and Wood Science project with club members, school classes, and civic clubs
- Enter a forestry-related mini-booth or woodworking project as an exhibit at a fair
- Start a Forest Resources and Wood Science project club. Contact your local Extension Agent to discuss your plans
- Collaborate with elementary schools to describe forestry values in your community (i.e., aesthetics, wildlife habitat, air/water quality, wood products, economic impact, etc.)
- Distribute forestry and wood science materials at school and/or within the community
- Organize a group tour at a local arboretum or national forest
- Mentor a younger 4-H'er in the Forest Resources and Wood Science project

## Recommended Resources:

- [Georgia4h.org/ProjectAchievement](http://Georgia4h.org/ProjectAchievement)
- [Georgia4h.org/Forestry](http://Georgia4h.org/Forestry)
- [Warnell.uga.edu](http://Warnell.uga.edu)
- [forestfoundation.org](http://forestfoundation.org)
- [fs.fed.us](http://fs.fed.us)
- [gatrees.org](http://gatrees.org)
- [gen.uga.edu](http://gen.uga.edu)
- [gfc.state.ga.us](http://gfc.state.ga.us)
- [gfagrow.org](http://gfagrow.org)
- [swst.org](http://swst.org)
- [Popularwoodworking.com](http://Popularwoodworking.com)

## Special Considerations:

- Please use best safety practices when handling tools.
- Be sure to gain land owner permission prior to entering someone else's property.
- Give plenty of notice for any mentoring requests.
- Ask permission before photographing, taping, or quoting someone.
- Be respectful when shadowing professionals and always follow safety instructions.
- Live animals/insects and weapons are not permitted in the project.

## At Competition:

*Forest and Wood Science 4-H projects may use posters, artifacts, biofacts, and/or technology to support their presentation. The time limit for these presentations is 12 minutes. Computers, projectors, screens, and other technological devices may be used.*

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Sources:

The University of Georgia CAES. 2016. Project Achievement. <http://www.georgia4h.org/projectachievement/>

