

GEORGIA

4-H

PROGRAMMING SNAPSHOT

FORESTRY
JUDGING &
FIELD DAY



2020 COVID-19
PANDEMIC
RESPONSE

FORESTRY JUDGING & FIELD DAY

CRAVEN HUDSON

Extension programming during the COVID-19 pandemic provides the opportunity for innovative and non-traditional delivery methods. As a response, Georgia 4-H obtained guidance and permission from UGA to conduct Area and State Forestry Field Days in person in September, 2020. The hybrid reintroduction of programming (offered both in person and virtual) provided an expanse in reach and engagement of youth.

Best practices for in-person gatherings were developed based on guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control, Georgia Department of Public Health, UGA, and the Governor's Executive Order for Empowering a Healthy Georgia. Some counties were able to hold in-person practices while others were limited to virtual contact.

To meet these broad needs, Georgia 4-H provided five new digital educational tools that youth could access to supplement practices with their teams or learn the material independently. Tree and insect/disease identification practice tools for both junior (grades 4-8) and senior (grades 9-12) divisions were widely used. Three video tutorials on pacing, compass, and volume estimation were developed to teach these skills as well.



Recognizing that many factors could prevent youth from attending either an area or state field day, a virtual state contest was developed. The virtual state contest was open to all 4-H youth, rather than only high school youth, like in previous years, because all ages encountered barriers to participating in area field days.

In-person Area Forestry Field Days were held in all four UGA Extension Districts and the State Forestry Field Day was held at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. Youth, volunteer coaches, and staff repeatedly stated how wonderful it was to be a part of a district or state event in person. All field day participants, coaches, and staff completed health screenings, wore appropriate face coverings, and maintained social distancing in order to safely conduct the field days. Forestry Coaches were appreciative of the new online educational tools and stated they plan to use them even if programming returns to pre-COVID19 times.

"108 YOUTH TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE AREA CONTESTS, WITH 59 ADVANCING TO STATE"



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The University of Georgia 4-H program is the largest youth leadership organization in the state.
An Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Veteran, Disability Institution



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FORESTRY JUDGING & FIELD DAY

THE PROGRAM

Forestry Field Day gets 4-H'ers outside learning fundamental skills that foresters use each day to manage our forests to provide wood products, wildlife habitats, clean air and scenic views.

OBJECTIVES

Through Forestry Field Day, youth:

- acquire knowledge of trees and forests
- develop skills in forestry-related activities
- gain a better understanding of and appreciation for our forest resources and how they contribute to our economy and quality of life

CONTACT

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THE SCOPE



VIRTUAL CONTEST HELD

A virtual contest was held for participants unable to travel.



VIDEO TUTORIALS CREATED

Three video tutorials teaching required forestry skills were developed.



ONLINE TOOLS DEVELOPED

Five new digital tools created to supplement in-person practices.



EXPANSIVE AUDIENCE

Reaching 108 youth total through the in-person and online contests.



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