Georgia 4-H Project Achievement empowers young people with skills for a lifetime. Through a competitive process, students explore their interests, unleash their creativity, share their work, and celebrate their achievements! This guide provides 9th—12th graders with examples for getting started with their project exploration.

**Description of Project:**

4-H'ers may explore living things, especially mammals, birds, and fishes that are neither human nor domesticated, and their habitats. Through this project 4-H'ers may:

- develop an understanding and appreciation of the economic and aesthetic values of wildlife resources to the state
- acquire knowledge relative to the wise use and management of wildlife as a resource
- develop an understanding of the habitats and factors affecting the survival of a species
- acquire knowledge about the different marine habitats (i.e., salt waters, marsh areas, and brackish waters)
- learn the various roles that groups of marine life play within marine and global ecosystems
- determine how to conserve, protect, and utilize marine resources through conservation and management
- develop an appreciation for marine resources as a recreational opportunity
- explore careers related to wildlife and marine sciences

**Examples of Project Development Experiences:**

- Participate in a 4-H wildlife judging team
- Go on nature walks with field guides. Identify wildlife and further study their habitats
- Shadow a zoologist or marine biologist for a day and learn their job responsibilities
- Take a trip to a nature center, the beach, or a wildlife management area
- Visit a zoo or aquarium and read the descriptions of all the animals and fish on display. Take notes and compare the similarities and differences among the wildlife

[Georgia4h.org/programs/project-achievement]
Project Sharing and Helping Examples:

- Coordinate a trip for youth or community members to a nature center, zoo, lake, or ocean
- Interview a marine biologist or wildlife expert and share what you have learned with your group or class
- Organize a group that teaches the public about local wildlife concerns through social media, presentations, and promotional flyers
- Help train younger 4-H’ers for wildlife habitat judging events
- Hold a demonstration on identifying animals and proper wildlife management techniques
- Photograph shark teeth, shells, bones, and feathers and share your findings with others
- Lead a group in making bird houses or feeders. Discuss how to identify local native birds that will visit their feeder/house
- Mentor a younger 4-H’er in a wildlife or marine sciences project
- Create and display a mini-booth at a local fair or public place in your community (such as a library or elementary school)
- Teach a group how to track animals by their tracks and/or scat
- Organize a group trip to 4-H Tidelands Nature Center
- Deliver a presentation on your favorite animal

Recommended Resources:

- Georgia4h.org/ProjectAchievement
- tidelands4h.org
- fws.gov
- georgiawildlife.com/hunting/wildlife-management-areas
- georgiawildlife.com
- gadnr.org
- coastalgadnr.org
- gacoast.uga.edu
- noaa.gov

Special Considerations:

- Youth should remember to be cautious and considerate around wildlife management areas.
- Practice internet safety when communicating with new people online.
- Ask permission before photographing, taping, or quoting someone.
- Be respectful of other cultures.
- Live animals and weapons are not permitted.

At Competition:

Wildlife and Marine Science 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/