

4-H

Hunting and Fishing

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**SCIENCE
SERVING AGRICULTURE**

EXTENSION SERVICE

4-H Hunting and Fishing Manual

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Hunting and fishing are probably the greatest participator sports in the nation. More people hunt and fish than attend all spectator sports combined. In Oklahoma alone, nearly 200,000 residents purchase hunting licenses each year. This is about nine percent of the total population.

More than 300,000 Oklahomans—nearly one-sixth of the population—buy fishing licenses.

In the whole United States, some 20 million people hunt and fish.

These figures do not include Oklahoma citizens who are exempt from buying hunting and fishing licenses such as youths under 16 and people past age 65.

In Oklahoma equipping people to hunt and fish is a 100 million dollar business. In the nation the figures run as high as 9 billion.

This gives us some idea of the scope of these sports.

4-H Club members enrolling in this project are urged to take full advantage of the benefits of hunting and fishing—but at the same time to plan ahead for future generations by conserving soil, water, vegetation and other resources which provide habitat or homes for fish and game. Conservation practices already started must be continued and developed further.

The 4-H Hunting and Fishing project can be fun. Members will learn much about the outdoors and the pleasures and privileges of hunting and fishing which are truly an “American Heritage.”

Objectives

1. To stimulate interest in the outdoors and in the importance of all animal life.
2. To encourage and interest all boys and girls from both farm and city in hunting and fishing.

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3. To encourage development of better fishing in farm ponds, streams and lakes.

4. To learn the need for adequate harvest of fish and game. To appreciate the limitations of hatcheries, fish stocking, rescue work and the importance of predatory or rough fishes, predatory birds and animals.

5. To teach safe and effective handling of fishing and hunting gear.

6. To know and observe Oklahoma and federal game and fish laws.

7. To cultivate good relationships with persons on whose land you hunt and fish.

8. To pass on information about hunting and fishing to others, especially those younger than yourself.

9. To practice good sportsmanship, a tradition of all good hunters and fishermen, so that future generations may continue to enjoy these sports.

Who May Join

Any boy or girl between ages 10 and 21, interested in sports and outdoor recreation may join. The county and home demonstration agents in your county will arrange your enrollment.

Project Requirements

(For Beginning Members)

1. Enroll in project.

2. Read one article on fishing and one on hunting. These articles may be obtained from your school or public library or from farm, nature, science and outdoor magazines.

3. Look up the fishes and animals, both game and non-game, known to your locality in natural history books at your school or public library. Learn the life history of as many as possible.

4. Study the Oklahoma game and fish laws. Your sporting goods

Learn more about Oklahoma's fish and wildlife through Nature Study hikes.



dealer, game ranger or county agent can supply free copies of these laws.

5. Make at least one hunting and one fishing trip with an adult hunter or fisherman during the year.

6. Study safe handling and use of (a) firearms, and (b) fishing gear, boats and boat motors. Put these precautions to good use.

7. Invite a game ranger, biology teacher, or your county agent to talk to your club about hunting and fishing.

8. Make a scrapbook of bird and animal pictures. When possible include articles about them.

9. Write a short story about things you learned and did during the year. This will become part of your permanent 4-H club record.

Project Requirements

(For Intermediate Members)

Requirements for intermediate members are, of course, more advanced than for beginners. Intermediate members should have completed, or be thoroughly familiar with, the beginners project. If you were a beginner member last year, you may now enroll in the intermediate project.

1. Enroll in project.

2. Read at least two articles on fishing and two on hunting during the year.

3. Make further studies of fish and game animals. Use the natural history books available in your library.

4. Thoroughly check the game and fish laws, both state and federal. Be sure you are familiar with them.

5. Arrange and go on two fishing trips and two hunting trips with adult companions during the year. If you do not know a hunter or fisherman, get acquainted with one. He will be glad to have you along.

6. When in the field with an adult, talk about methods of hunting and fishing and about preparation of game and fish for table use. You will be surprised how many things he can tell and show you. He will also welcome suggestions from you.

7. While in the field, on ponds, lakes or streams, observe closely where game is found and where fishing is good. Learn why some places are better than others by discussing it with your leader.

8. Become skilled in the use of hunting and fishing gear. You will find hunters and fishermen in your neighborhood glad to instruct you.

9. Invite a game ranger, biology teacher, or your county agent to talk to your club about hunting and fishing.

10. At the year's end, write a short story on the year's work. Describe the hunting and fishing articles you have read; your days afield with the adult hunter or fisherman; the talks made by the game ranger, biology teacher, or other persons; the success you had; and other experiences with wildlife you feel should be included. This story will be your project report to become part of your permanent 4-H Record Book.

Project Requirements

(For Advanced Members)

1. If you have had a minimum of experience in hunting, fishing or camping, or if you have completed the beginner's and intermediate projects, you may enroll in this phase of the hunting and fishing project.

2. Study state and federal game and fish laws. Be able to talk about them with other sportsmen.

3. Learn the current migratory waterfowl laws as soon as they are announced each year. These laws may be obtained from the Oklahoma Game and Fish Department. The new game laws are usually announced in August of each year.

4. Become familiar with the objectives of: (a) the local "sportsmen's club," local chapters of the Izaak Walton League, the State Division of the Izaak Walton League, The Izaak Walton League of America, the Wildlife Society, Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy, the Oklahoma Outdoor Council, and the National Wildlife Federation. Information may be obtained from local members of these groups, reference books at the library, or the Extension Wildlife Specialist, Oklahoma A. & M. College, Stillwater.

5. Plan and make at least four hunting trips during the year. At least one waterfowl hunt should be included. All hunts should be in company of an adult hunter with parent's or guardian's consent.

Building a martin house or an ordinary bird house can be fun. By erecting the house where you can watch it, much can be learned about birds and their habits.



6. Plan and make at least four fishing trips during the year. One trip should be stream fishing if possible. All trips should be made in company of an adult.



Observe property rights of others . . . always get permission to hunt or fish on other people's land.

7. Learn the "Ten Commandments for Safe Handling of Firearms," (see page 8). Give a timely talk or individual demonstration on safe handling of firearms before a youth group during the year. The group may be 4-H club, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, or other youth group.

8. Complete some bird or animal preservation project. These might include:

(a) building and maintaining bird feed stations on window sills or lawns; or

(b) building and erecting martin, wren, bluebird, wood duck, or other type bird houses on the grounds around your home; or

(c) making a wildlife habitat planting on your farm or in your community. You can get help from the county agent's office or through habitat improvement personnel of the Oklahoma Game and Fish Department.

9. Make plans, if possible, to go on one furbearing animal hunt during the year.

10. Obtain price lists for various raw furs for animals such as opossum, skunk, raccoon, mink and muskrat. Furs are usually marketed locally at produce houses or shipped directly to fur markets.

11. Obtain bulletins on fishing and hunting from the state Game and Fish Department or other sources. Study their contents.

12. Learn how a farm pond is constructed and stocked with fish. **Discuss procedures in your final report.** Tell what help farmers may secure in constructing farm ponds. Farm pond information can be secured from your county agent.

13. Get a wildlife book from the library or elsewhere. Study the life cycle of one or more important game fish in Oklahoma (black bass, bluegill, crappie, channel cat, etc.)

14. Get another book and study the life cycle of one or more game birds or mammals, bobwhite quail, deer, prairie chicken, cottontail rabbit, squirrel, mourning dove, mallard duck, etc.)

15. Assist your local club leader to improve the work done by beginners and intermediates in this project.

16. Get permission to study one farm in your community. Plan a Wildlife Habitat Improvement program for the farm. Show, on a plot of the farm, places where plantings could be made to improve the farm for fish and game. Describe where plantings should be made, kind of plantings, etc.

17. Arrange to have fishing experts (bait and fly casters) make talks to your group. Lists of such persons may be secured from the state Game and Fish Department, Oklahoma A. & M. College, the school system, sportsmen's clubs, etc.

18. Learn the best methods of dressing fish and game.

19. Learn the best ways to cook fish and game. The difference between a fish being "delicious" or almost "inedible" may depend on the way it is prepared and cooked.

20. Make and put up nest boxes or artificial dens for squirrels and furbearers.

A Few Things Every Hunter and Fisherman Should Know

(There Are Many Others)

1. Never enter anyone's property without first getting permission from the owner or operator.

2. When hunting, fishing or hiking on property of others with their consent, observe these four simple rules: (1) close gates, (2) do not break fences or pull staples, (3) do not disturb crops, fruits or nuts, and (4) stay away from livestock.

3. Never shoot near roads, farmsteads, or livestock. Fish and hunt only where the owner gives his permission. Respect his instructions.

4. Ask the owner or operator where to leave your car when hunting or fishing.

5. It is a courtesy to ask the owner or operator to join you on the hunting or fishing trip. Be courteous.

6. Take care in building and using a fire. Keep the fire under control at all times.

4-H Club members can help feed and protect birds and other wildlife through the cold winter months by building a feeding box similar to this one.



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF SAFETY

1. Treat every gun as if it were loaded. This is a cardinal rule of gun safety.
2. Carry into your automobile, camp or home only empty guns—taken down or with the action open.
3. Always be sure that the barrel and action are clear of obstructions.
4. Always carry your gun so that you can control the direction of its muzzle even if you stumble.
5. Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger.
6. Never point a gun at anything you do not want to shoot.
7. Never leave your gun unattended unless you unload it first.
8. Never climb a tree or a fence with a loaded gun.
9. Never shoot at a flat, hard surface or at the surface of water.
10. Do not mix gunpowder and alcohol.

(a) Put out camp fires by covering them completely with soil. If water is available, completely drench until the fire is out.

(b) Smokers should be sure that matches, cigars, pipes and cigarettes are out before discarding.

7. Never get into a boat without a reliable life preserver for each occupant. Many people are drowned each year because they fail to observe this rule.

8. You cannot be too careful in handling firearms. The "Ten Commandments of Safety" are listed above. Know and practice them ALWAYS.

9. Never go out on a lake or stream in a motor boat without paddlers or oars. If the motor fails, this could make the difference between getting back to shore or having a searching party out looking for you.

10. When on lakes, get to shore before a storm breaks. Even a sheltered cove, though a great distance from the landing, is better than trying to "ride out" a storm in a small boat. Do not take chances.

11. Above all, do not overload a boat. This is perhaps the greatest hazard encountered in using a boat.

12. Never indulge in horseplay while in a boat.

13. Learn to swim well.

14. Do not shoot or catch any animal, bird or fish you do not intend to eat.

15. Most hawks and owls are beneficial. Do not destroy them.

16. Remember, hunting and fishing are done for the pleasure of being afield; not for the game you shoot or the fish you catch. Learn to appreciate the quality of the sport, not the quantity of game you take.

Awards

The Oklahoma Game and Fish Department presents attractive "Certificates of Award" each year to all 4-H Club members who satisfactorily complete this project. In addition, the Game and Fish Department presents a silver lapel medal inscribed with the words: "Oklahoma Wildlife Conservationist" to the most outstanding 4-H Hunting and Fishing Club member in each county. The members must complete all requirements and be recommended by the county Extension office.