

# EXPLORE KENTUCKY'S NATURAL WORLD



## Natural Resources & Environmental Science Academy

Three-year program designed to teach youth about their natural environment. Participate in hands-on investigations to learn about Kentucky's water, forest, entomology, and wildlife resources.

### Who can Apply?

- Must be in 5th grade at time of application.

**Cost:** \$175 (Scholarships are also available)

For questions, please contact the Clay County Extension Office at 598-2789

### Registration Deadline

April 25th

For applications, visit:  
[clay.ca.uky/4h-youth-development](http://clay.ca.uky/4h-youth-development)



Kentucky 4-H  
Youth Development



## 2025-2026 Kentucky 4-H Natural Resources and Environmental Science Academy Application Form

To apply for KY 4-H Natural Resources and Environmental Science (NRESci) Academy fill out this form completely. **Applicants must be in 5<sup>th</sup> grade at the time of application so that they are in 6<sup>th</sup> grade during their first year as a member. Send this application to your county Extension 4-H agent. Contact your agent for the county application deadline.**

Last Name (print):	First Name:	Age and Grade:	
Street Address:		County:	
City:	State:	Zip Code:	
Email:	Male ___ Female___		
Polo/T-Shirt Size (circle):	XSmall   Small   Medium   Large   XLarge   XXLarge   XXXLarge		
Answer the following by checking the appropriate column:			
		YES	NO
<p>Please note: We realize that the majority of locations and dates are TBA. <b>We just want 4-H members and their families to realize that this program is a 3-year commitment. Each year, we announce the dates for that program year (September 1 – August 31) by July. Attendance is mandatory.</b></p> <p>PLEASE make sure you can attend these events before applying for the NRESci Academy. Not attending events inhibits the effectiveness of the ENTIRE group. An email of explanation is to be submitted to the coordinator for all missed events. The teaching team may assign make-up projects for any excused absences. Failure to complete a make-up project can result in dismissal from the academy. An unexcused absence from any scheduled event may result in dismissal from the program.</p> <p>Please note dates/locations listed are tentative.</p>	Retreat, September 23-24, 2025 Feltner 4-H Camp, London, KY		
	1-Day Event, October 21, 2025 Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Park, Hodgenville, KY		
	1-Day Event, February 12, 2026 Boone County Environmental and Nature Center, Union, KY		
	1-Day Event, May 19, 2026 University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY		
	Retreat, September 28-29, 2026 Feltner 4-H Camp, London, KY		
	1-Day Event, TBA, 2026 Location TBA		
	1-Day Event, TBA, 2027 Location TBA, KY		
	1-Day Event, TBA, 2027 Location TBA		
	Retreat, September 26-27, 2027 Feltner 4-H Camp, London, KY		
	1-Day Event, TBA, 2027 Location TBA		
	1-Day Event, TBA, 2028 Location TBA, KY		
	1-Day Event, TBA, 2028 Location TBA		

### Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
4-H Youth Development  
Community and Economic Development

### MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

Agents and parent/guardian must sign below to indicate support of this applicant.

Participant Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Agent Signature

Date

### Application Requirements:

- 1) Provide one letter of recommendation from someone other than a relative, such as your 4-H agent, teacher, coach, etc.
- 2) Write an essay explaining why you want to be a member of the 4-H Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Academy. (Maximum of 2 pages)
- 3) Provide a list of extracurricular activities you are involved in.

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Disabilities  
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# 4-H NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES ACADEMY

 Cooperative  
Extension Service

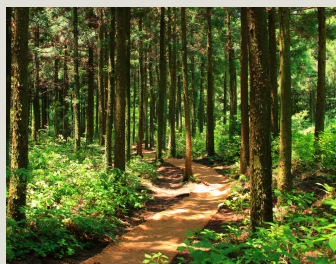


The 4-H Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRESci) Academy is now accepting applications for PY 2025-2026.

Do you know a 5th Grader that loves nature?

## »»» WHAT IS NRESCI?

The NRESci Academy is a 3-year program designed to teach youth about their natural environment. In the program, members participate in hands-on investigations to learn about Kentucky's water, forest, entomology, and wildlife resources.

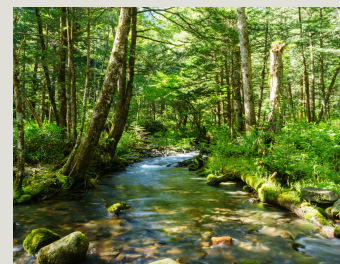


## »»» WHO CAN APPLY?

Applicants must be in the 5th grade at the time of the application (upcoming 6th graders the following Fall). If selected, youth/families must agree to make a 3-year commitment to the program. Please note that only 25 youth will be selected from the entire state to participate. Applications will be reviewed in May & applicants will be notified in June if they are selected to be a part of the program.

## »»» WHEN DOES THE ACADEMY MEET?

The Academy is a 3-year commitment & meets quarterly each year. Delegates attend a 2-day residential retreat at Feltner 4-H Camp in September & participate in three 1-day events held in winter, spring, & summer. The locations of the 1-day events vary & take place across the state at different natural areas/venues such as Salato Wildlife Education Center, Pine Mountain Settlement School, Robinson Forest, Lost River Cave, UK Campus, etc. (this is to ensure that youth experience a variety of natural areas & natural resource professionals during their 3 years in the program). Please note that this program does require substantial travel for families, as our 1-day events take place across the state. One-day events take place on weekdays, generally in October/November, February/March, and May. These dates are set at the beginning of each program year. The dates are scheduled for 2025-2026 & are listed on the application. Transportation to/from events is not provided. Families are responsible for providing transportation. (Agent note: Some county Extension staff provide transportation for their youth, while other counties rely on families to provide transportation. Many times, families will carpool to events.)



## »»» WHAT IS THE COST?

The cost of the program is \$175/year. The cost includes lodging and meals for the Fall Retreat & programming costs associated with the 1-day events. Partial and/or full scholarships may be available. If available, a scholarship application will be made available to members by June.

## »»» WHAT DO YOUTH DO IN THE ACADEMY?

Each year of the 3-year program, delegates concentrate on a different core area (water, entomology, forestry, wildlife) & interact with experts in each of these disciplines. Youth participate in a variety of field exercises, including stream sampling, forest measurement data collection, wildlife observation & trapping, insect collection & identification, & much more. Youth also have the opportunity to visit natural areas throughout the Commonwealth, such as Lost River Cave, Salato Wildlife Education Center, Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery, Pine Mountain Settlement School, Robinson Forest, University of Kentucky's campus, & more!



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For more information visit the  
4-H NRESci website  
<https://4-h.ca.uky.edu/NRESci> or  
contact Alissa Ackerman at 598-2789.