

Wildlife Identification

Objectives

Contestants will be able to identify wildlife species present in Arkansas based on visual, auditory and behavioral cues, and descriptions. The ability to identify these wildlife species and understanding their life histories will provide a basis for other contest activities.

Overview

Each team member will answer questions about wildlife found in the announced contest regions. Two regions will be wildlife species from the Urban and Wetlands ecoregions. The other ecoregion with associated species will be announced prior to the contest. All wildlife to be identified in this activity will be taken from the official species list.

This activity will focus on the contestant's ability to identify wildlife species. This includes identification from pictures, artifacts, replicas, or other representations as found in a natural outdoor condition. Wildlife identification can also include questions about life history and behavior that lead to identification. This information can be found in wildlife guides and references from libraries, bookstores and the Internet.

Wildlife species listed under the Urban and Wetlands ecoregions and from one other announced region will be eligible for this event. Minimally, contestants should be able to:

- Identify mammals by fur, skulls, vocalizations, tracks or other sign, such as a beaver's chewed log or a buck's rubbed tree.
- Identify birds by plumage, nests, eggs, tracks and birdsongs.
- Identify the male, female, juvenile and adult of a species.
- Know the unique life histories and behaviors of these wildlife species.

These items will be displayed on tables with corresponding numbers. Contestants are not allowed to touch items on the table unless directed to do so, such as for pressing a button on a device to hear a vocalization for identification.

Contest Rules

1. Each contestant needs to bring pencils and a clean clipboard. The clipboard may be labeled for identification purposes, but no other writing or other marks are allowed on the clipboard.
2. Junior and Senior contestants will complete the scorecard individually. This is not a team event, and thus, no talking or cheating is allowed.
Cloverbuds – This is a non-competitive activity for Cloverbuds. Cloverbuds can complete the scorecard individually, or with assistance from an adult or teen leader. Talking is allowed.
3. Contestants are required to identify wildlife species from the official species list from the announced ecoregion, plus species listed in Urban and Wetland ecoregions.
4. A list of wildlife species with a corresponding letter or number will be provided. The corresponding letter or number of the species must be placed on the scorecard to receive credit.
5. The same species may be selected more than once for identification. For example, both an antler and track of a white-tailed deer may appear on the contest.
6. Junior and Senior contestants will have 30 minutes to identify about 30 items and record information on the scorecard.