



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences



Georgia 4-H Environmental Education

Georgia 4-H Environmental Education:



Rigorous, Relevant, and Relationship-Building!



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences



Georgia 4-H Environmental Education

Goals

- To make the school program more meaningful by applying knowledge and skills acquired in the classroom to real life situations
- To cultivate curiosity, critical reasoning and evaluation
- To develop positive relationships among students and teachers
- To develop self-confidence and physical fitness
- To develop an awareness, knowledge and appreciation of the environment
- To develop appreciation for the local and natural history of an area
- To provide experiences in using scientific processes, such as observing, measuring, and classifying



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences



Georgia 4-H Environmental Education

Rigor

- 1 - Product Focus
- 2 - Clear and Compelling Standards
- 3 - Protection from Adverse Consequences for Initial Failures
- 4 - Affirmation Of The Significance of the Performance
- 5 – Affiliation
- 6 - Novelty and Variety
- 7 - Choice
- 8 - Authenticity
- 9 - Organization of Knowledge
- 10 - Content and Substance



"Inventing Better Schools: An Action Plan for Educational Reform" (1997). 10 Critical Qualities of Student Work:
Phil Schlechty



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences



Georgia 4-H Environmental Education

Relevance

“...an exceptional environmental education program...Their highly qualified instructors provide a hands-on, learning-based environmental science curriculum that motivates and challenges students. Their curriculum enhances the Georgia Performance Standards for science.”

-6th grade teacher, Fayette County



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences



Georgia 4-H Environmental Education

Building Relationships

“Using the environment as a context for teaching science [and other subject areas]...reduces discipline and class management issues, increases student engagement in the learning process, facilitates student pride and promotes ownership in achievements.”

The State Education and Environment Roundtable (1998). *Closing the Achievement Gap: Using the Environment as an Integrating Context for Learning.*
www.seer.org/pages/research.html.



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences



Georgia 4-H Environmental Education

Program Overview

- 30 Years of Experience
- Rigor, Relevance, & Relationships
- GPS Correlations
- Quality Staff
 - Minimum Bachelor Degree
 - Intensive Onsite Training
 - 1st Aid & CPR Certified

Georgia 4-H
Environmental
Education

*A Tradition
of Excellence for*

30
YEARS
1979 - 2009

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Services



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences



Georgia 4-H Environmental Education

From the Mountains to the Sea





THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences



Georgia 4-H Environmental Education

Wahsega 4-H Center

- 15 acres in North GA Mountains
- Sleeps: 222
- Offers Forest & Stream Ecology, Team Building, Pioneer Life, and more
- www.wahsega4h.org





THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences



Georgia 4-H Environmental Education

Fortson 4-H Center

- 77 Acres in Atlanta's Piedmont
- Sleeps:
- Offers Ecology, Living History, Team Building, & More
- www.fortson4h.org





THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences



Georgia 4-H Environmental Education

Rock Eagle 4-H Center

- 1428 Acres in middle Georgia's piedmont
- Sleeps: 400
- Offers Forest and Lake Ecology, Living History, Team Building, and more
- www.rockeagle4h.org





THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences



Georgia 4-H Environmental Education

Burton 4-H Center

- 6 Acres on Tybee Island
- Sleeps: 156
- Offers Marsh & Beach Ecology, Invertebrate Studies, and more
- www.burton4h.org





THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences



Georgia 4-H Environmental Education

Jekyll Island 4-H Center

- 9 Acres One of Georgia's Pristine Barrier Island
- Sleeps: 238
- Offers Marsh, Beach, & Forest Ecology, Invertebrate Studies, Orienteering, and more
- www.jekyll4h.org





THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences



Georgia 4-H Environmental Education

N.A.T.U.R.E.

Naturally gets students outside and connected with the environment

Aligned with the current state curriculum standards

Taught by well-trained and college educated instructors

Uses the outdoors as a classroom without walls

Reaches students through physical & active classes up to 8 hrs/day

Excellence: a tradition since 1979





THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences



Georgia 4-H Environmental Education

Activity Time



Hands on with David Weber



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences



Georgia 4-H Environmental Education

Any Questions?

Melanie Biersmith

melmel@uga.edu

www.georgia4h.org/ee

