



OUTDOOR ADVENTURES PROJECT AREA



Do you like being outdoors? You can become the ultimate explorer by designing an outdoor adventure! Choose from backpacking, biking, camping, canoeing, fishing, or hiking to create an adventure in the outdoors.

Ideas for Project Area Learning

- Choose an adventure like biking, camping, canoeing, fishing, or hiking.
- Learn about the proper gear for your adventure.
- Attend an Iowa 4-H summer camp or with your local 4-H club.
- Plan an outing for you and a friend or a family member.
- Learn about first aid and safety with the adventure that you choose.
- Research the saying “leave no trace.”
- Learn survival skills in different environments.
- Route your adventure using technology like a compass or geospatial mapping.
- Learn about equipment maintenance for various types of outdoor adventures.
- Learn how to cast for fish in many situations.
- Learn how to cook outdoor meals.
- Plan an overnight outdoor adventure for your family, friends, or club.
- Practice good outdoor manners using the “leave no trace” principle.
- Learn to prepare for emergencies in remote areas.
- Prepare for a big adventure such as RAGBRAI, or a backpack or canoe trip away from home.
- Start your own Geocaching adventure with your friends.
- Learn how to be a good environmental steward while engaging in your adventure.
- Learn about what it takes to camp overnight, what to take and where to go.
- Learn about water and boating safety.
- Learn about wildlife and plants you might encounter on a camping or hiking trip.
- Learn about GPS and compasses.

APPLY WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED

Communication

- Create a how to tie knots poster.
- Do a working demonstration on how to set up a tent.
- Create a blog on hot spots for fishing or great places to canoe.

Civic Engagement

- Volunteer to clean up community campgrounds or trails.
- Help at your local county park.
- Serve as a camp counselor.
- Plan an event at your local park.
- Map trees in city parks using GPS.

Leadership

- Clean up a pond or lake in your area to help the fish environment.
- Help catch fish for a fish fry to raise money for a charity.
- Plan an adventure for kids in your community.
- Teach younger kids how to cast a line.

Entrepreneurship

- Make a business plan for a weekend summer camp for youth.
- Create a how-to guide on all basic camping necessities.
- Lead a mountain biking course.



Goal Setting and Record Keeping

Goal setting is an ongoing process that guides your project area learning. Having goals is like having a road map to show you how to get you to where you want to go. Record keeping is also an ongoing process and another important life skill. In 4-H, you are encouraged to select from a variety of record keeping formats to meet your own personal needs and your preferred learning style. Keeping records of your learning experiences helps you determine how well you met your goals. Goal setting and record keeping improve your skills in organization, communication, planning, and evaluating.

Iowa 4-H Event Opportunities

- Participate in **county and state fair** exhibit classes.
- Check with your local county 4-H youth development staff to see if there are special events or **workshops in your county** that you want to attend to learn more about your project areas.
- Iowa 4-H members in grades 9–12 can apply for **State Project Area Awards** at State Recognition Day. Applications are open December through January.
- Meet young people from around the state who have completed grades 8–12, and share your interests at the **Iowa 4-H Youth Conference** held at Iowa State University in late June.
- Enjoy the out-of-doors by attending one of several annual **summer camps** through Iowa 4-H at the Clover Woods camping center.

Share Your Learning With an Exhibit

- Develop a presentation showing how to set up and take down a tent.
- Present on cooking outdoors.
- Make a poster showing how to start a fire with just one match.
- Make an exhibit about cooking a pizza over a campfire.
- Investigate the types of fish that can be found in your area.
- Develop a workshop that shows others how to make knots.
- Write and illustrate a cookbook about catching and cooking fish.
- Create an original piece of artwork using fish prints or other natural objects or dyes.

CAREER CONNECTIONS

- **Camp directors** oversee camp events and work as a team with employees to create curricula for different camps.
- **Photographers** often work for themselves, building a business where they host sessions with clients or sell photos.
- **GIS analysts** use mapping tools to manage and keep a collection of geographic maps.
- **Conservationists** work with government parks to study the environment.
- **Tour guides** lead visitors through places of interest and provide valuable information.

EDUCATION CONNECTIONS

- Students in **photography** learn more about digital photography, color balance, and artistic practices.
- If you enjoy spending time outside, working with the environment, and physical wellness, you may enjoy studying **outdoor leisure**.
- Study **natural resource conservation** if you enjoy studying soil, water, wildlife, and plants outside.
- Students in **GIS** programs learn more about geological sciences, biology, and computer science.

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