MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 30, 2020
TO: All County 4-H Agents, 4-H Program Assistants, and Volunteer Leaders
FROM: Renee Strnad, Environmental Educator, Extension Forestry
RE: 2020 WHEP Contest

It is time to begin registering teams for the North Carolina 4-H Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP). The contest will be held on APRIL 18, 2020, and we are heading back to the West District. This year our host site will be South Mountains State Park, located in Burke County. The first place senior team will have the opportunity to represent North Carolina at the National WHEP Invitational July 19-22, 2020, in Monticello, Kentucky.

The tentative schedule for the contest day is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Contest Begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:15 pm</td>
<td>Contest Resumes</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
<td>Scoring and Activities for Contestants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:45 pm</td>
<td>Presentation of Awards</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Counties are encouraged to bring more than one Junior and Senior team, each consisting of three to four members, as well as any individual competitors. Neighboring counties (no more than two) may combine 4-Hers to create a team. Make additional copies of the attached registration form if needed. This year's contest will consist of wildlife identification and general wildlife knowledge, on-site habitat recommendations, habitat evaluation using aerial photos, and identification of wildlife foods. The contest region will be Eastern Deciduous Forest. Please make sure you are aware of the program updates!! A new manual (January 2017, 5th Edition) has been uploaded to the NC WHEP web site, as well as training resources. Teams will need to provide their own clipboards and pencils for each team member. Contest will take place rain or shine. Counties are responsible for their own travel arrangements.
Following is the registration form for this year's WHEP contest. Please return the completed form by **April 3, 2020**. Agents and 4-H leaders that are currently not involved in the state WHEP program are encouraged to attend part or all of the days’ events to learn more, but must send in the registration form. We do not encourage county teams to come and observe, believing the best way to learn is by participating! All registered teams will receive a confirmation and any needed additional information by April 10.

*Due to recent changes in youth participating in events, all 4-H Agents (or county directors if no 4-H Agent) will be required to sign off on registration forms, which demonstrates that the team coach has been properly vetted and background checked at the county level.*

Lastly, as you begin making plans (but don’t have your teams hammered out yet), here are some websites that might be useful.

- The 2020 State Contest will be based on the 2017 NC WHEP Learning and Activity Guide – 5th Edition ([http://forestry.ces.ncsu.edu/4h](http://forestry.ces.ncsu.edu/4h)).
- **South Mountains State Park**  [https://www.ncparks.gov/south-mountains-state-park/home](https://www.ncparks.gov/south-mountains-state-park/home)

**Area Hotels/Motels**
Closest hotels will be along Interstate 40 in Morganton. These hotels are about 25-30 minutes from the contest venue. Hotels in this area include Days Inn, Comfort Inn and Suites, Sleep Inn, and Hampton Inn (and others).

**Camping**
Camping is available onsite by reservation. Please note the variety of amenities and the gate access information online  [https://www.ncparks.gov/south-mountains-state-park/camping](https://www.ncparks.gov/south-mountains-state-park/camping)

- **National WHEP Page**  [http://www.whep.org](http://www.whep.org)
- **NC WHEP**  [http://forestry.ces.ncsu.edu/4h](http://forestry.ces.ncsu.edu/4h)

Good luck and I look forward to seeing you and your 4-Hers! South Mountains State Park!

Renee Strnad
Environmental Educator
919.515.5518
renee_strnad@ncsu.edu
2020 REGISTRATION FORM  Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program

April 18, 2020
South Mountains State Park

County _______________________________  Date ______________________

Make copies of this form as needed. Registration deadline is April 03, 2020.

Names of Senior Team Members/Individuals  Age  Race  Sex
____________________________________________  ______  ______  ______
____________________________________________  ______  ______  ______
____________________________________________  ______  ______  ______
____________________________________________  ______  ______  ______

Names of Junior Team Members/Individuals  Age  Race  Sex
____________________________________________  ______  ______  ______
____________________________________________  ______  ______  ______
____________________________________________  ______  ______  ______
____________________________________________  ______  ______  ______

Name and addresses of team coaches attending contest
____________________________________________
____________________________________________
____________________________________________
____________________________________________
(phone) ______________________________________  (phone) ______________________
(Email) ________________________________  (Email) __________________________

County 4-H Agent Approval (Or County Director if no 4-H Agent)
I verify that the team coach(es) has been properly vetted and background checked at the county level, and that all team members listed are valid 4-H club members who meet the official eligibility requirements.

(Name) ___________________________________  (Signature) ___________________

RETURN FORM TO:
WHEP  OR FAX TO:
Extension Forestry  919-515-6883
North Carolina State University
Campus Box 8008
Raleigh, NC  27695-8008  OR EMAIL TO:
renee_strnad@ncsu.edu