

News Article  
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### Coosa 4-H Wildlife Team - State Champions!

Coosa 4-H'ers have done it again. They have earned another State Championship in the Alabama 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Contest which was held recently at Auburn University. The senior team of Anna Vines, Treavor Abrams, Elijah Phillips and Samuel Cordner, and alternate Sean Ewbanks, all worked hard and won first place in the state competition. The junior team consisting of Samantha Wood, Caleb Glover, Jessica Ingram, Codie Compton and alternate Holley Ingram also did well by placing second in the junior division. The teams were coached by County Extension Coordinator, Roger Vines with help from chaperones Shelly Wood and Jennifer Ayers.

Individual scores were also impressive with three of our senior 4-H'ers bringing home the top three individual awards. Anna Vines finished as the overall high individual, Treavor Abrams placed second high, Elijah Phillips earned third high and Samuel Cordner was not far behind. In the junior division, Caleb Glover finished third high overall.

To prepare for this contest the team members must study a wildlife management manual and learn the habitats needed of a variety of wild animals. They learned how to identify wildlife by their common name from snakes to waterfowl and songbirds. They had to learn how to read and interpret aerial photographs and evaluate them for wildlife habitat. The team also learned about wildlife foods and wildlife management practices that are used to enhance wildlife habitat on a tract of forestland. In addition, they had to develop a management plan and make recommendations for creating a backyard wildlife area.

The senior team members are now busy preparing for the National 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Contest to be held in Cedar City, Utah. This will certainly be a challenge since the wildlife and habitat will be so dramatically different. Instead of whitetail deer, turkey, squirrels, rabbit and other animals found in our backyard, now they must learn about management of habitats consisting of sagebrush, and junipers for species such as pronghorn, mule deer, sage grouse, trout and others.

Good luck to these Coosa 4-H members as they work to represent our county and state at the national level. They have their goals set on winning the national championship if they can pull it off.