

# MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** January 30, 2009  
**TO:** All County 4-H Agents and 4-H Program Assistants  
**FROM:** Renee Strnad, Environmental Educator, Extension Forestry  
**RE:** 2009 WHEP Contest

It is time to begin registering teams for the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program (WHEP). The state contest will be held on Saturday, April 18, from 10am to 5pm at Holmes Educational State Forest in Henderson county. The first place senior team will have the opportunity to represent North Carolina at the National WHEP Invitational in July.

The tentative schedule for Saturday is as follows:

|          |       |  |
|----------|-------|--|
| 9:30 am  | ----- | Registration and Demonstration         |
| 10:00 am | ----- | Contest Begins                         |
| 12:00 pm | ----- | Lunch                                  |
| 12:45 pm | ----- | Contest Resumes                        |
| 1:30 pm  | ----- | Scoring and Activities for Contestants |
| 4:00 pm  | ----- | Presentation of Awards                 |

Counties are able to bring more than one Junior and Senior team 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, on-site habitat recommendations, habitat evaluation using aerial photos, and identification of wildlife foods.

Enclosed is the registration form for this year's WHEP contest. Please return the completed form by April 1, 2009. A map to the contest location and other information will be sent to teams upon registration. 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!

This year, the Henderson County 4-H Advisory Committee has generously offered to provide lunch for all contest participants and up to two team coaches. Families, additional coaches, and others traveling with county WHEP teams may purchase lunch for \$5.00 per person. You *must* RSVP and pre-pay. Checks can be made out to Run-Abouts 4-H Club and sent to: Henderson County 4-H, 740 Glover ST, Hendersonville, NC 28792. Please put WHEP Lunch in the memo line. Questions can be directed to Cindy Williams at [cindy\\_williams@ncsu.edu](mailto:cindy_williams@ncsu.edu) or 828-697-491.

Lastly, as you begin making plans (but don't have your teams hammered out yet), here are some web sites that might be useful. Again, more information will be sent out upon registration.

Holmes Educational State Forest  
[www.ncesf.org/HESF/home.htm](http://www.ncesf.org/HESF/home.htm)

Camping in the Area  
[www.historichendersonville.org/campgrounds\\_rv\\_parks.htm](http://www.historichendersonville.org/campgrounds_rv_parks.htm)

Area State Parks  
[www.historichendersonville.org/parks\\_nc.htm](http://www.historichendersonville.org/parks_nc.htm)

Area Hotels/Motels  
Holmes Educational State Forest is located pretty equally between Hendersonville and Brevard. Lodging can easily be found in these areas, as well as Pisgah Forest. Remember to request the state rate.  
[www.historichendersonville.org/accommodations\\_hotels.htm](http://www.historichendersonville.org/accommodations_hotels.htm)

National WHEP Page  
[www.whep.org](http://www.whep.org)

NC WHEP  
[www.ces.ncsu.edu/forestry/4hprogramming.htm](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/forestry/4hprogramming.htm)

Good luck and I look forward to seeing you and your county teams at Holmes Educational State Forest!

Renee Strnad  
Environmental Educator  
919.515.5518  
[renee\\_strnad@ncsu.edu](mailto:renee_strnad@ncsu.edu)