The educational sessions address forestry, wildlife, water quality, and conservations.

Extension Developed a 4-H Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Academy

The three year intensive 4-H Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Academy for eastern Kentucky youth fosters scientific inquiry, increases environmental literacy, promotes career paths in the natural sciences and develops leadership.
Scholars work in teams to create projects during educational sessions and conducting community projects as they develop leadership skills.

The Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Academy (NRESci Adcademy) is conducted at the University of Kentucky Robinson Center for Appalachian Resource Sustainability (RCARS) in Jackson, Kentucky. A select group of scholars (youth from eastern Kentucky counties) commit to three years of educational programing. Current middle school and high school scholars from Leslie, Perry, Carter, Breathitt, Wolfe, Knott, and Owsley Counties are participating. Many of these scholars are from families who have never attended college. Applications to become a scholar must be submitted in the fall for students in 7th or 8th grade.

Programs are conducted by University Extension faculty, specialists, agents and staff. Each year of the three year program has a difficulty, forestry and entomology, and wildlife management. Scholars participate in a multi-day residential learning experience at the UK Robinson Forest Camp and partake in county-based service learning projects and quarterly meetings throughout the year designed to expose youth to different aspects of their focus area.

The NRESChi Academy has shown me the vast amount of career opportunities involving Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. Studying the different core units (water, forestry, and wildlife) has really helped me in choosing what career I’d most enjoy pursuing.

Destiney MacLean, NRESChi Academy Graduate

The NRESChi Academy is a wonderful thing for young people, giving them an opportunity to work with some brilliant people that teach them about things that are important to their own community, such as wildlife and forestry. The NRESChi Academy is an asset to any young person from eastern Kentucky because of the opportunities that it gives.

- Melissa, Parent of a Scholar