



# 4-H Adventures in Nature

## Water Challenges

Water is the driving force of  
all nature.

~Leonardo da Vinci

Let's wade into the water for this challenge to explore some fun things you can find and learn in water.

### Freshwater Finds

Take a hike or hop on your bike to find a creek, pond, lake or river! Take a look in the shallows for the water critters that call it home. Walk along the shore and flip over some of rocks to see what water macroinvertebrates live there. Stop to observe them more closely. Use the [Macroinvertebrate Key](#) from the [Stroud Water Research Center](#) to identify your findings. Use the [Freshwater Finds Chart](#) to record observations of at least 3 different creatures.

### Gone Fishing

Blue Gills... Sun Fish... Bass... Oh My! Pack up your fishing gear along with paper and crayons, and head out to your favorite fishing hole to cast the day away. Remember, anyone under the age of 16 in Illinois does not need a license to fish. Be sure to check out [Illinois DNR](#) for more on fishing licenses and other helpful fishing tips. When you reel in your catches, try to identify the fish using the [Illinois DNR Fish Species chart](#). Make a drawing of your favorite part of your fishing experience and share it with others.

(Learn more from the [Sportfishing](#) 4-H project manuals, levels 1, 2, and 3. For more information, contact your county 4-H staff.)

### Rain Gauge

Using household items, build a rain gauge. Check out the [How to Make a Rain Gauge](#) guide from the [South Carolina Botanical Gardens at Clemson University](#) for instructions. Once you've built your gauge and have it set up, use the [Weather Tracking Chart](#) for 1 week to record your local rainfall.

(Learn more from the [Weather 1](#), [Weather 2](#), and [Weather 3,4](#)-H project manuals. For more information, contact your county 4-H staff.)

### Water BINGO

Grab a friend and head for a nearby body of water. Use the [Water Bingo Card](#) to see what all you can find on your adventure.

For more information about 4-H project manuals or other Adventure in Nature activities, contact Judy Schmidt, [schmid7@illinois.edu](mailto:schmid7@illinois.edu) or Emily Schoenfelder, [eshoe@illinois.edu](mailto:eshoe@illinois.edu).



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