

2026 Utah 4-H Outdoor Skills Challenge

July 17-18 - Escalante Petrified Forest State Park

CHALLENGES & SCORING

General Rules:

- This event is created as an opportunity for youth to gather, explore their interests in the outdoors, build belonging, learn and be engaged in healthy competition. Brief instruction periods will be given at the beginning of each skill challenge event.
- Youth will compete in teams of two. When registering, youth may list their partner. If they do not have a partner, one will be assigned to them at registration. If the two team members of a team are in different age divisions, the team will compete in the age division of the older team member.
- All five events will be scored at 100 points each totaling 500 points with a bonus of 50 possible points.
- The Challenge Events:
 - Tandem Kayaking
 - Team will start on the bank, get into the kayak, and launch into the water. They will maneuver around a set pattern of buoys. Pattern will be age-division appropriate. This is a timed event. Time penalties will be given for broken patterns or touching the buoys.
 - Compass Course
 - This challenge is designed for beginner level and up as a fun way to get their bearings as they learn how to navigate with an orienteering compass. The participants must be able to find a direction with a compass when given a bearing. No pacing of distances is necessary. This is a timed challenge.
 - Plant & Wildlife Identification
 - Teams will identify 10 plant species and 10 animal species native to the area. This challenge will be given as a “multiple choice” format. Plant species will be live. Wildlife ID will be any combination of pictures, hides, skulls, tracks or scat. Correct answers will receive 5 points each with a total possible of 100 points.
 - 10 Essentials – Coyote Gulch Overnighter Scenario
 - The Scenario: Team is preparing to go on a 2 day hike in Coyote Gulch.
 - The Challenge: Choose 10 items from a display of gear that the team feels are the most essential items to have with them on their “trip”.
 - Gear selection is scored up to 50 points. Oral explanation of selections is also scored up to 50 points.
 - Rescue Race
 - Teams will exhibit their knowledge of basic wilderness first aid skills as they work together to rescue an injured hiker on the trail. This event is scored up to 50 points for time and 50 points for quality of care of their “patient”.
 - Bonus
 - Teams will be given 20 minutes to fish. Each team member that catches a fish during that time will be awarded 25 bonus points for their team.
- Resources: there are many resources available in libraries and online to help you learn more about these challenge areas prior to the event.