

Engaging K-12 Learners in Informal Settings

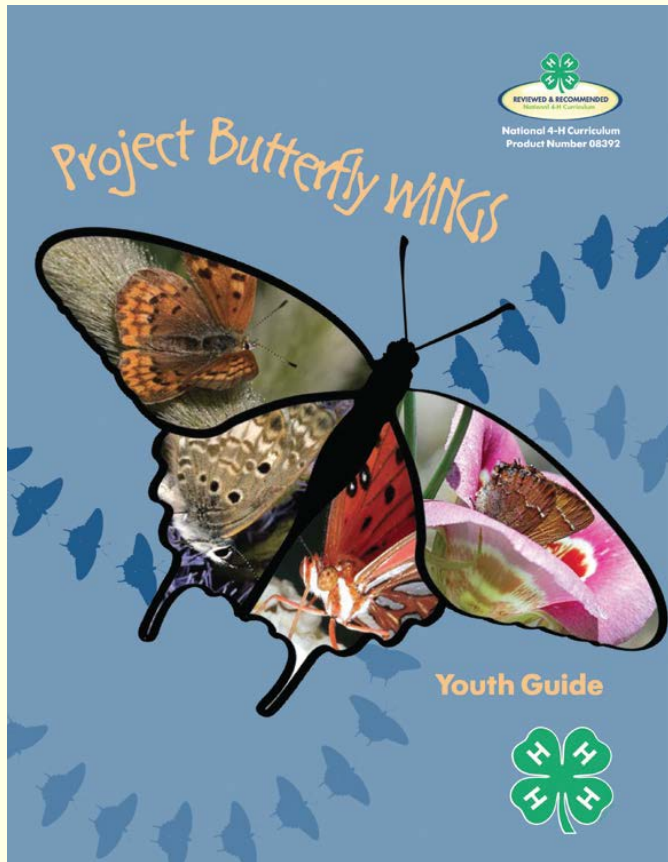


Informal Science Settings

- Everyday environments
- Designed environments
- Programs



Field- and Web-based Butterfly Monitoring Project



- Citizen Science project
- Targets 4-H youth in grades 4-8

Broader Impacts:



- Science interest, understanding & long-term engagement
- Environmental awareness
- 4-H Life Skills/Positive Youth Development
- Citizen Science
- Scientific data
- Understanding of science learning

Learning from Evidence

- Living organisms or digitized collections
 - How do we know?
 - Why do we think like this?



4-H Experiential Learning Model

- Explore
- Learn
- Contribute
- Investigate



Using Digitized Collections to Develop Children's Skills in:

- Observing
- Posing questions
- Collecting & analyzing data
- Making inferences
- Communicating ideas



Experiences in Informal Settings

- Variety of environments & programs
- Learning is free choice – but less so for programs
 - Intrinsic motivation
 - Interests
 - On-going
- Content
 - Engaging
 - Responsive
 - Connections
- More diversity of ages & backgrounds



Informal Learning

- Occurs over time & across settings
- Idiosyncratic

