



Rendering of 4-H AL Environmental Science Education Center. Image courtesy of [Davis Architects](#)

U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby is going to be a busy individual today as he helps celebrate two of our state's newest projects to provide top-level environmental educational facilities. He'll be present at 10 a.m. when the Alabama 4-H unveils its new \$5 million, 17,500 square-foot [Environmental Science Education Center](#) nestled along [Lay Lake](#) near Columbiana. He will then make his way to Birmingham this afternoon for a [2 p.m. groundbreaking ceremony](#) to celebrate the start of construction on [Ruffner Mountain](#)'s new visitors center.

This morning's 4-H dedication ceremony will also feature the release of several rehabilitated red-tail hawks by the [Southeast Raptor Center](#), part of Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine, a symbol of 4-H's commitment to the environment according to a statement included in their press release. A [Shockwave slide show presentation](#) is available on the organization's website.

The 4-H center has received [LEED](#) Gold certification while Ruffner is seeking LEED certification upon completion of the project.