

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR OLDER 4-H CLUB MEMBERS

Portfolios (formerly Cumulative Records) (due early Feb.)

4-H members who are 13 or older (age determined as of January 1 of the current program year) and who have had two or more years in 4-H project work are eligible to submit portfolios for district and state competition.



A portfolio is similar to a project record, except that it summarizes a member's work in a project area for three consecutive years, rather than just one year. Like a project record, it also summarizes the member's experience in leadership, community service, and citizenship. There are many different categories of cumulative records. Interested youth need to request a copy of the current Award's Handbook.

Youth who submit a portfolio by the announced county deadline and go on to earn a gold rating at the district level will receive \$25 from Henderson County 4-H. Portfolios are judged at the a district and state levels with gold, silver and bronze medals awarded at each level. District winners receive a medal and certificate. In MOST categories (check the current Award's Handbook for each category), state medalists win monetary awards.

Presentations

Youth, ages 15 and up by January 1 of current program year, who win gold medals at the state presentation competition in these categories may qualify for competition at the national level: horse, poultry and egg. Check the NC 4-H Awards Handbook and Subject Matter Specialists for specific information.

NC 4-H Congress (July) Approximate Cost \$190—extra spending money needed

Youth ages 13 and older (as of January 1 of the current program year) are eligible to attend NC 4-H Congress if they completed a red or blue ribbon presentation in county competition. District officers, portfolio and scholarship winners, and winners of Application, Resume, Interview, Essay, are also eligible. They can use scholarship money earned from presentations or other 4-H contests to pay all or part of their registration fee.

Congress delegates are transported to Raleigh and chaperoned by Extension Staff members and parent volunteers. Many families choose to travel to Raleigh on their own and stay in hotels for the presentation competition. Congress activities include workshops, a community service project, a dance, and election of state officers.



NC 4-H Citizenship Focus (June) Approximate cost \$250

Teens apply for this opportunity to learn about state and local government in the Spring. They may have the opportunity to meet with elected officials in Raleigh from Henderson County.

North Carolina 4-H Ambassador Program

The mission of the North Carolina 4-H Ambassador program is to empower teen 4-H leaders with the knowledge, skills and aspirations necessary to be effective advocates for NC 4-H Youth Development. Teens are taught about leadership so that they may serve as positive role models for younger youth; build meaningful partnerships with other teens, adult volunteers and 4-H professionals; and promote the 4-H mission in North Carolina.

The goal is that every North Carolina teen 4-H member will have the personal initiative, program resources, and leadership opportunities to be a positive role model and a vocal advocate for the 4-H program in our state.

Basic Premises of the NC 4-H Ambassador Program

- Encourages personal development and service to NC 4-H for teen 4-H members.
- Is based upon an individual teen's performance towards established standards.
- Is self-based and self-paced

Documents the teen's accomplishments through a Personal Leadership Portfolio developed by the Ambassador based upon defined criteria.

NC 4-H Ambassador Program Guidelines

- To apply to become a NC 4-H Ambassador, a member must be at least 13 years old and have been a 4-H member for 2 years, both as of January 1.
- Ambassador registrations and portfolio submissions must be approved by the county 4-H professional prior to submission to the State Ambassador Program Coordinator.
- Personal Leadership Portfolios compiled by the Ambassador candidate document individual achievements, and must follow specified statewide guidelines.
- A 4-H member can achieve only one Ambassador level per portfolio submission. Participants must complete and have verified one level before advancing to the next.
- It is recommended that a 4-H member take no longer than 2 calendar years to complete a single Ambassador level. Requirements for each level must include only those activities and courses completed after January 1 of the year the member entered that level.
- Portfolios may be submitted for verification twice yearly, in April and October.
- Ambassador Leadership Team members, including a trained county 4-H professional, an adult volunteer and/or current Ambassador will review Portfolios, verify requirements and award levels of achievement.
- All Ambassadors successfully completing any Ambassador level(s) will be recognized at the NC 4-H Congress.

ARIE (Application, Résumé Interview and Essay Program)

ARIE is a state level competition, as well as a wonderful way to practice and prepare for college and job interviews, applications, resumes, and essays.

Active 4-H'ers who are 11 and older (age determined as of January 1 of the current program year) are invited to participate in the ARIE program. For ages, 11-13, the process is just practice. Youth in this age group submit a simple application and take part in the interview. Youth ages 14 and up take part in the competition.

This program prepares youth for real-world experiences in completing applications and submitting résumés for jobs, intern positions or college, and participating in scholarship, college and job interviews. The program is used to select the delegates to attend national level 4-H program including:

- National 4-H Congress
- National 4-H Conference
- International 4-H Congress

To participate, youth submit an application, résumé and introductory electronic video to the State 4-H Office early in May. Selected youth are then invited to participate in electronic video interviews. The overall score is determined as follows: video interview (50%), résumé (30%), and introductory video (20%). Youth who earn the top scores overall are selected to represent North Carolina 4-H at the events mentioned above. Youth can only attend each national event once in their 4-H career.

4-H Scholarships

The North Carolina 4-H Foundation awards thousands of dollars in college scholarships each year to active 4-H members. There are over 40 scholarships available. To apply for these scholarships, youth submit their application to the State 4-H Office in January. Members can get an application from the County 4-H Agent.

North Carolina 4-H Honor Club

Being inducted into the North Carolina 4-H Honor Club is the pinnacle of a 4-H member's career. It is a special honor bestowed upon those 4-H'ers who have exhibited outstanding 4-H citizenship and leadership throughout their 4-H career. An Honor Club member continues to provide leadership and service to the total 4-H program throughout life.



4-H'ers can submit an application for 4-H Honor Club when they are 16 (age determined as of January 1 of the current program year) and have at least three years of 4-H membership. The total number of applicants inducted into the NC 4-H Honor Club is limited to 0.5% of the current enrollment of North Carolina 4-H members.

New 4-H Honor Club members are inducted during a special candlelight tapping ceremony held during North Carolina 4-H Congress. 3

Western District Teen Retreat (Spring) Approximate cost: \$90

Western District 4-H members (who are 13 and older as of January 1)

This is a leadership retreat planned by West District 4-H Officers. During this weekend event, youth attend workshops, elect district officers, and enjoy social and recreational activities.

District & State Elected Leadership Opportunities

In addition to club and county elected officer roles, members who have been an active 4-H members for at least two years can also hold district and state offices.

DISTRICT: Youth must be at least 14 as of January 1 to run for a district office. To run, a member must request the nomination of his county 4-H Council. If he receives his county's nomination, he will fill out a nomination form and submit it by the announced deadline. The member will prepare a campaign that meets the announced campaign guidelines. District officer elections are held during District Teen Retreat.

STATE: Youth must be at least 16 as of January 1 to run for a state office. To run, a member must request the nomination of his county 4-H Council. If he receives his county's nomination, he will fill out a nomination form and submit it by the announced deadline. The member will prepare a campaign that meets the announced campaign guidelines. State officer elections are held during North Carolina 4-H Congress.

New district and state officers are inducted during North Carolina 4-H Congress. A 4-H member may only hold a district office and a state office once in their 4-H career.



NC Association of County Commissioners Youth Summit (August)

The NC Association of County Commissioners provides the Youth Summit annually for one teen representative from each county. This is an overnight trip to the County Commissioners' Annual Conference. Teens from the West District will travel as a group to the Youth Summit with two 4-H staff chaperones. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn about local government and meet with local officials. Applications are due in the spring.