



# Senior 4-H Portfolio Program

**This document, along with all of the resources and information on the State 4-H webpage are designed to help prepare youth to apply for these opportunities. Contact your local 4-H Educator if you need specific help with this process.**

The Senior 4-H Portfolio Program is used by the State 4-H program to select delegates to represent Maryland at the five National 4-H Leadership Opportunities which are supported by the Maryland 4-H Program and the Maryland 4-H Foundation. This portfolio consists of a resume and essay and to be considered for one of these five leadership trips, it must be submitted by a 4-H through the National 4-H Leadership Trips Application (Event in 4-H Online) by January 15th. Applicants must be interviewed through the interview process described in this document.

To be eligible, a 4-H member must be 14 as of January 1<sup>st</sup> (the year of the trip). Members must be enrolled and approved in 4-H Online in order to submit their application. Individuals may attend each trip only once in a calendar year and a maximum of 3 leadership trips during their 4-H career.

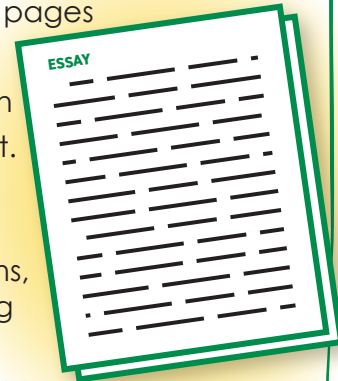
## Portfolio Package: Resume

- Leadership, Citizenship and Life skills based
- Length – no more than three pages
- Single spaced
- Margins – no less than 1 inch
- Font Size – no less than 12 pt.
- Font Type - Times New Roman
- Scored anonymously by three judges using the Resume Scoresheet (available on the [State 4-H webpage](#))
- Maximum points= 40



## Portfolio Package: Essay

- Must be written in response to the annual theme available on the State 4-H webpage
- Length – no more than two pages
- Double spaced
- Margins – no less than 1 inch
- Font Size – no less than 12 pt.
- Font Type - Times New Roman
- For some life skills suggestions, please refer to the Targeting Life Skills Model.
- Scored anonymously by three judges using the Essay Scoresheet (available on the State 4-H webpage)
- Maximum points= 20



## Portfolio Process: Interview

- Held at regional location(s) on set dates. Applicants for National Leadership Trips will have a choice of three locations to select from. Virtual interview opportunities will also be available at select locations.
- Interviewed by a small group of judges on topic 3 areas (civic engagement, leadership and life skills) according to the Interview Score Sheets (available on the [State 4-H webpage](#)).



## Portfolio Process Timeline:

Trip	Deadline	Portfolio Judging	Interviews	Notification	Acceptance
<b>National 4-H Conference</b>	January 15	January-February	Last Sunday in January via Zoom	February 15	March 1
<b>National 4-H Leadership Trips</b>	January 15	February-March	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday in February (in person in Queen Anne's County) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday in February (in person in Carroll County) or 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in February via Zoom <b>Inclement Weather dates:</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday in February or 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in February	March 15	April 1 • Camp Miniwanca • VA 4-H Congress • WV Older Member's Conference  June 1 National 4-H Congress

## Selection Process:

- 1) Senior 4-H Portfolios for state consideration must be submitted through [4-H Online](#) (Event Registration) by the designated state deadline. **Local 4-H Educators may review portfolios for review and may set earlier deadlines for their jurisdiction.**
- 2) Portfolios approved in 4-H Online by the local 4-H Educator by the state deadline will be considered for state review and processing. Essays and resumes will be judged by three anonymous judges coordinated by the State 4-H Office. An individual's essay scores and resume scores will be averaged for the cumulative score.
- 3) Interviews will be conducted and an individual's interview scoresheets will be averaged for the cumulative score.
- 4) Averaged essay, resume and interview scores are combined to attain an individual's overall total score out of 100 points possible. Individuals must meet the minimum score established by the Awards & Recognition Committee to be awarded a trip (80% for Leadership Trips and 85% for Conference).