

4-H PORTFOLIOS

A portfolio is a written summary of a member's 4-H experiences, using standardized 4-H Portfolio forms. The portfolio includes:

1. Size and scope and skills and knowledge gained for each project
2. Learning experiences
3. Leadership
4. Community service
5. Non-4-H experiences
6. Story
7. Pictures

Why Should We Do Portfolios? Youth learn many important skills as they work on their portfolio, including organizational skills, creative writing skills, the ability to assess “value” to the products of their project work (i.e., dollars earned, money saved), learning to identify skills and knowledge gained, record-keeping skills, and the ability to positively share their work through photos and captions.

Beyond these important skills, a well-documented portfolio will benefit your child in many tangible ways including:

1. They will be able to compete in portfolio competition each year. We allow our members to submit portfolios in two different curriculum areas. Honors and awards are presented during 4-H Achievement Night.
2. Portfolios are used on the state level to select 4-H Ambassadors, 4-H scholarship recipients, and to determine which members will represent Utah in national conferences.
3. Portfolios become a fabulous resource that helps your child beyond their 4-H involvement. For example, it becomes a useful tool in applying for college, non-4-H scholarships, state or international exchanges, intern positions, or jobs.
4. A portfolio helps to “steer” your child into those types of 4-H experiences that will really push him or her to grow and develop, such as leadership roles, community service, and public speaking.

Members will want to start work on their portfolio very early in their 4-H career and maintain their record each year. It is very wise to attend 4-H Portfolio Training during your child's first year in 4-H. It is so much easier to know what, how and when to document their 4-H activities, than to try to go back later and remember all the things that they did.

Our Junior Livestock Council and 4-H Horse Council have additional portfolio requirements for their members:

- Youth in the livestock project are required to submit their portfolio by the deadline announced to receive premiums from the county fair.
- Youth in the horse project are required to submit their portfolio by the deadline announced to be eligible to compete in the state show.