

4-H OPPORTUNITIES



Many of the applications and forms referred below can be found online at: <http://www.nc4h.org>. There you need to click on "Youth", then "Awards and Incentives Program".



4-H Project Records. Project records highlight what a 4-H'er has learned and done in a specific project area for a period of 12 months. The books are judged in age categories of: 9-10, 11-12, 13-15 and 16-18. They are submitted to the County 4-H office at the end of your 4-H year. The top county winners in each of the curriculum areas are then submitted to Raleigh for district competition. Most counties have their records due in the months of December and January.

4-H Cumulative Records. This is an accumulation of up to three years of 4-H project work in a major project area. Records are submitted in age categories of 13-15 and 16-18. These books must be postmarked to the State 4-H Office by March 1. State winners receive cash awards. The County 4-H Agent must sign off on this record book.

4-H Presentations. A method of presenting information by demonstration or illustrated talk for competition. The time limit is generally between 5 and 12 minutes, with specific time regulations in specific categories. Each county determines how 4-H'ers are selected to compete at district competition. In the junior categories, the first place winners from district competition go on to compete at the State level. In the senior age divisions, the first and second place winners can compete at state. State winners in sponsored categories receive cash awards. In specific categories, the state-winning seniors may go on to compete at the national level.

4-H Ambassadors. Applicants must be at least 13 years old and a 4-H member for two years as of January 1. Ambassador registrations and portfolios must be approved by a county 4-H professional before submitting to the state 4-H office. 4-H'ers may earn Bronze, Silver, Gold and Emerald Ambassador levels by completing portfolios for each level. Each level has specific requirements. A 4-H member can only achieve one Ambassador level per portfolio submission. Ambassadors portfolios are submitted in April and October.

Application, Resume and Interview (ARI). Date due in State 4-H Office: May 15. Applications must be at least 14 years old as of January 1. This program is used to select the delegations to attend National 4-H Congress, National 4-H Conference and the International Leadership Conference. Participants must complete a two-page application and submit a resume of no more than two pages. The resume should highlight the 4-H'ers achievements, project work and leadership throughout their career. The County 4-H Agent must sign off on the application before it is submitted. Interviews are held in conjunction with the ARI retreat. Winners are announced at the conclusion of the retreat.

Teen Retreat. The North Carolina State 4-H Program is divided into seven districts; West, Northwest, Southwest, South Central, North Central, Northeast and Southeast. Each district has a teen council and elected officers. These teen officers help to plan the district-wide 4-H events for the year, including: District Activity Day, Teen Retreat, and other district teen activities. Teen Retreat is generally held in the spring. This leadership building retreat generally offers training and workshops centering around the state 4-H project. 4-H'ers ages 13 to 18 are able to attend. District teen council officers are elected either at Teen Retreat or District Activity Day, depending on the district.

NC 4-H Congress. Held the third week of July, NC 4-H Congress is the culminating 4-H event for the year. The event is geared for teen 4-H'ers ages 13-18; however, junior 4-H'ers may attend if they were named district presentation winners. Congress is held on the campus of NC State University. Activities of the week include: State Fashion Show, State Talent Show, State Presentation Finals, Honor Club Tapping, State-level Hands-to-Service Project, State 4-H Council Officer Elections, Banquets, Dances and lots more.

4-H Camps. The North Carolina 4-H Camping Program offers programming for 4-H'ers of all ages. Counties generally take a delegation of 4-H'ers (ages 8-13) to one of the 4-H camping centers for 4-H Junior Camp each summer. County camp locations and dates change each year. A few of the general 4-H camps utilize Leaders In Training. These are 4-H'ers not quite old enough to be a full time camp counselor – but at least 16 years old. LIT's generally work at a camp for two weeks to gain counselor experience. Other 4-H Specialty Camps available are: Fur, Fish and Game, Shooting Sports, Marine Science, Cloverbud and others. Camp recruitment begins in January of each year.

4-H Electric Congress. North Carolina 4-H Electric Congress is an educational event designed to recognize excellence in the Electric Program throughout the state. Electric Congress travels from region to region of the state, thus allowing for a variety of programming opportunities for everyone. Four-H members participate in workshops, meet their Power Company Representatives, and interact with other electric winners. 4-H'ers must be at least 11 years old to attend. Counties may send 2 project winners, 2 cumulative record participants, and one program recruiter. April 15 is the deadline to register. 4-H Electric Congress is usually held the 2nd week of July.

TRY-IT (Teens Reaching Youth through Innovative Teams). TRY-IT provides an opportunity for 4-H teens to become teachers/facilitators by completing required training at a basic TRY-IT retreat. Teams of at least three 4-H teens and one adult volunteer receive specific training to become certified TRY-IT members. TRY-IT teams utilize their skills to teach specific curricula to younger youth in their counties. Basic TRY-IT retreats are typically held in the spring and fall of each year.

Animal Shows. Each county and district offers a wide variety of animal shows. Generally, the following shows are offered across the state: District Horse Show – held in May, State 4-H Horse Show – held the second week of July, State Dairy Judging – held the end of June, State 4-H Horse Bowl – March, State 4-H Horse Judging – April, State Stockman's Bowl – October. There are many other shows held on the county, district and state level. You Livestock Agent or 4-H Agent should be able to share those dates.

4-H College Scholarships. High School Seniors may apply for 4-H scholarships. The application is to be postmarked to the State 4-H Office and signed by the County 4-H Agent by January 15. One application form is completed if applying for one or more than one scholarship. Several of these scholarships are restricted to youth that meet certain criteria. The County 4-H Agent receives information on these scholarships in early December. Scholarship awards range in amounts from \$500 to \$2000.

NC 4-H Honor Club. A 4-H'er must be 16 years of age or older as of January 1 to apply. Membership is based on a point system involving community service, 4-H activities, leadership and citizenship. Applications are due in the State 4-H Office on January 15. The County 4-H Agent must sign off on this application.

4-H Group Awards. There are several group awards that clubs and other 4-H group can apply for each year. The NC 4-H Honor Club sponsors the NC 4-H Community Service award. This award is given judged on ONE community service project completed by a 4-H group. To apply, complete the form available through your 4-H office. Return with supporting materials to the State 4-H office by March 1. The 4-H Electric Group Form is also due March 1. A club/group or county program can submit for this award. The form for this award is available through your local 4-H office. State 4-H Project awards change each year with the state 4-H project theme. These awards are generally due in May to the State 4-H office and are presented during NC 4-H Congress.

4-H International Exchange. North Carolina hosts Japanese exchange students ages 12-18 for one month, beginning late-July. Host families must complete an application and in-home interview. 4-H members may host elect to host a year-long exchange student from Japan or one of the Newly Independent States. Host families are typically secured in early spring.