



# What are 4-H portfolios?



Tim Pehlke, Orange County 4-H Program Coordinator

## ***Why should youth submit a 4-H portfolio?***

4-H Portfolios are the tool by which youth showcase their entire body of 4-H accomplishments. Portfolios are cumulative and include a record of youth's project work, competitive involvement, community service, and leadership positions. Through preparing a portfolio youth learn valuable life skills that will help prepare them for a successful career.

## ***Who can submit a portfolio?***

All 4-H members have the option of submitting a portfolio. Portfolios may take the place of one project book under *Standards of Excellence*. High school Junior and Senior submissions are eligible for awards/scholarships (see below for further details).

## ***What role do portfolios play in 4-H scholarships/trips?***

Portfolios and in-person interviews are used to award 4-H National trips (National Congress and National Conference) and college scholarships (Floyd, Wilkins, etc.). Applications are judged by a third party committee. A select number of applicants are then asked to come in for an interview. Interviews for county level scholarships take place in late May. State level award/scholarship interviews take place at State Congress in July. Visit <http://florida4h.org/awards/scholarships.shtml> for more information on Florida 4-H scholarships.

## ***What are the components of a portfolio?***

All portfolio submissions must include a cover sheet, application, resume, and narrative essay (see application for further details). The cover sheet will vary depending on the type of portfolio that is submitted. Scholarship portfolios require two letters of recommendation. Youth must submit three copies with report covers for each award/scholarship application. Forms are available at: <http://oc4h.ifas.ufl.edu/Awards-Recognition.html> under the *Portfolio* heading.

## ***When are portfolios due?***

Portfolios are due the first Monday in May at 4:00 PM to the 4-H office. From there one of the 4-H agents will review your portfolio and return it to you for revision. You have the option of scheduling an in-person meeting with one of the 4-H agents to discuss your submission in greater depth. Final copies are due to the 4-H office on the third Friday in May by 4:00 PM.

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