The Maryland 4-H Program is proud to offer senior 4-H members the opportunity to participate in national level leadership trip opportunities through the 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 five National 4-H Leadership Opportunities which are supported by the Maryland 4-H Program and the Maryland 4-H Foundation.

Eligibility: All Maryland 4-H members ages 14-18 (as of January 1st the year of the trip) are eligible to apply to attend one of five national leadership trip opportunities listed below. To be considered, individuals must submit a Senior 4-H Portfolio (essay and resume) through the appropriate application portal in 4-H Online (Event Registration) by the designated state deadline. Applicants must participate in the interview process described in this document. There are two separate application portals, one for National 4-H Conference and one for the four other National Leaderships Trips. Local 4-H Programs will review and approve portfolios for National 4-H Conference and the National Leadership Trips.

Individuals may earn up to three leadership trips in their 4-H career and up to two in a year (one from each process).

If an individual declines their first trip offer, there is no guarantee they will receive a second trip offer for that same year.

Photo: 2019 Maryland 4-H Delegation to National 4-H Congress. By Jamie Morris

Leadership Trip information and documents are available at: https://go.umd.edu/leadershiptrips

National Trip Opportunities:

- **National 4-H Conference -** April
- **National Leadership Trips**
  - Camp Miniwanca - June
  - Virginia 4-H Congress - June
  - West Virginia Older Member's Conference - June
  - National 4-H Congress – November

For additional information about each trip opportunity please see our **National 4-H Leadership Links**.

Photo: 2022 Maryland 4-H Delegation to National 4-H Conference. By Gretchen Sumbrum.

Trip	Application Period	Portfolio Judging	Interviews	Notification	Acceptance
National 4-H Conference	October 1 – November 14	December – February	2nd Sunday in December via Zoom	February 15	March 1
National 4-H Leadership Trips	November 15 – January 15	February – March	1st Saturday in February (in person in Queen Anne's County) *Inclement Weather Date 3rd Saturday in February* 2nd Saturday in February (in person in Carroll County) *Inclement Weather Date 3rd Sunday in February* 2nd Sunday in February via Zoom	March 15	April 1 • Camp Miniwanca • VA 4-H Congress • WV Older Member's Conference June 1 • National 4-H Congress

Photo: Camp Miniwanca Instagram courtesy of Cait Gardiner

Application and Portfolio Process:

Youth may wish to have their local 4-H Educator review their essay and resume before submitting, but must still submit their Senior 4-H Portfolio through the application portal in 4-H Online (Event Registration) by the specified dates.

After individuals have submitted their portfolio in 4-H Online, 4-H Educators will approve their county 4-H members' submissions in the 4-H Online Event portal for state level review and processing. Youth should receive notification from their 4-H Educator regarding their portfolio submission and will be contacted by the interview site coordinator to schedule their interview time.

Youth will be contacted by the State Leadership Trip Coordinator regarding the outcome of the judging process and whether they will be awarded a trip.

Portfolio Package: Resume

40% of the overall portfolio score

The resume should highlight your 4-H career and youth development experiences. A sample 4-H Resume is available on the 4-H website at: https://go.umd.edu/leadershiptrips

• 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
• For some life skills suggestions, please refer to the Targeting Life Skills Model.
• Essays will be reviewed and scored by three anonymous judges using the Resume Scoresheet.
• Maximum points = 40

2023

Portfolio Package: Essay

20% of overall portfolio score

The essay should answer the annual theme or question posted on the 4-H website at: https://go.umd.edu/leadershiptrips
- 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.
- Essays will be reviewed and scored by three anonymous judges using the Essay Scoresheet.
- Maximum Points = 20

Portfolio Process: Interview

40% of overall portfolio score

- Youth will participate in three 10-12 minute interviews with 1-2 judges in each of the following areas: Citizenship, Leadership and Life Skills.
- Each interviewer/panel will ask applicants the same set of questions focusing on the three topic areas and will score them using the Interview Scoresheet.
- Held at regional location(s) on set dates. Interviews for National 4-H Conference will be virtual. Applicants for National Leadership Trips will have a choice of two in person locations to select from and a virtual option.
- Maximum Points = 40

Additional interview support materials are available on the 4-H website at: https://go.umd.edu/leadershiptrips

Selection Process:

1) To be considered by the state for a trip, Senior 4-H Portfolios must be submitted through the appropriate application portal in 4-H Online (Event Registration) by the designated state deadline. **Local 4-H Educators may review portfolios 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).

5) For National Leadership Trips, an applicant's trip preferential ranking will be used along with their overall total score to the select delegates for the trips.

Trip decisions and offers, including number of delegates per trip, are subject to change from year to year and are at the discretion of the Maryland 4-H State Office and the Maryland 4-H Foundation.

College of AGNR and Maryland 4-H Foundation Matching Scholarship for Top Overall Senior Portfolio

Established in 2015, the College of AGNR will offer a scholarship award of $1,000 to each of the nine senior high overall individuals at the following annual 4-H competitions: Dairy Judging, Hippology, Horse Judging, Horticulture Judging, Livestock Judging, Livestock Skillathon, Poultry Judging, Rabbit Judging and **Overall High Score 4-H Portfolio, winner of the portfolio process which encompasses National 4-H Conference, National 4-H Congress, Camp Miniwanca, Virginia 4-H Congress and West Virginia Older Members Conference**.

The recipient must apply as a bachelor's degree seeking student, be accepted to the University of Maryland, and enroll in the College of AGNR.

Maryland 4-H Foundation will offer a matching scholarship award to these students in the amount of $1,000.

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources has 8 different departments including: Animal and Avian Sciences, Agriculture and Resource Economics, Entomology, Environmental Science and Policy, Environmental Science and Technology, Nutrition and Food Science, Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, and Veterinary Medicine.

Learn more at https://agnr.umd.edu/departments-programs/departments

4-H GROWS HERE