

2017 Guide to Applying for Wisconsin 4-H & Youth Conference

All materials due Friday, March 24th
Interview: Late March/Early April

This packet contains:

- Page 1: Overview of 4-H Trips and Opportunities
- Page 2: Tips for Creating Cover Letter and Resume
- Page 3: Cover Letter Outline
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- Page 5: Resume Outline
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- Page 7: Portfolio Instructions
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Adult recommendations (2)

NOTE: Delegates for the 4-H Key Award, Space Camp, Summer Camp counselors, and camp dishwashers will NOT be selected through the resume/portfolio process, but through different application processes.

WHAT YOU WILL TURN IN BY March 24th

- A cover letter.
- A resume.
- Two completed recommendations (**enclosed**). One from a 4-H leader familiar with your work. This could be your general leader or another project leader. The other one will be from another person of your choice. **Ask for these early!** They should be sent directly to the Extension Office to be included with your packet (it would be helpful to include a pre-addressed envelope with your recommendation form when giving it to the person writing the recommendation).
- A portfolio.
- The short evaluation at the end of this packet, including the three best times to schedule your interview. Hand it in with your resume/portfolio.

If you have any questions regarding resumes and portfolios, including what is expected to complete the process, call (746-2260) or email (dawn.vandervoort@ces.uwex.edu). If you need any additional help, don't hesitate to call or e-mail with questions!

OVERVIEW OF 4-H TRIPS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Wisconsin 4-H and Youth Conference:

Grades: 7th-10th. Held on the UW-Madison Campus with about 500 youth from around Wisconsin.

Delegates attend workshops, group activities and leadership development opportunities. **Cost to**

Member: Approximately \$125 as 50% of your cost and transportation fees (shared bus with other counties) are paid by the Adult Leaders Board.

Ambassadors: Youth who have previously attended Wisconsin 4-H and Youth Conference as a delegate are eligible to attend again as an ambassador, and register primarily for workshops with a leadership focus. ***There is also an expectation to use skills gained back in the county and do a presentation for your club upon return.***

Cost to Member: Approximately \$125 as 50% of your cost and transportation fees (shared bus with other counties) are paid by the Adult Leaders Board.

Trip participants may choose to sell Seroogy's Candy Bars to raise funds for their portion of the trip cost! Ask Dawn for more information if you are interested in this added fundraiser!

TIPS FOR DOING YOUR COVER LETTER AND RESUME

- ◆ **Use a computer.** You can save your work and make revisions as necessary. If you do not have a computer at home, work with your school, a friend, or the library. If you are really in a bind, Dawn would be happy to assist you at the Courthouse after regular business hours. The cover letter and resume **cannot** be handwritten.
- ◆ **Plan ahead.** Go through each part of the resume and cover letter before typing. Put your thoughts together. Translate your skills into action oriented, concise, descriptions. As much as possible, think of your 4-H experience as a job. What do you do? What skills have you developed as a result of participation in 4-H? How have you personally changed as a result of your 4-H experience?
- ◆ **Order is important.** Resumes are typically put together by putting information in the order that it happened. Arrange information chronologically within the following sections: 4-H Summary, 4-H Activity Involvement and Other Activities. See sample resume for example.
- ◆ **Layout, design and abbreviations.** Your cover letter and resume should be easy to read and understand. Arrange your resume as illustrated in the sample copy provided. Choose a common and appropriate font, such as Arial or Times New Roman. Your font size should be no less than 11 point and no more than 14. Use the same font throughout your document. Use 1" margins at the top, bottom and on both sides of your page. You may have a two-page resume. Avoid using too many abbreviations, as not everyone is familiar with them. If you do use an abbreviation, please include what it means in parenthesis after it.
- ◆ **Individualize it.** This is YOUR resume and cover letter. Add your own personality to it.
- ◆ **Proof it.** Your documents should be free of spelling errors. Use spell check and follow up by having at least two other people proofread your cover letter and resume. This is where many people make minor mistakes! Don't lose points in the process by forgetting to proofread your documents!
- ◆ **Ask for help if you need it.** If you have never gone through this process, you will probably have questions. Don't hesitate to ask! My office number is 746-2260 and my email is dawn.vandevoort@ces.uwex.edu. If it's past office hours, leave a message with a time that will be good for me to get in touch with you. I want everyone to have a good experience with this process! Make sure to ask questions or get clarification if you don't understand something.

COVER LETTER OUTLINE

DATE (that you are mailing it)

UW-Extension
4-H Trip/Award Selection Committee
County Government Center
421 Nebraska Street
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Dear Selection Committee:

PARAGRAPH 1:

What are you sending and why are you sending it? **Include by listing or checking off the opportunities for which you want to be considered.**

PARAGRAPHS 2 - 4

This is the “why me?” section. Explain in no more than three paragraphs why you are qualified to represent Door County 4-H. Ask yourself what distinguishes you from other applicants. Also share why you are interested in attending/receiving the trip. If going on a trip, you may also share what you will bring back with you after attending. **Give examples to help explain your statements.**

FINAL PARAGRAPH

Close the letter. Thank the committee for considering your resume and portfolio.

Sincerely,

Type Your Name Here As You Will Sign It Above

(Don't forget to sign your letter!)

SAMPLE COVER LETTER

March 24, 2017

UW-Extension
4-H Trip/Award Selection Committee
County Government Center
421 Nebraska Street
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Dear Selection Committee:

It is my pleasure to submit my resume and portfolio to be considered as a delegate for **Wisconsin 4-H and Youth Conference**.

This is my seventh year as a 4-H member. I have been very active with my projects and as a member in my club, Lucky Clovers. My enclosed resume and portfolio highlights my 4-H involvement. Participation in other 4-H events has made me interested in attending Wisconsin 4-H and Youth Conference.

4-H has provided me with some great experiences. I have increased my communication skills by participating in the county speaking contest, as well as serving as secretary for my club. I have learned to give back to my community by helping with my club's senior citizens holiday party and helping at many Horse and Pony events.

Last year I attended the Winter Leadership Camp. I enjoyed meeting other 4-H members from other counties. I learned a lot about being a leader and heard a lot about other trips. Other 4-H members who attended Wisconsin 4-H and Youth Conference told me about the great opportunity to meet 4-Hers from across Wisconsin, while taking part in fun classes. If I got to attend I would do a good job representing Door County and would tell other 4-H members in my club and in the county what Conference was all about and why they should attend.

I hope to attend Wisconsin 4-H and Youth Conference to learn more about 4-H and to meet other people. My past experiences representing Door County, enthusiasm to be involved, and my willingness to share what I learn with others make me a great candidate.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Chris Clover

Chris Clover

RESUME OUTLINE

NAME

ADDRESS LINE 1

ADDRESS LINE 2

PHONE NUMBER

E-MAIL (if applicable)

EDUCATION

School or college name, then Freshman, Sophomore, etc.

4-H SUMMARY

4-H club name, years in 4-H (**do not count years as a cloverbud**)

List all projects in which you are or have been enrolled.

Include the number of years you have been or were a member of that project.

**4-H ACTIVITY
INVOLVEMENT**

Summarize all 4-H activities in which you have participated and the number of years you participated. Include both club and county involvement.

**SKILL
DEVELOPMENT**

Translate what you have learned as a result of participation in 4-H projects and activities into skills you have developed.

**PERSONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

Translate what you have personally gained as a result of participation in 4-H projects and activities into personal attributes.

**OTHER
ACTIVITIES**

In this section, include school activities, work experience, special activities, etc. and the number of years you participated.

SAMPLE RESUME

Chris Clover
425 Green Lane
Forestville WI 54213
920/999-9999
4hrocks@tnt.com

EDUCATION Green Meadow Middle School, 8th grade

4-H SUMMARY Lucky Clovers, 6 years
Horse and Pony, Foods and Nutrition, 6 years
Arts and Crafts, 5 years
Poultry, 3 years
Flowers, 2 years

4-H ACTIVITY INVOLVEMENT

Club

Booster Button Sales, 5 years
Dairy Bar Worker, 5 years
Club Fundraiser, 5 years
Sr. Citizens Holiday Party, 5 years
Club Float, 3 years

County

County Fair Exhibitor, 5 years
Speaking Contest, 5 years
Horse Committee Volunteer, 4 years
Quality Market Animal Sale, 2 years
County Fair Helper, 2 years
In-state Exchange, 2 years
Junior Leaders, 2 years
Horse Drill Team, 2 years

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

- * Knowledge of healthy food choices.
- * Knowledge of various food preparation options including microwaving, cooking, baking, and slow cooking.
- * Knowledge of horse nutrition, fitting, training, and showing in both Pleasure and Gymkhana.
- * Knowledge of poultry nutrition, grooming, background, and showing.
- * Basic knowledge of various flowers and care needed.
- * Cultural arts skills: drawing, painting, macramé, leathercraft, and stenciling.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- * Effective communication skills including spoken and written.
- * Ability to work well with others including youth and adults.
- * Ability to work toward personal goals from start to finish.
- * Effectively works well in team situations, including showing and sportsmanship.

ACTIVITIES

- * Religious Education, 3 years
- * Church volunteer, 3 years
- * Honor Roll, 2 years
- * Chorus, 2 years

THE PORTFOLIO: INSTRUCTIONS AND ASSEMBLY

A portfolio is a tool that visually illustrates and supports what you have written in your resume and cover letter.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PORTFOLIO:

1. On one page, answer the following question, **“4-H Grows Here is our National 4-H tagline. What skill has 4-H helped you grow?”**
 - What skills have you learned in 4-H? How did you learn them? How will you use the skill/skills in the future?
2. On one page, answer the following, **“4-H builds citizenship skills. Think about and describe one of your most significant 4-H citizenship (community service) experiences.”**
 - Describe the project, why you enjoyed doing the project, what you learned from it, and what the impact of the project was.
3. Pick your two most important projects or activities. Dedicate between two-four pages to those projects (no more than 2 pages per project/activity) and with both pictures and words talk about those projects. Include the following:
 - Skills gained over the years
 - Goals set and achieved
 - Specific leadership roles in the project, how you’ve helped younger members
 - How you have personally grown from the project

For example, if you listed skills learned from participating in an animal project, you might include pictures of your project animal; a summary of your record book, results from the Quality Market Animal Sale (if applicable) and a short summary of your accomplishments.

If you listed skills learned from participating in cultural arts, you might include pictures of your work, comments from the judge (written and summarized) and a short summary of your accomplishments could be put on one page.

4. Anything else you think will give the selection committee insight into who you are, what your 4-H experience has been and why you should be considered for 4-H opportunities.
5. Put it all together so the portfolio is easy to understand and use. Make sure your name is on the portfolio. You may want to use a photo type album or scrapbook. You can also use plain paper bound together with brass fasteners or a three-ring binder. Use captions, small paragraphs, color--- be creative!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

This is my _____ year completing the resume/portfolio process.

1. As a result of constructing my resume/portfolio I: *(check all that apply)*

_____ learned more about myself *(If checked, list at least one thing that you have learned)*

_____ better understand why I'm in 4-H

_____ know how to put a resume together

_____ better understand what skills I have gained from 4-H

_____ will set higher project goals this year *(If checked, list at least one goal you are setting this year)* _____

_____ will take on a new 4-H challenge *(If checked, list at least one new challenge you plan to take on this year)* _____

_____ Other(s): List: _____

2. Through your experiences in 4-H, please check the skills you have developed:

_____ Communication

_____ Responsibility

_____ Ability to work with others

_____ Listening skills

_____ Decision-making

_____ Time management

_____ Presentation skills

_____ Self-confidence

_____ Goal setting

_____ Organizational skills

INTERVIEWS

As part of the trip and award selection process, you will need to attend an interview. Interviews will be held during the week of March 27th or April 3rd. Each interview will be approximately 15–20 minutes. Please list below evenings that would be best for an interview.

ADULT RECOMMENDATION

The following applicant _____ is applying to represent the Door County 4-H program on an out-of-county trip . You have been identified as a person who could speak to their qualifications for these trips.

Please complete the following recommendation and return as directed below.

- 1) Below or on a separate sheet, please discuss why the applicant is deserving of the trip and/or honors. Feel free to describe the applicant's leadership skills (i.e.: communication, listening skills, presentation skills, self-confidence, teamwork, time management, responsibility, etc) as well as any additional information that would be helpful to the selection committee.

Name (print): _____

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Recommendations should be sent directly to:

**Door County Extension Office
4-H Trip and Award Recommendation
County Government Center, 421 Nebraska Street
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235**

DEADLINE DATE: MARCH 24

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