

4-H Project Achievement

Project exploration for 7th-12th grade youth

www.georgia4h.org

Project Achievement is self-directed, individual competition including, when age appropriate, a documented record of project work, leadership and service based on experiential learning activities.



How to get started in Project Achievement

First things first...think about what you enjoy doing. What are your interests or hobbies? What do you want to learn more about? From your idea **Pick a project** from the 4-H Activities and Awards Guidebook. A **project** is a broad category that you will work in. Many of the things you are currently doing will be part of your **portfolio**. The portfolio is simply a document of what you have done in your project, as a leader, and in service to others. Even brand new 4-H'ers can put together a great portfolio. You will also need to pick a **topic for a presentation**. Most presentations are an illustrated talk (a speech with visuals) but some may be performing a talent or making a recipe. In all cases, your presentation is much more narrow in focus than your portfolio.

Project Competition~District Level

- Divided by category: Juniors (7th-8th grade) and Seniors (9th-12th)
- Competition includes 4-H portfolio~3 to 5 page document of project activities, leadership & citizenship & presentation
- Portfolios turned in prior to district contest with presentations at district contest
- Junior Portfolios are 40% of final score & Senior Portfolios are 60%
- Senior 4-H'ers may advance to state competition

Project Achievement Scorecards

Junior Portfolios

- Background Information~5%
- Project Work~25%
- Project Sharing & Helping~20%
- Leadership Activities~15%
- Service Activities~15%
- Other 4-H Activities~10%
- Other Activities~5%
- Supporting Materials 5%

Senior Portfolios

- Project Work~20%
- Project Sharing & Helping~30%
- Leadership Activities~20%
- Service Activities~20%
- Other Activities~20%

Presentations Scorecard

- Visuals~10%
- Delivery~10%
- Appearance~10%
- Orderly Progress~10%
- Accuracy of Information~15%
- Knowledge of Subject~15%
- Coverage of Subject~25%
- Time Limit~5%



What's What in A Portfolio...Have I really done this stuff?



Yes, you have done this stuff. It's just a matter of knowing what goes where. Juniors have two special categories on their scorecard. **Background** is simply facts about you, **Other 4-H** are other activities thru 4-H you have not listed. Everything else is like a senior portfolio.

Project Work are activities you do to learn more and practice being skilled in your project area. Remember your project is more than the topic of your presentation. It is anything related to your project area. Think about classes you may have attended, places you've visited, people you've met, things you do that help you be more skilled. For example, if your project is *Dog Care and Training* feeding you dog, visiting the vet, all of those things would be included in project work.

Project Sharing & Helping Activities are activities where you show your knowledge in your project. It may be a leader or as a speaker or an exhibitor. Remember, these are all related to your project. Don't forget oral reports for school or other times you may have spoken to a group. If it is related to your project you may report it here.

Leadership is any activity where you served a leadership role. In other words, you were more than a participant. If you helped set up for a meeting, mentored a young person or have been elected to an office, you may report it here.

Service activities are those activities that are of benefit to a community or group. Unlike leadership you may be participating in an activity to help others. If you have collected canned goods for the needy, rang the bell for the Salvation Army or activities such as that would be included here.

Other Activities are those things you have not reported elsewhere. If you are a member of a club, attended a 4-H activity, shown an animal (and it's not your main project). Anything else you do.

Supporting Material are letters, photographs and other items that you have that show you doing the things you listed. For Juniors, it's an individual category. For seniors, it's part of every other section.

Seniors have a special component called a **cover letter**. This goes in all senior portfolios and is counted in each categories scoring. It is a letter telling the judges about you and your interests.

Tips as you work on projects

- Be creative in your learning. It's your project. Learn what you want to learn.
- Review the rules for putting your portfolio and presentation together. There are not many but they do matter.
- Write things down as you do them so that you will remember you have them to document.
- Each category of a portfolio is scored independently. You can score high in leadership and low in project work.
- Ask your extension staff and volunteers for help. Everyone can give you ideas.
- Think about how to learn more about your project. When you have free time what can you do to learn more in your project or to share what you have learned?
- Remember the portfolio just reports what you've done and the presentation teaches others about the topic. The most fun is in the process of getting there.