



# The 4-H Project Interview

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# Purpose

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# Purpose

- To teach 4-H'ers how to organize, prioritize, and verbalize the activities and accomplishments experienced in 4-H.
- To highlight the quantity, quality, and variety of a 4-H'ers accomplishments.
- To teach 4-H'ers how to identify and express how 4-H experiences have enhanced their attitude, values, judgment and self-concept.
- To enhance 4-H'ers interviewing skills for workforce preparation and career/job interviews.



“Tell Us About ...”



# “Tell Us About ...”

- Interview questions will relate to interview rubric.
- Practice! Practice! Practice!
- Perfect responses:
  - “Tell us a little about yourself”
  - “Tell as about your 4-H project work”
  - “What else do we need to know about you/your 4-H work?”
- Review your portfolio.



# Sample Questions

- If you did your own 4-H work and 4-H portfolio work, then there will be no question that you cannot answer.
  - What is the most important piece of knowledge or skill that you have gained from your work in the \_\_\_\_\_ project?
  - What was your most challenging task in your project work?
  - How will you use the knowledge and/or skills that you learned in your project in the future?
  - Why did you choose to be involved in this project?

# Dress Your Best



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# Dress Your Best

## GENTLEMEN

- Cleanliness is most important
  - Clean shaven
  - Clean nails
  - Groom hair
  - Cleaned/pressed garments
  - Deodorant; but limited cologne
  - Brush teeth; mouthwash
- Conservative suit/sport coat, dress shirt, tie and slacks
- Polished, dress (but comfortable) shoes with dress socks



# Interviewing Attire

## Dos

No earrings

Silk necktie with  
conservative pattern

Shirt cuffs show only  
slightly at the wrist

Conservative 2-piece suit

Dark shoes & socks



## Don'ts

Facial hair should be  
neat & trimmed

Avoid distracting  
or busy patterns

No rolled up pants  
Don't forget socks





# Dress Your Best

LADIES

- Cleanliness is most important
  - Clean nails
  - Pull hair away from face; nicely groomed
  - Deodorant; but limited perfume
  - Brush teeth; mouthwash
- Conservative dress, suit or skirt, blouse and jacket
  - Avoid sheer, lacy and low cut
  - Moderate jewelry
- Dress shoes (bring amore comfortable pair)



# Interviewing Attire

## Dos

Jewelry in moderation

Conservative 2-piece suit

Skirt: Knee-length

Hosiery at or near skin color

Dark Shoes



## Don'ts

Necklace too large/distracting

No bright colors/patterns

Capris: too casual

No open-toed shoes



# Judging Rubric



TENNESSEE 4-H INTERVIEW JUDGING SCORE CARD

Senior Level I and II

F638-B

Project: Judge:	Contestant Number									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A. PERSONAL (10 points) Appearance (grooming), attitude, ability to communicate, poise and confidence										
B. PROJECT INVOLVEMENT (20 points) Scope, progress and highlights of project										
C. KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT MATTER (20 points) Ability to answer questions correctly on subject matter covered as a result of project work and members' own experiences										
TOTAL POINTS: 50										

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# What to Expect

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# What to Expect

- In addition to the interview:
  - Meet bus; Provides directions to interview rooms
  - Check in and interview order determined
  - Write thank you notes to donors
  - Complete an online portfolio survey
  - Engage in project hands-on activity with UT professors
  - Eat lunch/Debrief experience with your interviewers





# What to Expect

- At banquet:
  - Meet your project chairman to load buses from campus
  - Sit with your project donors and fellow interviewees
  - Follow directions to come upon the stage
  - Smile/shake hands/accept award from specialist
  - Follow directions to get group photo





# What to Expect

- Level I Winners:
  - Horizon Award
  - Opportunity for a \$500 college scholarship
- Level II Winners:
  - Silver Bowl
  - Opportunity for a \$500 college scholarship
  - Other scholarships (*vary from project to project*)
  - Trip to National 4-H Congress
  - Winners' Breakfast invitation at 4-H Roundup



# Judging Procedures

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# Judging Procedures

- Interviews are approximately 15 minutes
- Scoring is based on the following:
  - Portfolios 50%
  - Interviews 50%
- Level I = Grades 9 and 10
- Level II – Grades 11 and 12
- Visual aids are not permitted; Showcase will be used
- Judges will have access to your portfolio during interview
- You may bring four (4) copies of your resume



# Practice Pieces

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# Practice Pieces

- Introduction *(limited to 3 to 4 minutes)*
  - Tell us about your yourself /4-H project work (showcase)
- Main Project
  - Tell them about other growth in knowledge and skill
  - Highlight challenges
    - How you worked through them
    - What you learned from them
- Leadership, Citizenship and other 4-H experiences
  - Most rewarding 4-H experience



# Practice Pieces

- Leadership, Citizenship and other 4-H experiences *continued*
  - Key leadership roles
  - Impacts from community service activities
- Questions
  - Expect soft and hard skill questions
  - If you don't know ... don't bluff
- Conclusion
  - Share anything else you feel relevant
  - Conclude with a prepared statement
  - Shake hands and thank them for their time



# Practice Pieces

- Showcase Video:

- Sample Interview Questions:

1. What is the most significant accomplishment you have experienced in 4-H?
2. If you had the opportunity to change your 4-H experience, how would you make the change?
3. What role has 4-H played in your future plans?
4. Who is your role model and why?
4. Surely there are some times that you did not accomplish what you would have liked to.  
How have these experiences in which you were not your best made you a better person?
6. If there were a fifth “H” what would it be?
7. Do you share your 4-H experiences with non 4-H’ers? Why or why not? How do they react?
8. Do you see yourself involved in 4-H twenty-five years from now?

# Do's and Don'ts



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# Do's and Don'ts

- Get plenty of sleep
- Eat breakfast
- Take deep breaths
- Be on “leader time”
- Smile!
- Remember interviewers names; Formally address
- Make eye contact
- Relax





# Do's and Don'ts

- Review your resume and portfolio before the interview
- Prepare answers beforehand for expected questions
- Sitting: Ladies: Legs together and crossed at ankle  
Gentlemen: Legs together and sit up straight
- Think about the question before you answer
- Speak clearly
- Sell yourself – the interviewers have not seen your portfolio
- Do not make assumptions
- No gum or beverages



A person in a dark suit and tie is pointing with their right hand towards a presentation board. The board displays a large, stylized map of the United States. The person is standing in front of a large screen or wall. The overall scene suggests a professional presentation or meeting.

# The Project Showcase

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# Project Showcase

- Allows 4-H to include a visual element in their interview
- Helps 4-H'ers answer the first question asked by judges in the 4-H project interview - "Tell me about your 4-H project work ."
- WOW factor -- Highlights a "big" project that the 4-H'ers has worked on in their project area.
- The showcase only enhances what the 4-H'er is explaining by giving the judges a visual of a 4-H'ers project work.



# Project Showcase

- May open the door for judges to ask specific subject matter questions about the 4-H'ers project work.
- Should be the only time throughout the interview that the computer is used.
- Judges expect the 4-H member to begin with his/her showcase.  
Once that is complete, the typical interview/question-and-answer session begins.



# Project Showcase

- 4-H'ers do NOT need to bring a computer, tablet, iPad, etc.
- Judges do NOT give 4-H'ers a score for their *Project Showcase*. The *Project Showcase* was judged with the portfolio.

# FAQ's

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# FAQ's

- ***Can I update my resume/showcase on my e-portfolio?***

Yes. Your portfolio has already been scored. However, you have continued to work on your 4-H project. You may continue to update as needed.

# FAQ's

- ***Do I have to bring a copy of my resume?***

No. It is not necessary ... but always a good idea. The judges can see your resume because they will have access to your e-portfolio website. However, it always a good habit to practice to bring extra copies. It shows that you are prepared! And what if technology wasn't working?



# FAQ's

- ***Speaking of ... what if technology isn't working and they can't pull up my e-portfolio to access my showcase?***

This is one of the challenges of working with technology. It's great ... so long as it works! While it is great to have the ability to "see" your showcase, it is not necessary. You can do a well-enough job to explain it. This is something that you will also need to practice! The judges will know that they need to move on and cannot spend all of their time working on the technology.



# FAQ's

- ***What if I go longer than 3 or 4 minutes on my introduction/project showcase explanation?***

This part of your interview should be carefully scripted. You don't want to sound "memorized" – but it's the ONE question from the interview that you KNOW you are going to be asked. Be prepared to answer it. If you go longer, it is possible that the judges may stop you so that they can ask other questions.



# FAQ's

- ***When do I get my scores?***

All participants will receive a copy of the scores in the certificates that they receive on stage the night of the 4-H Roundup Awards Banquet. They will need to share this with their 4-H agent.

Comments from the judges will not be included. If the 4-H'er or judge wishes to see the judge's comments, the 4-H agent can make the request.



# Q and A's

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