



The North Carolina 4-H Ambassador Program

Adopted by the State 4-H Ambassador Task Force July 17, 2004

The *mission* of the North Carolina 4-H Ambassador program is to empower teen 4-H leaders with the knowledge, skills and aspirations necessary to be effective advocates for NC 4-H Youth Development. We strengthen and expand upon 4-H Ambassadors' current leadership abilities so that they may serve as positive role models for younger youth; build meaningful partnerships with other teens and adult volunteer leaders and 4-H professionals; and promote the 4-H mission in North Carolina.

As NC 4-H Ambassadors, we *value*:

- gaining and utilizing new knowledge and skills that apply to both our 4-H work and other areas of our lives;
- developing individual and group leadership to their fullest potential;
- effective and meaningful partnerships with adult 4-H volunteers and professionals; and
- the maturity necessary to accept responsibility and fulfill our mission at the county, district and state levels.

Our *vision* is that every North Carolina teen 4-H member will have the personal initiative, program resources, and leadership opportunities to be a positive role model and a vocal advocate for the 4-H program in our state.

Basic Premises of the NC 4-H Ambassador Program

The NC 4-H Ambassador Program:

- Encourages personal development and service to NC 4-H for teen 4-H members.
- Is based upon an individual teen's performance towards established standards.
- Is self-based and self-paced, (i.e. an individual teen pursues mastery of the required, and elective components at their own pace, setting their own personal goals, within standard guidelines.)
- Documents the teen's accomplishments through a Personal Leadership Portfolio developed by the Ambassador based upon defined criteria.

NC 4-H Ambassador Program Guidelines

- To apply to become a NC 4-H Ambassador, a member must be at least 13 years old and have been a 4-H member for 2 years, both as of January 1.
- Ambassador registrations and portfolio submissions must be approved by the county 4-H professional prior to submission to the State Ambassador Program Coordinator.
- Personal Leadership Portfolios compiled by the Ambassador candidate document individual achievements, and must follow specified statewide guidelines.
- A 4-H member can achieve only one Ambassador level per portfolio submission. You must complete and have verified one level before advancing to the next.
- It is recommended that a 4-H member take no longer than 2 calendar years to complete a single Ambassador level. Requirements for each level must include only those activities and courses completed after January 1 of the year the member entered that level.
- Portfolios may be submitted for verification twice yearly, in April and October. (2006 Dates: April 17, October 15.)
- A trained county 4-H professional and an adult volunteer and/or current Ambassador will review Portfolios, verify requirements, and award levels of achievement.
- All Ambassadors successfully completing any Ambassador level(s) will be recognized at the NC 4-H Congress or NC 4-H State Council Conference.

The NC 4-H Ambassadors Program Structure
(Adopted by the State 4-H Ambassador Task Force on July 17, 2004)

Each LEVEL includes	
Required Curricula	A minimum number of hours of Elective Activity (You must participate in at least 2 different activities to achieve your required total hours per level)
Bronze	
Recognition: Ambassador Name Tag & Certificate	
Required Curricula	15 Elective Hours of Activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Intro to the Ambassador Program ❖ Fundamentals of 4-H Youth Development ❖ Public Speaking Basics ❖ Parliamentary Procedure ❖ Personal & Flag Etiquette 	Suggestions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Serve as a 4-H club and/or County Council officer ▪ Help plan a county event/workshop ▪ Create a 4-H exhibit/display/fair booth ▪ Attend a local government meeting ▪ Present a 4-H Presentation at the local/county level
Silver	
Recognition: Ambassador Portfolio & Certificate	
Required Curricula	25 Additional Elective Hours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Introduction to Life Skills ❖ Teaching & Learning I: Experiential Learning ❖ Advanced Public Speaking ❖ Leadership I: What is a Leader? ❖ Marketing I: Media Relations 	Suggestions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attend a district retreat/workshop/meeting ▪ Help plan a district event ▪ Run for a district 4-H office ▪ Serve as a district 4-H officer candidate campaign manager ▪ 4-H presentation to non-4-H group, or at District Activity Day ▪ Plan & teach an educational program ▪ Meet with a county government official ▪ Mentor a Bronze Level Ambassador ▪ Serve on a TRY-IT! Team
Gold	
Recognition: Ambassador Business Cards & Certificate	
Required Curricula	35 Additional Elective Hours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Youth/Adult Partnerships I: Tic-TAP-Toe ❖ Teaching & Learning II: Learning Styles ❖ Leadership II: T.E.A.M. ❖ Marketing II: Donors & Elected Officials ❖ Diversity & Inclusion 	Suggestions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attend 4-H Congress or a state 4-H retreat ▪ Plan a state level 4-H event ▪ Teach a district/state workshop ▪ Participate in a 4-H Development Fund initiative ▪ Visit with a NC Legislator ▪ Do a 4-H presentation at the state level ▪ Serve on a county/district Extension/4-H board/advisory committee ▪ Participate in the A.R.I. program ▪ Serve as a judge at a 4-H event ▪ Serve as a state 4-H officer candidate campaign manager
Emerald	
Recognition: Ambassador Polo Shirt & Certificate	
Required Curricula	45 Additional Elective Hours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Youth/Adult Partnerships II ❖ Teaching & Learning III ❖ Leadership III: The Role of Ethics ❖ Marketing Practicum Project 	Suggestions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attend a national 4-H sponsored event ▪ Run for a state 4-H office ▪ Serve on a state/national 4-H committee/task force ▪ Teach a required 4-H Ambassador curriculum
Total Hours All Levels: 120	

*NOTE: Items listed under electives are suggestions only. Electives should be self-selected to relate to topics covered in the required curricula for a level. Additional courses related to the level, additional leadership experiences, service activities led by the Ambassador candidate, are appropriate electives.