

# Persona Interview

## Judge and Competitor Tips

The persona interview is one of the most educational aspects of the 4-H Western Heritage Project. Not only do 4-H members learn the history of the Old West period through their persona research, they also develop presentation skills that will benefit them for a lifetime. Judges will consider age and experience while evaluating speakers and are asked to be encouraging throughout the process regardless of the score.

Score Sheet Instructions:

### Period Outfit

- Dress:  
*Since a dress is not divided into a top and bottom, it can be worth up to 20 points.*
- Shirt/Blouse:  
*Worth up to 10 points as a separate.*
- Pants/Skirt:  
*Worth up to 10 points as a separate.*
- Headwear, Footwear, Accessories:  
*Completing the look with an appropriate hat, boots or shoes, purses, holsters, badges, chaps, tools of the trade, period pens or pencils, etc. can earn up to 10 points.*
- Continuity of Outfit - The pieces fit, a coherent whole, connected:  
*A well-coordinated outfit is one that makes sense and not simply several unrelated pieces thrown together. Some outfits might look unconnected at first glance. But if the presentation includes a plausible historical explanation of the combination of pieces, the full 5 points can be awarded*

### Delivery

- Captures/Holds judge's attention
- Speaks clearly w/ enthusiasm
- Appropriate posture & body language
- Eye contact
- Well-organized story/believable:  
*Don't award points for wild, made-up stories with little or no historical basis.*
- Effective use of time (4-7 minutes):  
*Do not allow the presenter to continue past 8 minutes. Their instructions are to present the material within the allotted time.*

-Over-

## **Knowledge**

- Historical knowledge:  
*The clothing and persona are historically accurate and plausible. Those who purchased an extensive wardrobe but know little about why their clothing is historically correct, should be marked lower than those who are missing pieces, but can describe what would be period correct.*
- Character Portrayal:  
*Show an interest in the persona they created*
- Response to questions:
- Three historical references:  
*It is important that presenters have researched accurate information from reliable sources. When citing a website, the presenter must exhibit the resource text and not simply present a website address with no further information.*