

2024 Cherry County 4-H Communications & Expressive Arts Contest

Rules and Guidelines

Friday, February 23rd, 2024, 5:00 PM CST

Valentine Methodist Church

Awards will be presented after the Contest.

The Cherry Co. Communications & Expressive Arts (CEA) Contest will include

- **Prepared Speeches**
- **Illustrated Presentations**
 - *There is also a General (non-4-H) class option for Prepared Speeches and Illustrated Presentations*
- **Impromptu Speeches**
- **Radio public service announcements (PSAs)** *The radio PSAs are judged prior to the contest and will be played during the contest. Results are announced with the other CEA awards.*
- **Video Communication Entries** *Video communication entries are judged prior to the contest and will be played during the contest. Results are announced with the other CEA awards.*
- **Music/Talent**

ALL entries are due to the Extension Office by **February 16th by 4:30 pm.**

PSA and video communication entries are also **due February 16th** and can be emailed in or put on a thumb drive and dropped off at the Extension Office (202 N Main St.). The entry form is available at [Cherry County 4-H Resources | Nebraska Extension \(unl.edu\)](#) or in the Extension Office.

What to Wear to the CEA Contest: Dress appropriately for the topic. Dressy clothing is generally recommended, but *nice* jeans may be more appropriate for certain topics. **DO NOT** wear costumes or special effect clothing. 4-H Emblem, t-shirt, or pin not required for this contest.

A schedule will be sent out prior to the event. Please let staff know if you have any special requests for the schedule.

Questions? Contact Michelle Garwood, 4-H Educator, at 402-376-1850 or mgarwood3@unl.edu.

SPEAKING COMPETITIONS

General Information:

Age divisions for SPEAKING EVENTS are based on the State Competition **AND THESE AGE GROUPS HAVE CHANGED AGAIN FOR 2024**. The State 4-H Office has decided that age 8 is eligible for MOST state competitions, including the State Premier Communication Event. Ages are as of January 1, 2024.

- Clover Kid 5-7
- Junior 8-10
- Intermediate 11-13
- Senior 14-18

Resources are available at <https://4h.unl.edu/premier-communication-event-contests>

Eligibility for **State Premier Communication Event June 17th & 18th 2024** in Lincoln.

- Youth must be currently enrolled in 4-H to participate.
- Additional eligibility requirements include:
 - Prepared Speech, Radio Public Service Announcement (PSA), and Illustrated Presentation contest classes:
 - Youth must receive a purple ribbon at their County Contest and be selected to participate in the Premier Communication Event in these classes.
 - Counties may select up to five (5) contestants in each age division.
 - Impromptu Speech and Video Communication:
 - Open to all youth enrolled in 4-H.
- If eligible, youth may participate in all contest classes.
- Pre-registration is required for all participants and is completed by Nebraska County Extension Offices.

Rules and Guidelines for 4-H Illustrated Presentations Contest:

An Illustrated Presentation is a live presentation with a formal talk where youth will use visual aids (such as props, posters, computer-based visuals, handouts, video, etc.) to show and tell others how to do something. The judge views the entire presentation and engages in a question-and-answer session following the presentation.

- Length
 - Clover Kids: no time guideline
 - Individual Junior: 3-5 minutes
 - Individual (Intermediate & Senior): 6-8 minutes
 - Team (Junior): 5-7
 - Team (Intermediate & Senior): 8-10 minutes
 - Participants will be penalized if their presentation is not within the time limits.
- An Illustrated Presentation may be given by one (1) individual or a team of two (2) individuals. If team members are not in the same age division, they must compete in the age division of the oldest team member.
- All presentation topics should be related to what the 4-H youth is learning through 4-H educational experiences.
- Presentations should include an introduction (the "why" portion of the topic), a body (the "show and tell" portion of the topic), and a conclusion/summary (the "what" portion of the topic).
- Equipment provided includes tables, PC compatible computer (including Microsoft PowerPoint) with a WiFi internet connection, and a projector with screen.
- Presenters using computer-based visuals may bring files on a USB drive that is PC formatted.
- Live animals may be used in the presentation. Presenters are responsible for all stalling arrangements, care, and handling of animals. Animals can only remain in the presentation area while the owner is present.
- Presenters are expected to clean up the area in which they work.

Rules and Guidelines for Prepared 4-H Speech:

The Prepared Speech contest provides youth the opportunity to write and prepare a speech on a topic related to their 4-H experience. The judge will view the speech and evaluate based on the subject, organization, and delivery of the speech.

- Length/Source:
 - Clover Kid (ages 5-7): no time guideline (may use a reading, poem, or original speech)
 - Junior (ages 8-10): 2-3 minutes (original speech)
 - Intermediate Division (ages 11-13): 3-5 minutes (original speech)
 - Senior Division (ages 14-18): 5-8 minutes (original speech)
 - For Senior Division only, judges will deduct three points from the score for every 30 seconds under or over the time limit.
- Only individuals may compete in this class; no team entries are allowed.
- All speeches must be original and include 4-H as the major component of the speech.
- 4-H public speakers may not use the old speech written by a sibling, another 4-H member, or anyone else.
- Acknowledge the source of information used in the speech. For example, an article from a magazine may be used for reference, but should not be quoted directly unless you tell the audience your source. Clover Kids should credit sources if not using an original speech.
- The use of visual aids and props is not allowed, per State 4-H competition guidelines.

LOCAL LEVEL ONLY – There will be a class for **General (non-4-H related) prepared speeches and illustrated presentations** for youth **ages 8-18**. Youth must still enroll in 4-H to participate in the competition. Youth may use speeches/presentations created for school-based competitions in this category. As of 2024, we will give awards in each age group, so please follow the time limits listed above in the 4-H categories. All entries should be original and sources should be given credit. Only individuals may compete in speech but teams are allowed for presentations. Visual aids are allowed in both the speech and presentation categories, per school-based competition guidelines. General speeches and presentations will all be judged together, by age level, in a “General Public Speaking” class.

Rules and Guidelines for Impromptu Speeches:

The Impromptu Speech competition gives youth the opportunity to write and present a speech around a 4-H related topic that they select during the competition where they are given 30 minutes to develop and prepare for their presentation. (Note that State competition only allows 15 minutes.) Judges are evaluating the subject, organization, and delivery of the speech.

Rules

- Length
 - Junior (ages 8-10): 1-3 minutes
 - Intermediate Division (ages 11-13): 3 minutes
 - Senior Division (ages 14-18): 5 minutes
- Only individuals may compete in this class; no team entries are allowed.
- On the day of the contest, participants will have a topic randomly selected for them. Youth will have no more than 30 minutes to develop a speech on the selected topic. Participants will then deliver the speech to judges and audience members.
 - Example topic: My Day in 4-H

Rules and Guidelines for Video Communication:

The video communication contest allows youth to create a multi-media video around a theme related to 4-H. Judges will be evaluating on both the organization of information as well as the audio and video production.

Rules

- Length: 60-90 seconds for Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Divisions
- Only individuals may compete in this class; no team entries are allowed.
- Youth may use a phone, laptop, or tablet to create a multi-media piece around the theme: **Discover Your Spark in Nebraska 4-H!**
- Sound effects, public-domain music, and graphics can be used. Copyrighted materials may not be used.
- Videos will be submitted electronically as MP4 files along with the registration form by February 16. Entries will be judged prior to the competition and results will be announced at the competition.

Rules and Guidelines for Public Service Announcements (PSAs):

The Radio Public Service Announcement (PSA) contest challenges youth to write and record a 60-second promotional audio recording focused on a yearly theme that could be played on the radio to promote the work of Nebraska 4-H. Youth are judged on their overall organization and delivery of the PSA.

- Length:
 - Clover Kids (ages 5-7): 30-60 seconds
 - All other age divisions: 60 seconds
- Only individuals may compete in this class; no team entries are allowed.
- Youth will prepare a PSA around the theme: **4-H is a feeling!**
- All radio PSA's must promote 4-H and be general enough to be used anywhere in Nebraska at any time of the year.
- All 4-H PSA's must include the following tagline within the last 10 seconds of the PSA: "Learn more about the Nebraska Extension 4-H Youth Development Program at 4h.unl.edu." The tagline is included in the 60-second time limit.
- Sound effects and public-domain music may be used. Copyrighted material may not be used.
- All PSA's must be the original work of the presenter. Contestants may not use PSA's written and provided by the state or national staff.
- PSA entries will be submitted electronically in a .wav or .mp3 audio format along with the registration form by February 24. Entries will be judged prior to the competition and results will be announced at the competition.

Music and Talent Competition

General Information:

- This competition is local only, there are no state-level competition options.
- Duets with contestants in different age categories are judged in the older level category. There is only one division for group entries.
- All contestants must give the original sheet music (no copies) to the judges at the contest. There will be NO deductions in any age group for using sheet music (vs. memorizing).
- There will not be a separate category for original compositions, but original work will be taken into consideration by the judge.

Division	4-H Age as of Jan 1	Time Guideline	Special Guidelines
Vocal Solo Duet	Clover Kid (ages 5-7) Junior (ages 8-10) Intermediate (ages 11-13) Senior (ages 14-18)	No limit on the number of songs within six minutes.	-Live or recorded instrumental background music may be used.
Self- Accompanied Vocal Solo Duet	Clover Kid (ages 5-7) Junior (ages 8-10) Intermediate (ages 11-13) Senior (ages 14-18)	No limit on the number of songs within six minutes.	-Performers singing while also playing the accompanist must (ex: sings while playing the piano or guitar). The duet is two vocalists each playing separate instruments.
Piano Solo Duet	Clover Kid (ages 5-7) Junior (ages 8-10) Intermediate (ages 11-13) Senior (ages 14-18)	No limit on the number of songs within six minutes.	-None
Instrumental Solo Duet	Clover Kid (ages 5-7) Junior (ages 8-10) Intermediate (ages 11-13) Senior (ages 14-18)	No limit on the number of songs within six minutes.	-Live or recorded instrumental background music may be used.
Talent Solo Duet	Clover Kid (ages 5-7) Junior (ages 8-10) Intermediate (ages 11-13) Senior (ages 14-18)	No limit on the number of songs within six minutes.	-Singing with a recorded voice is considered "talent." -May also be lip sync, dance, twirling, etc.
Group Entry		No limit on the number of songs within six minutes. Skits should be 2-6 minutes in length.	-3 or more participants -Can be vocal, instrumental, dance, etc. -Any combination of ages.

Cowboy Poetry Guidelines

This is a county-only division, NOT eligible for District or State Competitions. It is considered to involve a unique combination of talent and speaking skills!

- Clover Kid (ages 5-7)
- Junior (ages 8-10)
- Intermediate (ages 11-13)
- Senior (ages 14-18)

The judging criteria are as follows:

- Poems presented at the CEA Contest are eligible to be presented at **Old West Days** in April, 2024. This is in conjunction with the **Jarolyn Crouse Aspiring Poet Memorial**.
- Youth must write and recite a Cowboy Poem. It must be original work. CLOVER KIDS are not required to author their own poems. They may read or recite someone else's Cowboy Poem.
- Clover Kids and Juniors are allowed to write and present with a partner.
- Poems should reflect an understanding and creative use of "cowboy language." Poem topics should relate to western life, such as ranch life, cowboys, cowgirls, livestock, land, environment, home, family, events, pets, friends, characters, rodeos, or anything that directly relates. For example, a youth may want to write about pets, the barn cat, the dog who herds the cattle, the environment, riding a horse in the summer heat, etc.
- Poems should reflect an understanding and appreciation of western heritage. They should be authentic and original. Poets are encouraged to research their topic if necessary to obtain a thorough understanding of our western heritage.
- Poems should be well crafted, flow smoothly, and be easy to read and listen to.
- Poems should be entertaining and may be written from serious, inspirational, or humorous points of view.
- Poets should present the material in a convincing and enthusiastic manner.
- Poems must be a minimum of eight lines, and a maximum of two pages. Maximum time is 5 minutes.
- Poems are judged on creativity, originality, figurative language, appropriateness of content, and structure (traditional form rhyme, rhythm, voice, stanzaic pattern, and other elements that comprise poetry).

Support materials:

Idaho 4-H Cowboy Poetry page: <https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/4h/projects/cowboy-poetry>

To order Spurrin' the Words Volunteer Guide from Montana State University visit:
http://store.msueextension.org/Products/4-H-Spurrin-The-Words-Leaders-Guide_5309.aspx

To order Spurrin' the Words Member Guide from Montana State University visit:
http://store.msueextension.org/Products/4-H-Spurrin-The-Words-Youth-Guide_5308.aspx

The Cherry County Extension Office has one set of the Spurrin' the Words Curriculum available for review.