

# County Speech Contest Events:



## \*Prepared 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.

### Rules

- Length:
  - Junior Division (ages 8-10): 2-3 minutes
  - Intermediate Division (ages 11-13): 3-5 minutes
  - Senior Division (ages 14-18): 5-8 minutes
    - 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.
- The use of visual aids and props is not allowed.
- Dress appropriately. Do not wear costumes or special effects clothing.

### Resources

- [Prepared Speech Judging Criteria](#)
- [Guide to Making Great Speeches](#)

## \*Radio Public Service Announcement (PSA)

The Radio Public Service Announcement (PSA) contest challenges youth to write and present a 60-second promotional audio announcement 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.

Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture. University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United State Department of Agriculture. ©2016

## Rules

- Length: 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.

## Resources

- [PSA Judging Criteria](#)
- [How to Prepare a 4-H Radio Public Service Announcement](#)
- [Examples from Top State PSAs from 2023](#)

## \*Illustrated Presentation

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.

## Rules

- Length
  - Individual (Junior division): 3-5 minutes
  - Individual (Intermediate & Senior divisions): 6-8 minutes
  - Team (Junior division): 5-7 minutes
  - Team (Intermediate & Senior divisions): 8-10 minutes
  - Participants will be penalized if their presentation exceeds the time limit

- 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).
- The check-in area will contain temporary storage space for presentation supplies. Only presenters and contest officials will be permitted in the designated preparation areas; no relatives or friends, please. Presenters are expected to clean up the areas in which they work.
- Equipment provided includes two (2) tables, one (1) easel, PC compatible computer (including Microsoft PowerPoint) with a WiFi internet connection, and a projector or television screen.
- Presenters using computer-based visuals may bring files on a USB drive that is PC formatted. Participants may also provide their own computer or other equipment as needed; however, participants must be able to connect their computers to an HDMI cord.
- Change for 2024: Live animals will not be able to be used in the presentation, as this is a State rule change due to their event location. Alternative ways of showing information about live animals (models, videos, photos, etc) are encouraged.

#### Resources

- [Illustrated Presentation Judging Criteria](#)
- [Nebraska 4-H Communications Resources: Planning a 4-H Presentation](#)

**Contest Date: May 21 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

**Courthouse Basement**

**Registration Deadline: May 14**

**<https://forms.gle/n5kADePPiSBYQAvu5>**



# Events at State Only

(Do not have to qualify at county level to participate)

## \*Impromptu Speech

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 15 minutes to develop and prepare for their presentation. Judges evaluate the subject, organization, and delivery of the speech.

### Rules

- Length
  - Junior Division (ages 8-10): 1 ½ 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 15 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

## \*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
- 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: **4-H is a Feeling**

- 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.

#### Resources

- [Video Communication Judging Criteria](#)
- [Examples from 2023 State Contest](#)

**Contest Date: June 17-18**  
**UNL East Campus-Lincoln**