

2024 CASS COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS EVENT



SUNDAY APRIL 14 @ 2 PM
CASS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Register in 4HOnline using the
events tab.

Deadline to register 04/10/2024

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.

For questions about this contest, please contact Lauren Stohlmann.

Rules

- Length:
 - Junior Division (Ages 8-9) 1-3 minutes
 - Intermediate Division (Ages 10-13) 3-5 minutes
 - Senior Division (Ages 14-18) 5-8 minutes
 - Participants will be penalized if their presentation exceeds the time limit
 - 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 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.

For questions about this contest, please contact the superintendent: Lauren Stohlmann.

Rules

- Length: 60 seconds (All age divisions)
- Only individuals may compete in this class; no team entries are allowed.
- Youth will prepare a PSA around the theme: Discover Your Spark in Nebraska 4-H!
- 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. Email to lauren.stohlmann@unl.edu
- Attendance not required.

Resources

- [PSA Judging Criteria](#)
- [How to Prepare a 4-H Radio Public Service Announcement](#)

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.

For questions about this contest, please contact Lauren Stohlmann

Rules

- Length
 - Individual (all age divisions): 6-8 minutes
 - Team (all age 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.
- 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.

Resources

- [Illustrated Presentation Judging Criteria](#)

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 are evaluating the subject, organization, and delivery of the speech.

For questions about this contest, please contact the superintendent: Maria Walker.

Rules

- Length
 - Junior Division (Ages 8-9) 1-3 minutes
 - Intermediate Division (Ages 10-13) 3-5 minutes
 - Senior Division (Ages 14-18) 5-8 minutes
- Only individuals may compete in this class: No team entries 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

Resources

- [Impromptu Speech Judging Criteria](#)

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.

For questions about this contest, please contact the superintendent: Maria Walker.

Rules

- Length: 60-90 seconds (All age 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 to Lauren @lauren.stohlmann@unl.edu

Resources

- [Video Communication Judging Criteria](#)

Clover Kid Division

Ages: 5-7

Any speech or presentation

Length: 30 sec - 2 minutes

Any topic, can be a poem, 4-H Pledge, story, etc.

GENERAL RULES

- Youth must be currently enrolled in Cass County 4-H to participate in the Public Speaking Contest.
- If eligible, youth may participate in all contest classes.
- Speakers may not use an old speech written by a sibling, other 4-H member, or anyone else.
- Small note cards are permitted but should not be directly read from.
- 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 are allowed to give a simple speech that does not have to relate to 4-H. They may recite a poem they have learned, the 4-H Pledge, etc that is age appropriate.
- Intermediate and Senior Prepared Speech, Radio Public Service (PSA) and Illustrated Presentation classes are State Fair eligible.
- Top five (5) purple ribbon contestants (Junior, Intermediate & Senior) in Prepared Speech, PSA, and Illustrated Presentation will advance to the State Fair Premier Communications Event.
- Impromptu Speech and Video Communications are open to all Intermediate and Senior 4-H members at the State Fair Premier Communications Event.
- While most contest classes are only for individuals, team entries are allowed in the Illustrated Presentation contest class. If team members are not in that same age division, they must compete in the age division of the oldest team member.