

4-H Communications Contest

Guidelines and Entry Form for 2024

The Communications Contest helps 4-H youth explore and participate in public speaking within a unique setting. Also, 4-H youth will be able to demonstrate their public speaking abilities in various topics in relation to 4-H through presentations, speeches, PSA'S, and Video Communications.

Contest Date: Thursday, April 26th, 2024.

Times: Starts @ 4:30PM, Judging will take place from 4:30-6:30 PM, and Awards and ceremonies will be held afterwards.

Where: Nebraska Extension Office in Douglas-Sarpy Counties, 8015 West Center Rd, Omaha NE 68124

4-H Contact Person: Jake Yambor at jyambor2@unl.edu, 402-444-7804

Key Information:

- All Entry Forms are DUE: Friday, April 19th, 2024.
 - Judging will start at 4:30 PM.
 - Must be enrolled in 4-H to participate in the contest.
 - Youth and Families should remain quite near judging rooms.
 - Classes will be split into ages.
 - The Communications Contest is open to 4-H youth ages 5-18.
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Resources:

- [Prepared Speech Judging Criteria](#)
- [Guide to Making Great Speeches](#)
- [PSA Judging Criteria](#)
- [How to Prepare a 4-H Radio Public Service Announcement](#)
- [Impromptu Speech Judging Criteria](#)
- [Illustrated Presentation Judging Criteria](#)
- [Video Communication Judging Criteria](#)

2024 Communication Contest Guidelines

Prepared Speeches: The Prepared Speech contest provides youth with 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:
 - Clover Kids (ages 5-7): 2 minutes or less (Not eligible for regional competition).
 - 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.

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 15 minutes to develop and prepare for their presentation.

- Length
 - Clover Kids (ages 5-7): 1 ½ minutes or less (Not eligible for regional competition)
 - Junior Division (ages 8-10): 1 1/2 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 the judges.

Presentations: 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

- Individual – Clover Kids: 1-3 minutes (Not eligible for regional competition).
 - Individual – Junior Division: 3-5 minutes
 - Individual – Intermediate and Senior Divisions: 6-8 minutes
 - Team – Junior Division: 5-7 minutes
 - Team – Intermediate and Senior Divisions: 8-10 minutes
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- 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. Presenters are expected to clean up the areas in which they work.
 - 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 not be used in presentations.

PSA'S (Radio Public Service Announcements) and Video Communications.

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.

- 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.

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

- 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.

Other Information

Clover Kid 4-H (only ages 5-7) – Youth may present for 1 – 5 minutes. They are encouraged to simply focus on any topic that they enjoy and can show and talk about. Props such as special toys, sports equipment or pet care equipment are some ideas. This class is non-competitive and uses a comment sheet for the Clover Kids.

Premier Communication Event Information

- Youth must be currently enrolled in 4-H to participate in the Premier Communication Event.
- 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 local Extension offices. There is a \$10 fee per entry for the Prepared Speech, Radio Public Service Announcement

(PSA), Illustrated Presentation, and Impromptu Speech Contest; there is no entry fee for the Video Communication Contest.

- Junior: ages 8-10 as of January 1 of the current year
- Intermediate: ages 11-13 as of January 1 of the current year
- Senior: ages 14-18 as of January 1 of the current year
- While most contest classes are only for individuals, team entries are allowed in the Illustrated Presentation contest class. If team members are not in the same age division, they must compete in the age division of the oldest team member.

2024 Communications Entry Form

Due Friday, April 19, 2024

NAME: _____ 4-H AGE (Age before January 1, 2024): _____

ADDRESS: _____ Zip Code: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS (PARENT/GUARDIAN): _____

4-H age is determined by how old the youth was before January 1, 2024.

Please check which class category the 4-H member is to be entered in:

ALL Modes of Communication (Clover Kids only)

CLASS 999 **Clover Kids – ages 5-7** ☐

Prepared Speech ☐

Impromptu Speech ☐

Presentation ☐

PSA ☐

Video Communication ☐

Prepared Speech

CLASS 900 **Junior – ages 8-10** ☐

CLASS 901 **Intermediate – ages 11-13** ☐

CLASS 902 **Senior – ages 14-18** ☐

Impromptu Speech

CLASS 900 **Junior – ages 8-10** ☐

CLASS 901 **Intermediate – ages 11-13** ☐

CLASS 902 **Senior – ages 14-18** ☐

PSA'S

CLASS 903 **Junior – ages 8-10** ☐

CLASS 904 **Intermediate – ages 11-13** ☐

CLASS 905 **Senior – ages 14-18** ☐

Presentations

CLASS 113 **Junior (Individual) – ages 8-10** ☐

CLASS 113 **Junior (Team) – ages 8-10** ☐

CLASS 113 **Intermediate (Individual) – ages 11-13** ☐

CLASS 113 **Intermediate (Team) – ages 11-13** ☐

CLASS 113 **Senior (Individual) – ages 14-18** ☐

CLASS 113 Senior (Team) – ages 14-18 ☐

Video Communication

Junior – ages 8-10 ☐

Intermediate – ages 11-13 ☐

Senior – ages 14-18 ☐

Entry Form Link Posted Below: https://ssp.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0BZmgb8FWnPbbls

