



2021 Knox County 4-H Public Speaking Contest
Monday, April 6, 6:00 p.m.
Courthouse Annex Meeting Room, Center

PURPOSE:

Through the 4-H Public Speaking Contest, youth have an opportunity to write a speech or a public service announcement (PSA) that incorporates the topic of 4-H and deliver it to an audience. The 4-H Public Speaking Contest helps youth:

- Develop skills for communicating about current issues to real audiences.
- Learn how to organize and prepare a speech.
- Develop speech delivery skills.
- Learn how to present themselves to others.
- Develop self-confidence.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- Youth may present both a Speech and a PSA.
- All speeches must be original and include 4-H as the major component of the speech.
- Many speakers have given speeches in other contests. This is fine; however, previous speeches may not be exactly the same for the 4-H Contest. It is okay to use the same ideas from a speech previously delivered in competition, **but it must be 4-H related**. Enough changes should be made to make the speech new to the speaker and the audience. 4-H members may **not** use an old speech written by a sibling, other 4-H member, or anyone else. Parents and speech coaches are encouraged to help the 4-H member with the speech, but they should not write the speech for them.
- 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.
- Use of visual aids and props are not allowed.
- Note cards are acceptable if used properly - speeches should not be read. (Note cards are not recommended for the State Contest)
- Dress appropriately. Do not wear costumes or special effect clothing.
- 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 PSA's are 60 seconds in length.
- **All PSA's must use the state theme that is shared annually as the basis for the PSA. The state theme for the 2021 PSA is "Opportunity 4 All".**

- All 4-H PSA's must include the following tag line within the last ten seconds of the PSA: ***“Learn more about the Nebraska Extension 4-H Youth Development Program at 4h.unl.edu.”*** The tag line 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.
- No team PSA's are allowed.
- Radio PSA's will be submitted electronically along with the PSA text prior to the contest on April 6 or at the contest. (Please use a .wav or .mp3 audio format when recording your PSA.)
- The top five contestants in the Intermediate and Senior Divisions of the County Speech and the PSA Contest are eligible to compete at the Statewide Public Speaking Contest held in Lincoln on Wednesday, June 30, 2021. Please note, in order to qualify, all participants must have received a purple ribbon at the county competition.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE:

- The following resources are available at the Extension Office or online at <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/knox/knox-county-4-h-public-speaking-contest/>
 - Speech Scoresheet and PSA Scoresheet
 - Handout *A Guide To Making Great 4-H Speeches*
 - Handout *How to Prepare a PSA*.

RECOGNITION & AWARDS:

Each participant will receive a ribbon and the top winner in each Speech Division will receive a trophy. A \$50.00 scholarship to attend a 4-H camp will be provided to the first place winner in each division of the Speech Contest, sponsored by the 4-H Council.

Division	4-H Age before Jan. 1, 2020	Time Guidelines	Special Guidelines
Clover Kids	5-7	Under 1 minute	Read a poem, story or speech on any topic
Junior Speech	8-9	1 to 3 minutes	Original speech with 4-H as the major component
Intermediate Speech	10-13	3 to 5 minutes	Original speech with 4-H as the major component
Senior Speech	14-18	5 to 8 minutes	Original speech with 4-H as the major component
Junior PSA	8-9	60 seconds	PSA must promote 4-H, use the state theme “Opportunity 4 All”, and include tag line.
Intermediate PSA	10-13	60 seconds	PSA must promote 4-H, use the state theme “Opportunity 4 All”, and include tag line.
Senior PSA	14-18	60 seconds	PSA must promote 4-H, use the state theme “Opportunity 4 All”, and include tag line.
To register, call the Extension Office at 402-288-5611 by Tuesday, March 30th.			