

## 2024 Saunders County Communication Contest

**Monday, April 1 @ 6:00 p.m.**

Location: Saunders County Extension Office  
1071 County Road G, Ithaca, NE 68033

[\*\*CLICK HERE TO REGISTER\*\*](#)

Registration is DUE March 25

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### AGE DIVISIONS:

Four age divisions are used based on the member's 4-H age as of January 1, 2024. Junior, Intermediate and Senior division participants may be selected to represent Saunders County at the Nebraska State Public Speaking Contest.

Clover Kids will participate in a non-competitive division with a prepared speech.

- Clover Kid: 5-7 (as of January 1)
  - Junior: 8-10 (as of January 1)
  - Intermediate: 11-13 (as of January 1)
  - Senior: 14-18 (as of January 1)
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### GENERAL RULES & REGULATION

- A 4-H member may enter once in each contest (Speech, PSA, and Presentation Contest).
  - Speakers may use notes, podium, or table.
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### 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 of Speeches:
  - Clover Kid Division: 30 seconds - 2 minutes
  - Junior Division: 2-3 minutes
  - Intermediate Division: 3-5 minutes
  - Senior Division: 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

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## 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.

- Length of Speeches:
    - Junior Division: 1 ½ minutes
    - Intermediate Division: 3 minutes
    - Senior Division: 5 minutes
    - No Clover Kid Division
  - Only individuals may compete in this class; no team entries are allowed.
  - On the contest day, participants will have a topic randomly selected for them. Youth will have up to 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
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## 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.

- Not required to attend contest night. This is a digital submission. Youth are welcome to attend and have PSA played for the audience, but judging will take place prior to event. Awards will be given that night.
- Submit by April 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:00pm to [Saunders-County@unl.edu](mailto:Saunders-County@unl.edu) in a .wav or .mp3 audio format. Include youth name in file name.
- All PSAs are 60 seconds in length.
- The state theme for the 2024 Public Service Announcement (PSA) is **"4-H is a Feeling"**
- All radio PSAs must promote 4-H and be general enough to be used anywhere in Nebraska at any time of year.
- All 4-H PSAs must include the following tagline within the last 10 seconds of the PSA: "Learn more about the Nebraska 4-H Youth Development Program at [4h.unl.edu](http://4h.unl.edu)." The tagline is included in the 60-second 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.

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## 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.

- Length of Speeches: *Participants will be penalized if their presentation exceeds the time limit*
  - Junior Division: 3-5 minutes
  - Junior Team Division: 5-7 minutes
  - Intermediate & Senior Division: 6-8 minutes
  - Intermediate & Senior Team Divisions: 8-10 minutes
- 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, easel, PC compatible computer (including Microsoft PowerPoint) with a WiFi internet connection, and a projector and 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 at the county level ONLY. 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. *For 2024 State contest, live animals will NOT be able to be used in the presentation.*

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## 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 both the organization of information as well as the audio and video production.

- Not required to attend contest night. This is a digital submission. Youth are welcome to attend and have PSA played for the audience, but judging will take place prior to event. Awards will be given that night.
- Submit by April 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:00pm to [Saunders-County@unl.edu](mailto:Saunders-County@unl.edu) as MP4 files. Include youth name in file name.
- Length of Speeches:
  - 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.

## RESOURCES

- [A Guide to Making Great Speeches](#)
- [Examples of Prepared Speeches and PSAs from Lancaster County](#)
- [How to Prepare a 4-H Radio Public Service Announcement](#)
- [Examples of Top Senior and Intermediate Radio PSA Entries \(2023\)](#)
- [4-H Prepared Speech Judging Criteria](#)
- [4-H PSA Judging Criteria](#)
- [4-H Illustrated Presentation Judging Criteria](#)
- [4-H Impromptu Speech Judging Criteria](#)
- [4-H Video Communication Judging Criteria](#)
- [Examples of Video Communication Entries \(2023\)](#)
- [State Public Speaking Contest Information](#)

Nebraska Premier Communication Event: **Monday, June 17 and Tuesday, June 18**, in Lincoln, NE.  
Please visit the State Public Speaking Contest webpage above for further details about this contest.