



## 4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING AND PRESENTATION CONTESTS

April 14, 2024

3:00 p.m.

Wayne County Courthouse Courtroom, 510 N Pearl St, Wayne, NE 68787

Register by April 10 by calling 402-375-3310 or emailing [wayne-county@unl.edu](mailto:wayne-county@unl.edu) with your name, whether doing a speech, PSA, or Illustrated Presentation, the title of the speech or presentation, and age division.

The Public Speaking and Presentation Contests help 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, and develop self-confidence. The top five contestants in each of the junior (new for 2024), intermediate, and senior divisions of each category (Prepared Speech, PSA, and Illustrated Presentation), are eligible to represent Wayne County at the Premier Communication Event on June 17-18 in Lincoln. All enrolled 4-H youth are eligible to participate in Impromptu Speech and Video Communication at the Premier Communication event in Lincoln on June 17-18, 2024.

The *Guide to Making Great Speeches* and *How to Prepare a 4-H Radio Public Service Announcement* manuals, and Judging Criteria for each category are available at: <https://4h.unl.edu/premier-communication-event> under **Resources** of each tab and at the Extension Office.

### Age Divisions (all ages as of December 31, 2023)

- Clover Kids - 4-Hers 5-7 years.
- Novice - 4-Hers 9 years and younger who have never competed in a speech or presentation contest before.
- Junior - 4-Hers 8-10 years.
- Intermediate - 4-Hers 11-13 years.
- Senior - 4-Hers 14 years and older.



*Turn over for guidelines for each category*



## Speech Category Guidelines:

- Length:
  - Junior Division (ages 8-10): 1-3 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.
- Clover Kids - 4-Hers 5-7 years. May read a poem or story, or talk to the audience about any topic they choose. May be written by 4-Her or someone else. Suggested length: under 2 minutes.
- **Non-competitive**
  - Novice - May read a poem or story, or talk to the audience about any topic they choose...4-H or otherwise. May be written by 4-Her or someone else. (4-Hers eligible for novice age division may compete in the junior age division if they choose, but cannot compete in both.)

## Public Service Announcement (PSA) Category Guidelines:

- Length:
  - Novice - 30 Seconds
  - Junior, Intermediate, and Senior - 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.
- PSA entries may be presented live at the contest or submitted electronically in a .wav or .mp3 audio format along with the registration for the contest.

### Giving Your Speech

- When introduced, walk briskly to the area where speech will be given.
- Pause, smile, and look at everyone before starting.
- Stand tall.
- Be confident.
- Speak loud and clear.
- Speak normally, don't rush.
- Don't read your speech off your cards.
- Look at your audience like you are talking to each of them. Have good eye contact.

### **Show and Tell Presentation Category Guidelines (County only):**

- Length is 1-5 minutes long.
- Age 9 years old or younger.
- Show and Tell relates to a 4-H project the 4-Her is enrolled in.
- Never previously given a presentation at a county contest.
- May give show and tell OR regular presentation, not both.
- May be given only one year.
- 4-Her brings one item they have made themselves, along with a poster explaining how item was made, or material needed, or recipe.
- Nothing actually demonstrated.
- Ribbons and premiums are given same as a regular presentation, but not eligible for special awards or advancement to the Premier Communications Event.
- Comments made by a judge.

### **Illustrated Presentation Category Guidelines:**

- Length
  - 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
  - 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.
- New for 2024: No Live animals may be used in the presentation.