

4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

March 24, 2017

One contest that 4-Hers are preparing for is the Public Speaking Contest. This contest helps youth develop skills for communicating about current issues to real audiences. Youth who chose to participate learn how to organize and prepare a speech and develop speech delivery skills. They learn how to present themselves to others, and develop self-confidence. These skills also prepare them for other opportunities that they will have in speaking in front of others.

The 4-H Public Speaking Contest in Wayne County will be held on Monday, April 3, 2017 at the Wayne County Courthouse in Wayne at 7:00 PM. 4-Hers need to register for the contest on or before 5:00 PM on Friday, March 31. They can simply do this calling 402-375-3310 or emailing wayne-county@unl.edu with your name, whether doing a speech, PSA or both, the title of the speech, and age division.

The top three contestants in each of the junior, intermediate and senior divisions of each category (Speech & PSA) are eligible to represent Wayne County at the Regional Public Speaking Contest on May 25, 2017 at the Northeast Community College Lifelong Learning Center in Norfolk.

The *Guide to Making Great Speeches* and *How to Prepare a 4-H Radio Public Service Announcement* manuals are available at <http://4h.unl.edu/public-speaking/regional> and at the Extension Office.

Details about the Speech Contest include:

Age Divisions (*all ages as of December 31, 2016*)

- Clover Kids - 4-Hers 5-7 years. **Non-competitive**
- Novice - 4-Hers 10 years and younger who have never competed in a speech contest before. May read a poem or story, or talk to the audience about any topic they choose...4-H or otherwise.
- Junior - 4-Hers 8-10 years.
- Intermediate - 4-Hers 11-13 years.
- Senior - for 4-Hers 14 years and older.

Speech Category Guidelines: All speeches must be original and include 4-H as the major component of the speech.

- Many speakers in the Public Speaking Contest have given speeches in other contests. This is fine; however, previous speeches may not be used verbatim 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 that speech new to the speaker and the audience. 4-H public speakers may not use an old speech written by a sibling, other 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.
- Use of visual aids and props are not allowed.
- Dress appropriately. Do not wear costumes or special effect clothing.
- No team speeches are allowed.

Public Service Announcement (PSA) Category Guidelines:

- Novice PSA's can be 30 or 60 seconds in length. All other age divisions must be 60 seconds.
- All radio PSA's will use the state theme as the basis for their PSA. This year's theme is "**4-H Grown**" and should be incorporated into the PSA.
- All radio PSA's must promote 4-H and be general enough to be used anywhere in Nebraska at anytime of the year.
- 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 time limit.

There are some tips about giving your speech, they include:

- When introduced, walk briskly to the podium.
- Pause, smile, and look at everyone before starting.
- Stand tall, don't lean on the podium.
- 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.