

## 2024 District 12 4-H Talent Showcase

### Category Descriptions:

- All acts can consist of one (1) to nine (9) members.
- Acts will have 4 minutes for set-up/tear down and 6 minutes for their performance.
- A penalty of five (5) points per minute of part of a minute over the time limits allowed will be deducted from the total score.

### 4-H Skit

4-H based story line, promoting 4-H, community service, a project or activity. This category may also address a specific youth issue and present ways in which this issue can be addressed through 4-H efforts.

Acts may incorporate music, vocal selections, and/or choreographed routines (not the primary focal point) through character dialogue, interaction, and storytelling. Skits can be humorous, creative and make fun of but not degrade Extension employees or the 4-H program.

All 4-H members entered in the category must be a part of the act. Judged on material chosen, talent, creativity, showmanship, costumes, and props.

### Variety Show

This is an acting category. Variety show, also known as variety arts or variety entertainment, is entertainment made up of a variety of acts including sketch comedy, magic, acrobatics, juggling, and ventriloquism and other acts that do not fit into the other six categories.

Acts cannot incorporate 4-H related material or theme. (Otherwise, it would be categorized as 4-H Skit.) Creativity is encouraged, but the degradation of any individual or organization is not permitted.

Acts may incorporate music, vocal selections, and/or choreographed routines, not the primary focal point. Judged on material chosen, talent, creativity, showmanship, costumes, and props.

### Vocal

Vocal presentation may be done a cappella or with accompaniment music (via a USB, mp3 or mp4). No accompanist will be allowed for this category.

All members in the act must be singing. **No lip sync will be allowed.** Contestants may not present skits, poetry, or other speaking during the act. They may, however, move around the stage and incorporate choreography with their presentation for the purpose of enhancing their showmanship.

**Sign language may be added to enhance the performance, but entries that strictly showcase sign language without vocal presentation are not permitted in this category.** They must be entered in Choreographed routines. Judged on talent, showmanship, vocal presentation, and material chosen.



### Solo/Band

This act incorporates a combination of vocal and musical/instrumental talents. Acts that are vocal only or musical/instrumental only are not to be entered in this category.

All 4-H members entered in the category must be a part of the act by playing a musical instrument, singing, or both (solo performance must play an instrument and sing).

Participants **MUST** incorporate singing in the acts, but cannot incorporate skits, poetry, or prose. They may, however, move around the stage and incorporate choreography with their presentation for the purpose of enhancing their showmanship. Judged on talent, showmanship, musical presentation, vocal presentation when applicable, and material chosen.

### Musical/Instrumental

Musical presentation may be musical instruments accompanied by background recorded music or an instrumental performance only.

No accompanist will be allowed. All 4-H members entered in the category must be a part of the act by playing a musical instrument.

Participants may not sing or incorporate a skit, poetry, prose, or choreography with their act. Judged on talent, showmanship, musical presentation, and material chosen.

### Poetry/Prose

Acts which showcase poetry or prose are required. The act may **NOT** incorporate vocal, musical, and/or choreographed routine. This category does not require 4-H related material; however, if an original poem or prose piece showcasing 4-H written, this would be acceptable.

Every 4-H member entered in the category must be a part of the performance on stage. All material must be memorized. No script may be used during the performance. Judged on material chosen, message, talent, presentation style, props/costuming.

**Defining Poetry and Prose:** Poetry is generally characterized by structured meter and rhyme that tells a story or provides a message to the reader. Prose is distinguished from poetry by its greater variety of rhyme and its closer resemblance to the patterns of everyday speech. Another description might be an excerpt from a larger piece such as a play or book.

### Choreographed Routine

The act requires choreography which can be demonstrated through twirling, pom pom squad routines, jump rope teams, basketball dribbling exhibitions, or dance (jazz, tap, country & western, ballroom, etc.).

**No speaking to form a skit or story line.**



## 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Sign language presentations to music have been added to choreographed routines. However, if a participant is SINGING and SIGNING this entry should be entered in the Vocal Category.

All 4-H members entered in the category must be a part of the act. Acts may use recorded music (via a USB or digital means) but may not use an accompanist. Judged on material chosen, talent, creativity, showmanship, costuming, and material chosen.

### Qualifying for Texas 4-H Round-Up

Senior Division 4-H Members only (9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

- The first and second place district winners in each of the seven (7) categories qualify for the Texas 4-H Roundup.
- The first and second place entries in each category from District advancing to Texas 4-H Roundup maybe from the same county. If a county has an entry in each category at District and each win first or second, then they can all advance to Texas 4-H Roundup.

**Presentation Material:** Participants must compete with the **SAME** material at all levels of the competition – County, District, and State.

**Introduction of the Act:** Contestants do not need to introduce themselves. At District 12 4-H Roundup – Educational Presentation+, each act will be introduced individually, immediately prior to their performance by the announcer. The introduction/description will be submitted as part of the Required Information Form that is due prior to District 12 4-H Roundup – Educational Presentation+. Anything that needs to be said should be included in the introduction to be read by the announcers. This process will be part of 4-H Online registration. **If you choose to add information in your act, it will count against your performance time and may confuse judges depending on the delivery method.**

**PROHIBITED MATERIALS:** The following materials may not be used in any category: talcum powder/baby powder, flour, pies, food, water, oil, loose feathers, flower petals, hay, straw, helium balloons, glitter, sand, confetti, open flames, or other substances which are hard to clean up, may cause damage, or be dangerous to participants. No roller skates, shoes with spikes, cleats, motorized vehicles, or live animals will be allowed. Any prop resembling a firearm must receive prior approval from the District 12 4-H Specialist.

### Definitions of Terms for Scoresheets

The information below is a guide for scoring. Each term used on the score sheets is defined to clarify what is expected in each performance category. There is a score sheet for each of the six (7) categories.

**Inappropriateness in any category is not permitted and would change the score of that area dramatically and could lead to disqualification.** For example, a brilliantly executed skit that depends upon the use of foul language would not be acceptable. Any inappropriate reference to sex, age, or handicap will lead to disqualification.



- **MATERIAL CHOSEN** – This area refers to the appropriateness of the material selected. A vocalist should select the song that is within his/her voice range; a pianist should pass up the “showy” difficult piece for one he/she will play well. Material chosen also refers to the appropriateness of the selection for presentation before a 4-H audience. The target audience should be around 13 years of age and be PG or G rated.
- **TALENT** – This is the performer’s actual ability to do what the activity or skill requires. In any musical classification, this includes items such as the quality of music tones, intonation, manner of uttering tones regarding rise, fall, pitch, harmony, rhythm, and any other attributes of an artistic presentation. In choreographed routine, it includes rhythm, timing appropriate gestures, memorization, and artistic delivery. Judges should be aware that some of the performers have not had formal training.
- **CREATIVITY** – Creativity is the ability to produce something new, unique, or original. An act may be original in the way it was developed and/or interpreted. Sometimes the act itself may not be original, but the costuming, staging, or delivery may show creativity. Additionally, the quality of the creativity should be measured.
- **SHOWMANSHIP** – Showmanship is the stage personality of the performer. It can include poise, confidence, facial expression, projection of voice, projection of music, body movements, gestures, and the performer’s stage presence, depending on the category (see score sheets for specific criteria). It is always the performer’s communication with the audience. It is his/her ability to make smooth entrances and exits, to avoid awkward pauses, and to acknowledge the applause of the audience. It is the use of the microphone and special stage props if these are a part of the act. In general, it is the whole personality of the performer while he/she is on stage. This term is used on several of the scoresheets and therefore the concept of showmanship will vary for each category.
- **COSTUME AND PROPS** – Costume and props should be appropriate and supportive of the act. For some acts, street clothes may be the most appropriate costume. If the special costumes are used, they should contribute to the effectiveness of the act. Props are the backdrop and/or other items used to add character and meaning to the presentation.
- **MESSAGE** – Communication of an idea or theme. What is the underlying message that will be taught or presented?
- **PRESENTATION STYLE** – Method of acting; distinctive or characteristic manner; overall excellence; skill or grace in performance and/or appearance.
- **VOCAL PRESENTATION** – Exercising the power of producing voice, speech, or sound, expressing oneself as to relate to character or message being portrayed.
- **MUSICAL PRESENTATION** – Music selected is appropriate to the skill level of the individual or group; sound level of the musical presentation is at an appropriate level; instruments are tuned properly.
- **AUDIENCE APPEAL** – Evokes reaction from audience that is desired from the performance (laughter, clapping, serious, quiet).



4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION



<b>Sample Acts Descriptions</b>	
<b>4-H Skit:</b>	<p><b>Title:</b> Hopeless Otis Paints the Town Green</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Hopeless Otis and his die-kick Homer are invited to participate in a 4-H Community Service Project. His reluctance soon turns to active participation and interest as he learns that community service is more than just painting a house... it's touching the lives of those you help. Sit back and enjoy this humorous presentation by the Happy County 4-H Players from County _____.</p>
<b>Choreographed Routines:</b>	<p><b>Title:</b> Texas Prairie Toe Tappin' Fun!</p> <p><b>Description:</b> The Clover County Senior Dance Team from County _____ is dancing their way across Texas! This group has performed at local competitions, banquets, and parades. Their presentation today will feature a medley of Texas Prairie Fold Dances with authentic costumes made by the clothing project team.</p>
<b>Variety Show:</b>	<p><b>Title:</b> Matthew the Magician</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Now you see, now you don't, Matthew from _____ County will amaze you with objects vanishing into thin air and then make them reappear. He has more tricks up his sleeve, so sit back and wait to be mesmerized.</p>
<b>Musical/Instrumental:</b>	<p><b>Title:</b> Ye Olde Irish Tunes Make You Smile!</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Jane Thompson, member of the Good Clover 4-H Club in _____ County will perform a clarinet solo featuring "I'M Looking Over A Four Leaf Clover" and "Irish Eyes Are Smilin," Irish pieces by Michael O'Grady.</p>
<b>Poetry/Prose:</b>	<p><b>Title:</b> Shake, Rattle, and Role</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Tommy Lee Pigg, member of the Shooting Sports 4-H Club in _____ County will recite a blank verse rhyming poem entitled "Shake, Rattle, and Roll" written by Henry Fickelwinker that displays an unusual twist on words.</p>
<b>Solo/Band Performance:</b>	<p><b>Title:</b> Rockin' The 80's</p> <p><b>Description:</b> _____ County is taking us back in time to the 1980's with their medley of songs from cover bands from that era. This 6-member team of musicians and vocalists will wow you with their big hair and awesome performance!</p>
<b>Vocal:</b>	<p><b>Title:</b> Marchin' With Maureen, The Jazz Queen!</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Maureen Lucille Bordeaux will jazz it up New Orleans style as she sings " Oh When the Saints Go Marchin' In." Maureen is an 8-year 4-H member from _____ County</p>



	and has been performing in her local church choir and school ensemble for 4 years.
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### Additional Talent Showcase Details

- No Accompanist will be permitted for any category. If music is required, it must be submitted on the Required Information section or performed by the contestant. See Category Descriptions for specific rules for each category.
- Practice/Warm Up. There will not be a location for warm-up or practice. 4-H members should rehearse and come prepared to present a top-notch performance. The District 12 4-H Round-up Education Presentation + schedule does not allow time for practice. A brief amount of time will be permitted to view stage, backstage, etc. at a designated time.
- Audience Participation. Acts are not allowed for a member of the audience to come up on stage or participate in a performance in any way. (Example: Magic Act – any help or assistance with a trick in the act; that helper must be registered participant as a team member for that specific category/act.)
- Adult Assistance – Set-up. Only adult coaches and/or agents will be allowed backstage, in the vicinity of the storage area of props, and to assist the 4-H members with set-up and breakdown of props and equipment. 4-H members or other youth who are not a part of the team will not be allowed to assist with set-up or take down. One person should be designated by the group to work with the stage manager when it is your turn to set up your performance. This person should know the exact locations for all equipment, props, etc. on stage and be able to give clear instructions.
- Adult Assistance – Performance. During a performance adult coaches may give cues for music backstage and help with costume/prop changes backstage. They are NOT allowed to participate in any other form in the act while the act is going on. Any voices heard during the performance from backstage must be either a participant OR a recorded voice.

