



2025 District 12 4-H Public Speaking

Objectives

4-H public speaking is a program and activity within the 4-H youth development organization that focuses on helping young people develop their communication and public speaking skills. 4-H is a global youth organization that provides hands-on learning experiences to young people in a variety of areas, including agriculture, leadership and communications.

Benefits

- Building confidence: Public Speaking can be intimidating, but 4-H helps youth build their confidence in their ability to communicate effectively.
- Developing Communication Skills: Participants learn how to organize their thoughts, use effective body language, and connect with their audience.
- Critical Thinking: Creating a compelling speech or presentation often requires critical thinking and research skills.
- Leadership Development: Public speaking is an important leadership skill, and 4-H helps young people become more effective leaders in their communities.
- Personal Growth: The experience of speaking in front of an audience can be personally rewarding and lead to personal growth.

Contest Rules

- Speeches should be between 5-8 minutes. Points deductions will be taken for those under/over.
- The presentation should serve to persuade others regarding a particular issue or concern. It should also be appropriate for the member's age and experience.
- Appropriate credit must be given for references used.
- Public Speaking Score Sheet Version 9/2023 will be used for the contest.
- District 12 will NOT have preliminary speaking rooms.
- Visual aids and props **may not be used.**
- Following the presentation, there may be up to 5 minutes of question-and-answer period by the judges. Only official judges and superintendents may ask questions of the contestants.
- 4-H members may be asked to provide the title of their presentation and a short statement related to what their presentation is about at the time of registration on 4-H Online.
- Speeches **MUST** be the original work of the 4-H member. 4-H members may **NOT** share/utilize the same presentations delivered by other members/siblings/family members.