



4-H Prepared Speech Contest

Sunday, March 3 • Register by February 27

The 4-H Prepared Speech Contest provides 4-H'ers the opportunity to learn to express themselves clearly, organize their ideas and have confidence. The contest is open to all 4-H'ers ages 5–18 (as of January 1 of the current year) — need not be enrolled in a specific project. Youth may choose to participate in either one or both the Prepared Speech and/or Radio Public Service Announcement Contests.

The Prepared Speech Contest will be held on Sunday, March 3 at the Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County conference rooms, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln. Contest begins at 1:30 p.m. During the contest, check-in at least 10 minutes prior to your scheduled time. All speeches are open to the public for viewing.

Register by Tuesday, February 27 at https://go.unl.edu/lancasterspeech_psacontest2024. Tentative scheduled speech times will be emailed to those registered.

The use of visual aids and props is not allowed. Please wear a nice outfit for the contest — do not wear costumes or special-effects clothing. Note cards can be used as references, but should not be used to read your speech.

For more information, contact Kate Pulec at kpulec3@unl.edu or 402-441-7180. For resources and examples of Intermediate and Senior speeches, go to <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/speech>.



Topic

Youth may write and prepare a speech on any topic related to their 4-H experience. All prepared speeches must be original and include 4-H as the major component of the speech (with the exception of the Clover Kids division).

Examples could be:

- 4-H projects and activities they have experienced/learned from.
- A 4-H project they would like others to enroll in.
- A timely topic related to 4-H.
- How has 4-H helped them?
- The importance of 4-H in their life.

Age Divisions

(by Jan. 1 of the current year)

- **Clover Kids:** ages 5–7 — This age division may recite a speech on any topic! They could recite or read a favorite nursery rhyme, short story, the 4-H pledge, etc. (*Clover Kids receive participation ribbons only — no premiums given.*)
- **Junior:** ages 8–10
Length: 2–3 minutes
- **Intermediate:** ages 11–13
Length: 3–5 minutes
- **Senior:** ages 14–18
Length: 5–8 minutes

Scoring

The 4-H members are judged on a 100-point scale.

20% - Subject of the speech: Use of 4-H, content, good use of examples and supporting stories or facts, substantial message

20% - Organization of the speech: Introduction, body and conclusion included and identifiable

40% - Delivery: Bodily action, poise, eye contact, gestures, voice, pitch, rate, articulation and pronunciation of words

20% - General: Personal appearance, reaction of audience, length

State Contest

The top youth in the junior, intermediate and senior divisions will qualify for the state 4-H Prepared Speech Contest, which will be part of the Premier Communication Event on Monday, June 17–Tuesday, June 18 at University of Nebraska–Lincoln East Campus (read more at <https://4h.unl.edu/premier-communication-event>).

Note: The state Premier Communication Event will include an **Impromptu Speech Contest open to all 4-H'ers ages 8–18, which does not require qualifying at a county contest.**

Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.



4-H Radio Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest

Deadline Tuesday, February 27

The 4-H Radio Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest provides 4-H'ers the opportunity to learn to express themselves clearly, organize their ideas and have confidence. The contest is open to all 4-H'ers ages 5–18 (as of January 1 of the current year) — need not be enrolled in a specific project. Youth may choose to participate in either one or both the Prepared Speech and/or Radio Public Service Announcement Contests.

In the Radio PSA Contest, 4-H'ers submit a 60-second promotional audio recording that could be played on the radio to promote the work of Nebraska 4-H. Submit a PSA as a .wav, .mp3 or .m4a file electronically to kpulec3@unl.edu or on a CD/flash drive to the Extension office by Tuesday, February 27.

- **The 2024 state theme is “4-H is a Feeling” and should be incorporated in the PSA.**
- **All PSA's must include the following tag line within the last ten seconds of the PSA: “Learn more about Nebraska Extension 4-H youth development program at 4h.unl.edu.”** The tagline is included in the 60-second time limit.

State 4-H asks for PSA's to be general enough to be used anywhere in Nebraska at anytime of the year.

Sound effects and public domain music may be used (copyrighted material may not be used).

If you do not have the capabilities to record a PSA, contact Vicki Jedlicka at 402-441-7180 to set up a recording time at the Extension office.

The PSA's will be judged without the 4-H member present. Results and comment sheets will be handed out at the 4-H Prepared Speech Contest which will be held on Sunday, March 3 beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County conference rooms, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln.

For more information, contact Kate Pulec at kpulec3@unl.edu or 402-441-7180. For resources and PSA examples, go to <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/speech>.

Age Divisions

(by Jan. 1 of the current year)

- **Clover Kids:** ages 5–7 (*Clover Kids receive participation ribbons only — no premiums given.*)
- **Junior:** ages 8–10
- **Intermediate:** ages 11–13
- **Senior:** ages 14–18



Scoring

The Radio PSA Scorecard is based on a total of 100 points.

- 20% - Introduction:** Did the introduction catch your immediate attention? Was it short and to the point? Did the excitement match the contest?
- 20% - Body:** Are the main points clear? Is the appropriate amount of information given? Are there facts related to the PSA theme?
- 20% - Closing:** Do you give information to the listener in how to become involved or how to obtain additional information? Was the PSA properly wrapped up? How close to 60 seconds is the PSA?
- 40% - General Delivery:** Was the PSA in a conversational style? Did you use proper voice control? Did you give it at a good pace? All words pronounced correctly? Were sound effects effective and attention giving?

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The top youth in the junior, intermediate and senior divisions will qualify for the state 4-H Radio PSA Contest, which will be part of the Premier Communication Event on Monday, June 17 - Tuesday, June 18 at University of Nebraska–Lincoln East Campus (read more at <https://4h.unl.edu/premier-communication-event>).