



4-H Public Speaking Event Guidelines

The 4-H Communication (Public Speaking) Event provides an opportunity for every 4-H member to participate.

Ages: (as of Jan. 1st) ~ Junior: 8 to 10 ~ Intermediate: 11 to 13 ~ Senior: 14 to 18

Members may compete in two categories:

1) Prepared: Contestants may speak on any topic. It may be wise to discuss topics that could be considered controversial with your 4-H Leader or Educator before the contest. The speech may be written for a specific audience such as a 4-H Club, PTA, or a Rotary club. Note cards containing a key word outline are permitted. Only Juniors may use a complete script. **Memorization is not encouraged.**

Junior: 3-5 minutes

Intermediate & Senior: 4-6 minutes

2) Extemporaneous: Speakers will draw three topics and choose one topic to use. Contestants may use one side of up to four, or both sides of up to two, 5 x 8 inch note cards to write their key word outline. Extemporaneous speakers will be shown color time cards at correctly timed intervals indicating "1 Minute", "30 Seconds" and "Stop".

Junior & Intermediate: 2 to 3 minutes (maximum 30 minutes to prepare).

Senior: 3 to 5 minutes (maximum 15 minutes to prepare)

3) Radio Spots: Should be exactly 30 seconds in length and may include a musical or sound effect introduction and/or background, but may not include a spoken introduction or "tag" by anyone other than the contestant. If music or sound effect is used, the contestant must provide and operate the sound-making device. The contestant will provide a complete written script (including notations about music/sound effects) to the timekeeper to aid in timing accuracy. Musical/sound effect introductions and endings are considered a part of the radio spot and must not cause the 30 second time limit to be exceeded. The spot should **relate to 4-H**, be **original**, and be **created by the contestant**.

30 second spot – for all 3-age divisions.

4) Interpretation - 3 Types:

Dramatic Interpretation: Oral interpretation, memorized by the speaker or selection of narrative or dramatic literature. Monologues are acceptable.

Poetry Interpretation: A memorized interpretation by the speaker.

Humorous Interpretation: A memorized oral interpretation of a humorous selection by the speaker. Cuttings may be taken from published plays or prose.

Visual aides are not permitted. Appropriate gestures are encouraged. For Dramatic Interpretation, contestant may opt to sit for presentation. Podium use is optional. Contestants are to bring two (2) copies of the script including reference.

Junior & Intermediate: 2 to 3 minutes

Senior: 3 to 5 minutes

General Notes:

Judges may ask questions of contestants in the **prepared** and **extemporaneous** categories related to the speech's topic. Due to time constraints, questioning should be limited to two or three minutes per speaker. Questions will not be asked in the radio spot category.

Member must be present. No tapes or videos will be used.

Visual aids, including posters, are not permitted. Appropriate gestures are encouraged.

Each contestant will be introduced by name, club and title of their talk. Please do not include this as a part of your presentation.

Two (2) in each contest and age division will be selected to represent Garrett in State Competition. Alternates will be named.

Ribbons will be presented to all participants.

At the State Contest, a contestant may only compete in one category. If a contestant wins more than one category at the county Contest, they must choose which category to compete in at the State Contest.

State Champions may not enter the same category and age group a second time.
