

# **GARRETT COUNTY 4-H**

## **PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST**

### **AGE DIVISIONS**

- \*CLOVER**
- \*JUNIOR**
- \*INTERMEDIATE**
- \*SENIOR**

### **CLOVER CATEGORIES**

- \*SHOW & TELL**
- \*4-H PLEDGE**

### **SPEECH CATEGORIES**

- \*PREPARED**
- \*INTERPRETATION**
- \*EXTEMPORANEOUS**
- \*RADIO SPOT**
- \*DEMONSTRATION**
- \*VISUAL PRESENTATION**

**UP TO TWO CATEGORIES  
CAN BE SELECTED**

**\*Visit our website for more detailed information**

**<https://extension.umd.edu/locations/garrett-county/4-h-youth-development/events/>**

**Friday, January 23, 2026**

**6:00 pm**

**Garrett College**

**GIEC~Room 111**

**687 Mosser Rd**

**McHenry, MD 21541**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE JANUARY 15, 2026**

**Register at: <https://go.umd.edu/20264HPublicSpeaking>**

**MORE DETAILS ON REVERSE**

University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event, please contact our office at 301-334-6960 at least 2 weeks prior to the event.





Members may compete in two of the following six 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 Rotary Club. Notecards containing a keyword 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 to use. Contestants may use index cards to write their keyword outline. Extemporaneous speakers will be shown color time cards at correctly timed intervals, indicating "1 Minute", "30 Seconds", and "Stop".

**Junior & Intermediate: 2-3 minutes (maximum 30 minutes preparation time).**

**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.

**All age divisions: 30 seconds**

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

**Junior & Intermediate: 2 to 3 minutes**

**Senior: 3 to 5 minutes**

5) **Demonstration:** A presentation is where the contestant shows step-by-step how to do or make something. Some examples include how to groom a rabbit for the show, how to create a corsage, and how to make balloon animals, among others. The contestant would prepare and bring all the supplies needed for their "how-to" demonstration. Supplemental materials such as posters with instructions, take-home directions, and samples for taste testing, etc., are encouraged.

**Time Limits - Juniors, Intermediates & Seniors: 3-15 minutes**

6.) **Visual Presentation:** A Visual Presentation is a presentation using props (such as charts, PowerPoint slides, posters, animals, etc.) that help illustrate and accentuate the presentation. The props allow the audience to see and understand the facts and concepts shared in the speech. Contestants should construct a speech as if they were delivering a prepared speech, including pauses/breaks to point to a prop, hold up a poster, or show slides, etc. These pauses should be factored into the overall presentation time. The contestant must provide all necessary props/equipment.

**Time Limits - Juniors: 3-5 minutes; Intermediates & Seniors: 4-6 minutes**



**Beyond  
Ready**