GARRETT COUNTY 4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

AGE DIVISIONS

*CLOVER

*JUNIOR

*INTERMEDIATE

*SENIOR

UP TO TWO CATEGORIES

CAN BE SELECTED

CLOVER CATEGORIES

*SHOW & TELL

*4-H PLEDGE

SPEECH CATEGORIES

*PREPARED

*INTERPRETATION

*EXTEMPORANEOUS

*RADIO SPOT

*DEMONSTRATION

*VISUAL PRESENTATION

*Visit our website for more detailed information https://extension.umd.edu/locations/garrett-county/4-h-youth-development/events/

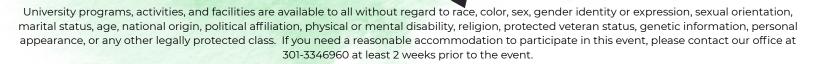
Friday, January 23, 2026

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



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

