

General Rules

- 1) This event includes Speeches, Demonstrations (Team and Individual) and Illustrated talks.
- 2) Each Area Grouping can send one participant per category.
- 3) The state standard is that state communication day event participants earn a blue ribbon at the Area level to qualify for the state communications day event.
- 4) Participants can participate in one speech and one demonstration category per year.
- 5) State Champions may participate only in categories in which they have NOT previously won.
- 6) It is suggested that the speech or demonstration given by the 4-H'er be a new topic from previous years.
- 7) The contestant will be introduced by name and title by the room host. There will be no penalty if name and subject or title is used during the presentation.
- 8) A penalty of three points will be subtracted from the participant's **total overall score** for time errors (under/over time). The time requirement penalty will apply to the state contest, but not necessarily to county or area events. Participants will be eligible for champion placement.
- 9) The decisions of the judges are FINAL.

Speech Specific Rules

- 10) Any youth age 9-19 (must have passed their 9th birthday but have not passed their 19th birthday as of January 1 of the current program year) may participate in the 4-H Public Speaking (Talk Program) on a county basis. SENIORS must have passed their 14th birthday but not their 19th birthday as of January 1 of the current year.
- 11) **NOTE: AGE REQUIREMENTS:** We understand that programming areas may host their event in the Fall which falls before January 1st of the current year for the State Communication's event. Please keep this in mind when certifying age on the registration form for the State Event. (i.e. youth may be age 15 in November, however, state event is not until Spring of next year, youth has a birthday Dec. 1, and is now age 16 for the state event, he/she cannot be the area representative for the 15 age category).
- 12) Speeches by Senior youth (14-19 age youth) must be between 5 to 7 minutes long. Speeches by Junior youth (9-13 age youth) must be between 3 to 5 minutes.
- 13) **Senior Level:** Because this is an educational learning experience, the Senior 4-H'er is expected to choose a topic, research and write their own speech. A participant may have help with practicing the speech. **Junior Level:** The 4-H'er may have assistance in writing and preparation based on age level.
- 14) No visual aids will be used in speech competitions. **Costumes (special outfits)** and/or electronic equipment are considered visual aids. Speakers using visual aids will receive a ribbon but will not be considered for champion placement.
- 15) The use of note cards/electronic notes is optional. Points will not be added or subtracted for the use of notes unless the speaker uses them in a distracting manner.



- 16) Dramatic readings, dramatic monologues and recitation of poems (as the entire speech) including web-based information will not be accepted. Excessive or distracting body or hand gestures will be counted against participants in the scoring section.

Demonstration Specific Rules

- 17) Junior Demonstrations: Any member age 9-13 may compete in Junior Demonstrations as per their age determined on January 1st of the year in which the state contest is held.
Senior Demonstrations: Any member age 14-19 may participate in Senior Demonstration (must have passed their 14th birthday but have not passed their 19th birthday as of January 1st of the year in which the state contest is held). Age is determined by the date of the State event, not when the district or multi-county group hosts their event.
- 18) A participant may have help with practicing the demonstration. Preparation may include practicing in front of peers, club leaders, etc. **At the SENIOR LEVEL, the 4-H'er is expected to demonstrate original work – choosing a topic, researching it and writing their own speech or demonstration. The internet may be used as a reference source but NOT as a source for a non-original speech or demonstration.**
- 19) A participant may have help setting up their demonstration but may not have another person helping during the demonstration. Only team demonstrations may have more than one person participating. There shall be no assistance from the audience.
- 20) Team demonstrations ARE permitted at the state level. They will follow the same rules and regulations of the single participant demonstrations. Two (2) 4-H members will comprise a team. Each person must have a significant speaking and presentation portion. Team demonstrations will be placed in a Junior Category or a Senior Category regardless of topic. All team members must be in the same age category.
- 21) Weapons of any sort cannot be brought into the building or on the grounds of school or university property. This includes firearms, bullets, bows and arrows. Mockups, models, and charts must be used instead. Models cannot look like an actual gun, bow, or other firearm.
- 22) The use of computers and presentation equipment is allowed in the presentation software category only. It is not allowed in any other category. *Electronic devices may be used in place of notecards.
- 23) Demonstrations must have a posterboard or tri-fold poster as aids during their demonstration.
- 24) Videos may not be used during presentations in any category.
- 25) NO LIVE ANIMALS of any size are permitted.
- 26) Youth may participate in the individual demonstrations or choose to participate in the team demonstration category. They may NOT do both.

