



September 2025

# 4-H EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

A Texas 4-H educational presentation is a structured demonstration of knowledge and skills in a specific project area conducted by a 4-H member. It is designed to showcase the member's ability to effectively communicate information on a particular topic to an audience. These presentations can take various forms, including:

**Method Demonstration:** In a method demonstration, 4-H members showcase their knowledge and expertise by physically performing a skill or process. They use props, materials, and equipment to demonstrate how a particular task is accomplished.

**Illustrated Talk:** An illustrated talk involves 4-H members delivering a presentation that combines spoken communication with visual aids like posters, slides, or multimedia materials. During the talk, they explain a specific topic while using visuals to enhance audience comprehension.

## **Why Should I Do An Educational Presentation?**

Engaging in an educational presentation offers an excellent opportunity to enhance your public speaking abilities. It allows 4-H members to stand before a group of fellow 4-H members or adults and demonstrate their expertise. In addition to fostering the development of strong public speaking skills, it cultivates self-assurance, organizational capabilities, and the aptitude to effectively convey a message. What's particularly enjoyable about educational presentations is that they are incredibly enjoyable! You can undertake them individually or collaborate with one to four of your 4-H peers. It's a fantastic way to join forces with friends from the same 4-H project group or club and proudly exhibit what you've learned in your project to others.

## **How Do I Develop An Educational Presentation?**

Developing an educational presentation should be an enjoyable process. Here are the steps:

1. **Select a Relevant Topic:** Choose a topic related to a 4-H project you're passionate about. Ensure it's something that interests you and can evolve as you gain more knowledge and experience.
2. **Research:** Gather scientific research-based facts from credible sources like government websites, unbiased research firms, and reputable organizations. Your information must be accurate and supported.
3. **Choose Your Presentation Style:** Decide whether you'll present your topic as a method demonstration, or an illustrated talk.
4. **Prepare an Outline:** Create a detailed outline for your presentation. Younger 4-H members may need to write out their entire speech, while older members can use a detailed outline.
5. **Practice:** Regardless of your presentation style, practice is key to success. Rehearse your presentation until you're confident and can deliver it effectively.
6. **Gather Resources:** Compile a list of your information sources, including references, citations, and a bibliography. Be prepared to defend the accuracy and reliability of the information you present.
7. **Seek Feedback:** Before your actual presentation, seek feedback from mentors, 4-H leaders, or peers. They can provide valuable insights and suggestions for improvement.
8. **Final Revisions:** Based on the feedback you receive, make any necessary revisions to your presentation, including clarifying points, adjusting visuals, or refining your delivery.
9. **Rehearse Again:** Practice your revised presentation to ensure it flows smoothly and confidently. Pay attention to timing, transitions, and your overall presence.

## **Where Can I Get More Resources?**

The Texas 4-H Youth Development Program offers valuable resources for developing method demonstrations, illustrated talks, and speeches. You can find printed materials on their website. Additionally, you can explore resources at libraries, on the internet, at your county Extension office, or seek assistance from teachers, parents, and professionals in your community. It's crucial to defend the information presented in your presentation, ensuring its factual and reliable. For further guidance on developing an educational presentation, contact your local county Extension office.

Publications currently available online are:

- Public Speaking Explore Guide

# CONTEST RULES GUIDELINES

## CATEGORIES :

- Agriculture & Natural Resources
- Animal Science
- Beef
- Health & Wellness
- Horse
- Family and Consumer Education
- Open
- Promote 4-H
- Safety & Injury Prevention
- STEM
- Sheep & Goat
- Swine

**Before selecting your category, make sure the presentation does not fit better in another educational presentation category. The full descriptions of the categories can be found beginning on page 5. Review the Scoresheet as well so you are familiar with what the judge's are looking for during your presentation.**

**4-H members may be asked to provide the title of their presentation and a short description related to what their presentation is about at the time of registration.**

**\*NEW\*** All contestants must submit their presentations to the appropriate category Superintendent by Wednesday, May 27th. Details on how to submit presentations will be provided after registration closes in May. Contestants are also required to bring a backup copy of their presentation on a thumb drive the day of the contest. However, sending it to the Superintendent by May 27th is mandatory so presentations can be pre-loaded in advance.

**\*NEW\*** Contestant order will be announced before the contest and shared through a live Google Sheet. Contest orientation will take place electronically ahead of the event. On contest day, contestants must arrive at least 30 minutes prior to their scheduled presentation time. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of the presentation slot.

## ORIGINALITY:

Educational Presentations MUST be the original work of the 4-H member. 4-H members may NOT share/utilize the same presentations delivered by other members/siblings/family members.

**TOPIC SUBJECT:** Subjects in the educational presentations should address emerging or current issues in each of the contest areas. Some contests provide a suggested list of topics that the educational presentation may cover along with a resource list. Senior contestants are encouraged to research these emerging and/or current issues to develop presentations.

**ACCURACY OF INFORMATION/RESOURCES:** With the computer and internet being used heavily in educational presentations, 4-H members must know the difference between research and non-research based information. Contestants are required to use information that is factual and can be supported through adequate documentation. Examples of such websites are federal, state, and local governments, independent research sites, and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service websites. Internet information that is questionable includes personal documentation sites, chat rooms, message boards, etc. 4-H members must prepare a list of references (i.e. bibliography, works cited) for their presentation.

**SUBJECT MATTER:** The skills and knowledge used in any 4-H contest should be the result of experiences in a project in which the member has participated. A presentation must relate to the contest entered, contain current information, and not be better suited for another contest. It should also be appropriate for the member's age and experience. Appropriate credit must be given for references used.

**TIME LIMITS:** A time limit of 12 minutes will be allowed for each educational presentation. An additional nine minutes will be provided for on-stage arrangements and cleanup in connection with the presentation. A penalty of two points per minute or partial minute overtime will be deducted from the final score. Following the presentation, there may be up to 5 minutes of question and answer period by the judges.

**VISUALS:** The use of charts, photographs, computer graphics/programs, and other visual materials are permitted. Visuals should contribute to the presentation. Each presentation is an example of the participant's ability to communicate an idea. No firearms, weapons, fireworks, open flamed burners, live ammunition or live animals are allowed to be used by a contestant in any Roundup contest. However, posters and pictures of such items are allowed and encouraged. We encourage all visuals to be appealing to the audience and easily read/seen by the audience. Choose your visual taking that into consideration.

**JUDGES' QUESTIONS:** Judges may ask contestants questions at the end of their presentation. Following the presentation, there may be up to 5 minutes of question and answer period by the judges. Only official judges and superintendents may ask questions of the contestants.

**SCORE SHEETS:** 4-H Educational Presentation Score Sheet, V 2023 will be used by contest judges in scoring educational presentations regardless of presentation style (method demonstration, illustrated talk, or speech). Separate score sheets are used in public speaking and Share-the-Fun. All score sheets are available on the Texas 4-H Youth Development website.

**JUDGES GIFTS/HANDOUTS:** Gifts of any kind MAY NOT be presented to the judges in any contest. Handouts may be made available to the entire audience.

**VIDEO, AUDIO, AND DISPLAY EQUIPMENT:** The contest officials will provide laptops, screens, extension cords and projectors. Youth should have all presentations in some form of Microsoft Office (PowerPoint, Word, or Excel). All fonts used must be true type. These fonts specifically include Arial and Times New Roman. If contestants decide to use any other program or fonts, they will be responsible for bringing all equipment that is compatible with their presentation.

***Take into consideration that Internet connectivity may not be available. Be prepared to incorporate any video or other graphics that may require Internet to be directly embedded in the presentation. Make sure the image/ video is included as part of the thumb drive or method used to provide your presentation to the contest Superintendent/Coordinator.***

# TEXAS 4-H EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION CATEGORIES

***Before selecting your category, make sure the presentation does not fit better in another educational presentation category. All presentation categories have been updated with what we hope are more clear descriptions.***

## **AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES**

The relationship between agriculture and natural resources is essential because agriculture relies heavily on natural resources like fertile soil, water, and sunlight. Sustainable agricultural practices aim to manage these resources in ways that ensure their long-term availability while minimizing negative impacts on the environment.

Topics could include:

- Topics related to agriculture:
  - Practice of cultivating plants for food, fiber, medicinal plants, and other products used by humans.
  - Farm and ranch economics
  - Meat science
  - Dairy cattle
  - Topics related to activities such as planting, growing, harvesting, and managing crops.
  - Ag technology
  - Farm Safety
  - **Topics related to the breeding and raising of livestock or small animals should be under those specific categories: Beef, Sheep & Goats, Swine, Horse, Animal Science**
- Topics related to natural resources:
  - Entomology
  - Forestry
  - Range Science
  - Water Conservation
  - Horticulture
  - Wildlife & Fisheries
  - Shooting Sports
  - Soil & land management
  - Outdoor education
  - Environmental Stewardship
  - Food Production and Food Security



- Other ANR field of study

Youth will relate information to knowledge or skills learned in the field of Agriculture and Natural Resources. **Note : You must choose only one category but Ag Technology related topics could be submitted under the STEM category. Farm Safety related topics could be submitted under the Safety & Injury Prevention category.**

## ANIMAL SCIENCE

The topic focuses on the study of animals that are **smaller in size and often kept as pets**, including but not limited to dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, and birds. This presentation aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of various aspects related to the care, behavior, health, training, and well-being of small animals.

Topics could include:

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Nutrition
- Housing and Enrichment
- Healthcare and Preventive Medicine
- Behavior and Training
- Reproduction and Breeding
- Common Diseases and Vet Care
- Pet Selection and Responsible Ownership

**Presentations focused on large animals must be entered respectively in the Beef, Sheep & Goats, Swine or Horse category or those focused on Wildlife should be in the Agricultural and Natural Resources category.**

## BEEF

A beef educational presentation pertains to the delivery of information regarding a range of relevant subjects, both present and future-oriented, that encompass:

Advanced reproductive technologies

- Animal Husbandry
- Effective nutritional management practices
- Optimal animal health strategies
- Considerations in breeding and genetics
- Behavioral insights in beef cattle
- Understanding beef carcasses and end-products
- Analysis of production costs
- Fundamental aspects of overall herd management
- Insights into cattle marketing strategies

These presentations may be tailored to specific sectors within the beef industry, including cow-calf, stocker, or feedlot segments. The aim is to provide comprehensive knowledge to individuals engaged in beef production and management, enabling them

to make informed decisions that enhance the efficiency, sustainability, and profitability of their operations.

## **FAMILY AND CONSUMER EDUCATION**

Family and Consumer Education (FCE) is a subset of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) that specifically focuses on educational programs and initiatives aimed at enhancing the knowledge, skills, and well-being of individuals and families. The subject matter of Family and Consumer Education encompasses a range of topics designed to empower individuals with practical life skills, promote healthy family dynamics, and contribute to the overall betterment of society.

Topics should be centered around improving the well-being of individuals and families by addressing various aspects of daily life. Topics can include, but are not limited to:

- Life skills education
- Family dynamics and relationships
- Financial literacy and management
- Consumer education and decision making
- Nutrition and healthy eating
- Culinary arts and food science
- Fashion and interior design
- Home management and organization
- Parenting and child development
- Consumer education and decision making
- Communication and Conflict Resolution

**Please review the description for Health & Wellness and Safety and Injury Prevention for topics pertaining to those subject areas.**

## **HEALTH & WELLNESS**

Health and wellness refer to the state of well-being that encompasses physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being. Health and wellness involve the conscious pursuit of optimal health through lifestyle choices, practices, and attitudes that promote vitality, resilience, and a high quality of life. The topics covered encompass a range of subjects relevant to youth health and wellness, encouraging active living, and chronic disease prevention.

Topics could include:

- Physical Activity and Exercise
- Mental Health and Stress Management
- Sleep Health
- Substance Abuse Prevention
- Disease Prevention
- Heart Health

- Environmental Health
- Preventing the spread of the cold and flu / Covid-19
- Body Image and Self-Esteem

Presentations should focus on healthy lifestyles, chronic disease prevention and wellness, not illness/treatment. It is suggested that project experiences in this area include topics aimed at youth health/wellness, the promotion of active living, and chronic disease prevention.

**Please review the description for Family Consumer Education and Safety and Injury Prevention for topics pertaining to those subject areas.**

## **HORSE**

The educational presentation aims to encompass the theoretical and hands-on proficiencies acquired within the 4-H horse project. The presentation can cover various aspects of horse care, management, training, and usage. It aims to provide both theoretical understanding and practical insights to the audience. The goal is to empower the listeners with valuable information and techniques that they can apply in real-life scenarios involving horse projects, such as improving their ability to care for horses, manage their well-being, enhance their training, and make informed decisions about horse-related activities.

Topics could include:

- Breeds
- Anatomy
- Nutrition
- Health and Veterinary Care
- Behavior and Training/Showmanship
- Grooming and Maintenance
- Tack and Equipment
- Housing and Facilities
- Riding Skills and Techniques
- Breeding and Reproduction
- Equine Careers
- Ethics and Welfare
- Horse-Related Legislation and Regulations
- Equine Industry Trends

These topics provide a well-rounded understanding of horse care, management, and horsemanship, catering to both newcomers and experienced individuals in the 4-H horse project. The presentation aims to empower participants with the knowledge and skills needed for responsible horse ownership, successful project management, and participation in horse-related activities.



## OPEN

This category serves as an option for youth participants when their presentation does not align with the predefined categories. This category enables participants to showcase their unique ideas, creativity, and skills. It encourages innovative thinking and provides an opportunity for youth to explore subjects that are important to them even if those subjects do not fit within the existing educational presentation category.

**Make sure your topic does not fit better within another category before selecting Open.**



## PROMOTE 4-H

Participants are encouraged to select a target audience not familiar with 4-H to promote the overall 4-H program, or some aspects of 4-H, by exhibiting a promotional approach that effectively communicates the principles and values of the 4-H program. The presentation should demonstrate their marketing and promotional skills by effectively showcasing and explaining the essence of 4-H. The presentation serves as a delivery method to enhance the visibility of 4-H among audiences in and outside the 4-H community.

## SAFETY & INJURY PREVENTION

An educational presentation on safety and injury prevention addresses the importance of safeguarding oneself from potential hazards and minimizing the risk of injuries. This presentation aims to inform and educate the audience about strategies and practices that contribute to their well-being in various environments, including home, school, work, and recreational settings. The goal of this presentation is to empower individuals with information and tools that enable them to make informed decisions, minimize risks, and create safer environments for themselves and those around them.

Suggested presentation topics include:

- Safety Awareness
- Safe Practices
- Home Safety
- Fire Safety
- First Aid/Emergency care
- Transportation Safety
- Digital Safety
- Recreational Safety
- Emergency Preparedness
- Farm Safety

**Please review the description for Family Consumer Education and Health and Wellness for topics pertaining to those subject areas.**

***Note : You must choose only one category but Farm Safety related topics could be submitted under the Safety & Injury Prevention category.***

## **SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY, AND MATH (STEM)**

This presentation aims to illuminate the synergies between STEM disciplines by examining how technology, research, and cutting-edge ideas converge, it fosters an understanding of the ways in which scientific advancements can revolutionize methods, boost efficiency, and address contemporary challenges in the field. Through this exploration, the presentation seeks to inspire an appreciation for the dynamic relationship between STEM evolution.

- Biotechnology
- Ag technology
- Biogenetics
- Bioengineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Space Exploration and Astrophysics
- Green Energy and Sustainable Technologies
- Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR)
- Cybersecurity and Data Privacy
- Robotics and Automation
- Coding and Programming

***Note : You must choose only one category but Ag Technology related topics could be submitted under the STEM category.***

## **SHEEP AND GOAT**

A sheep and goat educational presentation involves providing information on a wide array of pertinent subjects, encompassing both current and forward-looking aspects related to the raising of sheep and/or goats, as well as the utilization of their meat, milk, or fiber. These presentations can include discussions on:

- Animal Husbandry
- Reproductive technologies
- Effective practices for nutritional management
- Optimal strategies for animal health
- Considerations in breeding and genetics
- Behavioral insights specific to sheep and goats
- Analysis of production costs
- Fundamental elements of comprehensive herd management
- Insights into marketing strategies for sheep and goats
- Reproduction and breeding techniques

These informative sessions can be tailored to focus on either sheep or goats or both, and topics may span various aspects, such as diverse breeds, lambing or kidding and care of ewes and does, wool production and processing (if applicable), and approaches to marketing lamb meat and wool products.

## SWINE

Swine-related presentations can cover a diverse range of topics, from basic swine anatomy and breeds to advanced swine management practices, ensuring that attendees gain valuable insights into every aspect of swine care and production.

These presentations can include discussions on:

- Animal Husbandry
- Breeds
- Anatomy
- Nutrition
- Health and disease management
- Behavior/handling
- Market trends
- Reproduction and breeding
- Housing
- Market trends/economics

These presentations should provide a comprehensive exploration of swine care and production, covering topics from swine breeds and anatomy to advanced management practices, fostering a deeper understanding of the world of pigs for participants of all levels of experience.

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*The category of Ag Technology and Farm Safety was discontinued for 2023-2027. Those presentations that have been entered in this category in the past, will still have a place under either Ag & Natural Resources, STEM, or Safety and Injury Prevention depending on the approach of the speech as to where it fits best.*

## Score Sheet for Educational Presentations

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Age Division: (Check one) \_\_\_\_\_ Junior \_\_\_\_\_ Intermediate \_\_\_\_\_ Senior

Category: \_\_\_\_\_ Order in Room: \_\_\_\_\_

Presentation Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: (Max 12 min) Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ End Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Elapsed Time: \_\_\_\_\_

(Check the Box for which Quality Scale that applies)					
	Needs Improvement	Fair	Good	Excellent	Superior
<b>Subject Matter (50%)</b>					
<b>Presentation Appropriately related to Category: (5%)</b>					
<b>Selection of Subject: (15%)</b>					
Practical - Is the subject important to the project area and to the 4-H member?					
Reason for Choice - Why did the 4-H member choose this topic? This can be implied in talk.					
One Basic Theme - Is the presentation confined to one theme or is it so broad in scope that it cannot be covered in the allotted time?					
<b>Accurate, Up-To-Date &amp; Complete, Appropriate: (20%)</b>					
Information is correct					
Up-to-Date - Is it the most current information to which the 4-H member would have access or is obsolete information given?					
Complete - Are all the steps in the process shown? Is the information adequate to cover the topic?					
Appropriate for Experience - Is the presentation appropriate to the experience of the 4-H member?					
<b>Knowledge of Subject &amp; Related Skills: (10%)</b>					
Understands principles and practices presented.					
Questions adequately answered.					
<b>Presentation (30%)</b>					
<b>Introduction:</b> Effective, interesting. This is an explanation of the presentation, not an introduction of the 4-H member. Does it get the attention of the audience? Is the purpose of the speech clearly stated? If the importance of the subject established? (5%)					
<b>Audience Appeal</b> – Did the 4-H member maintain the attention of the audience? If using visuals were they readable throughout the room? Did they interact with the audience, use voice inflection, etc. to keep interest. Was it something of interest?. (5%)					
<b>Visual Aids:</b> Equipment, models, charts, and supplies effective and well arranged. Choose the teaching aid to best tell the story. Charts and models neat, concise, large enough, & appropriate. Visual aids utilized in presentation. (5%)					

Presentation (Continued)	Needs Improvement	Fair	Good	Excellent	Superior
<b>Logical Sequence:</b> Well organized, clear, logical steps. Evidence shows the 4-H'er has planned presentation. (5%)					
<b>Verbal Presentation</b> – Is the presentation well-coordinated? Has the 4-H organized the presentation to create a smooth flow of information? If the 4-H member is doing a demonstration, does the explanation match the process? If information is given is it to fill time during the process; is it related to what is being shown? (5%)					
<b>Summary:</b> Key points summarized. Reliable sources used and cited. (5%)					
<b>Stage Presence (20%)</b>					
<b>Appearance &amp; Poise:</b> Neat, well groomed, good posture, appropriately dressed for task being performed. Calm, pleasant, confident; keeps composure when something appears to go wrong or does go wrong. Self-assured, yet pleasant manner. (10%)					
<b>Voice &amp; Grammar:</b> Distinct, forceful, yet natural. Clear voice with distinct enunciation & reasonably strong. Enthusiastic. Correct, well-chosen words. Not memorized. Use correct grammar with clear meaning. (10%)					

**Provide constructive feedback:**

**Judge's Initials** \_\_\_\_\_