

# TEXAS 4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING

## OBJECTIVES

4-H public speaking is a program and activity within the 4-H youth development organization that focuses on helping young people develop their communication and public speaking skills. 4-H is a global youth organization that provides hands-on learning experiences to young people in a variety of areas, including agriculture, leadership, and communication.

## BENEFITS

- **Building Confidence:** Public speaking can be intimidating, but 4-H helps youth build confidence in their ability to communicate effectively.
- **Developing Communication Skills:** Participants learn how to organize their thoughts, use effective body language, and connect with their audience.
- **Critical Thinking:** Creating a compelling speech or presentation often requires critical thinking and research skills.
- **Leadership Development:** Public speaking is an important leadership skill, and 4-H helps young people become more effective leaders in their communities.
- **Personal Growth:** The experience of speaking in front of an audience can be personally rewarding and lead to personal growth.

## CONTEST RULES

- Speeches should be between 5 - 8 minutes. Point deductions will be taken for those under/over.
- The presentation should serve to persuade others regarding a particular issue or concern. It should also be appropriate for the member's age and experience. Appropriate credit must be given for references used.
- Public Speaking Score Sheet Version 9.2023 will be used for the contest.
- There will be two preliminary speaking rooms. The top five speakers of each room will advance to the final round.
- Visual aids and props **may not be used**.
- 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.
- 4-H members may be asked to provide the title of their presentation and a short statement related to what their presentation is about at the time of registration.
- Speeches **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.



September 2025

## OTHER SPEAKING OPPORTUNITIES

Public speaking contests are offered for 4-H members through many of our major stock shows such as State Fair of Texas, Heart of Texas Fair & Rodeo, San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo, San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo and the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo. Visit these various stock show's websites for more information on contest rules and registration.

ESTELLE DARCY