



# **TEXAS 4-H** *Talent Showcase*

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRILIFE**  
EXTENSION

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.





#### OBJECTIVES:

- To provide an opportunity for 4-H youth to develop a spirit of cooperation through working together to develop self-confidence through public appearance.
- To stimulate interest and encourage a broad-based recreation program in Texas 4-H at the club and county level.
- To encourage 4-H members to discover and develop their talents.
- To provide for social, cultural, and leadership development of 4-H youth.

Please visit our website:

[https://texas4-h.edu](https://texas4-h.edu/project-theater-and-performance-arts)  
[project - theater and performance arts](#)

If you have questions pertaining to the rules for the state 4-H Talent Showcase contest contact your local County Extension Agent.

#### **Texas 4-H Talent Showcase Contest Superintendent**

Mrs. Cory Hundl

Extension Program Specialist III, 4-H Youth Development  
1470 William D. Fitch Parkway, College Station, TX 77845  
cory.hundl@ag.tamu.edu  
Phone: 979-321-5262

#### **Texas 4-H Talent Showcase Steering Committee:**

Ms. Phyllis Griffin, Cooke County - District 4  
County Extension Agent – 4-H Youth Development

Dr. Tamra McGaughy, Grayson County - District 4  
County Extension Agent – 4-H Youth Development

Ms. Mellanie Mickelson, Bastrop County - District 10  
County Extension Agent – 4-H Youth Development

Mr. Jason Bowen, Liberty County - District 9  
County Extension Agent - Agriculture & Natural Resources

Mr. Todd Williams, Rockwall County - District 4  
County Extension Agent - Agriculture & Natural Resources

ART IS A PLACE  
FOR CHILDREN TO  
LEARN TO TRUST  
their ideas.  
THEMSELVES. AND TO EXPLORE  
WHAT IS POSSIBLE.  
—MARYANN F. KOHL



# TEXAS 4-H TALENT SHOWCASE

## Category Descriptions

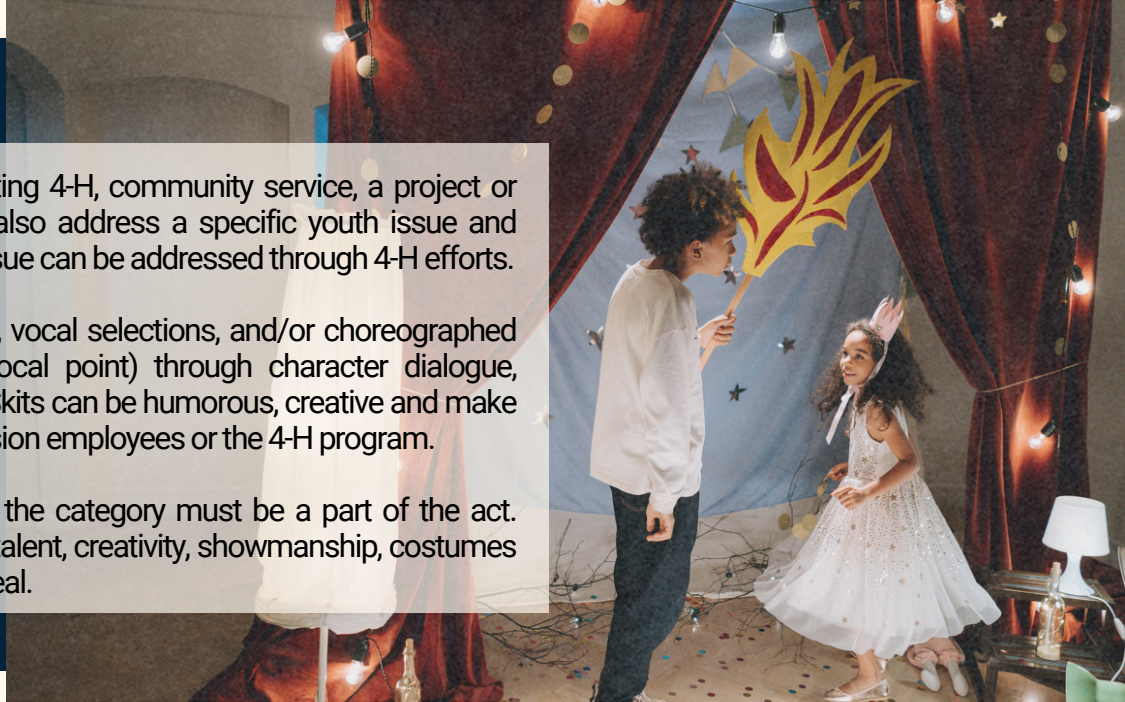
- All acts can consist of one (1) to nine (9) members
- Acts will have 4 minutes for set-up/tear down and 6 minutes for their performance.
- A penalty of five (5) points per minute or part of a minute over the time limits allowed will be deducted from the total score.

## 4-H SKIT

4-H based story line, promoting 4-H, community service, a project or activity. This category may also address a specific youth issue and present ways in which this issue can be addressed through 4-H efforts.

Acts may incorporate music, vocal selections, and/or choreographed routines (not the primary focal point) through character dialogue, interaction and storytelling. Skits can be humorous, creative and make fun of but not degrade Extension employees or the 4-H program.

All 4-H members entered in the category must be a part of the act. Judged on material chosen, talent, creativity, showmanship, costumes and props and audience appeal.



## VARIETY SHOW

This is an **acting** category. Variety show, also known as variety arts or variety entertainment, is entertainment made up of a variety of acts including sketch comedy (clean version of Saturday Night Live), magic act, a musical scene, (i.e. The Greatest Showman, etc) ventriloquism and other acts that do not fit into the other six categories.

Acts cannot incorporate 4-H related material or theme. (Otherwise, it would be categorized as a 4-H Skit.) Creativity is encouraged, but the degradation of any individual or organization is not permitted.

Acts may incorporate music, vocal selections, and/or dance, not the primary focal point. Judged on material chosen, talent, creativity, showmanship, costumes, and props and audience appeal.





# TEXAS 4-H TALENT SHOWCASE

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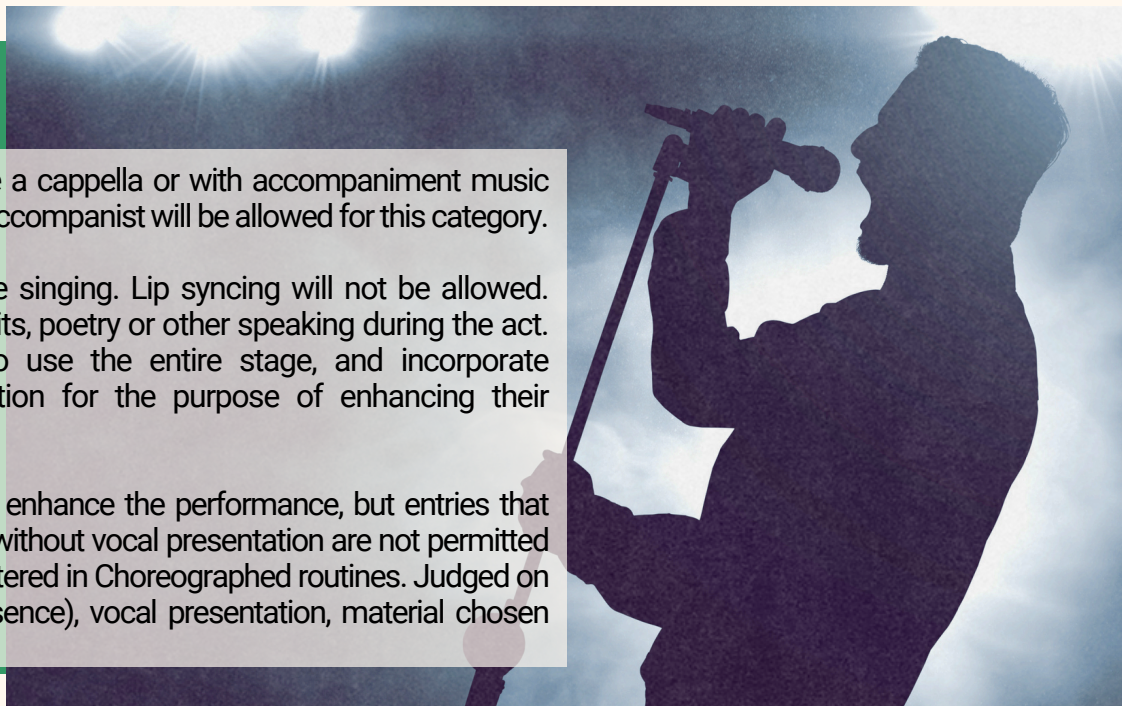
- All acts can consist of one (1) to nine (9) members
- Acts will have 4 minutes for set-up/tear down and 6 minutes for their performance.
- A penalty of five (5) points per minute or part of a minute over the time limits allowed will be deducted from the total score.

## VOCAL

Vocal presentation may be done a cappella or with accompaniment music (via a USB or digital means). No accompanist will be allowed for this category.

All members in the act must be singing. Lip syncing will not be allowed. Contestants may not present skits, poetry or other speaking during the act. Participants are encouraged to use the entire stage, and incorporate movement with their presentation for the purpose of enhancing their showmanship.

Sign language may be added to enhance the performance, but entries that strictly showcase sign language without vocal presentation are not permitted in this category. They must be entered in Choreographed routines. Judged on talent, showmanship (stage presence), vocal presentation, material chosen and audience appeal.



## SOLO/ BAND

This act incorporates a combination of vocal and instrumental music talents. Acts that are vocal only or instrumental music only are not to be entered in this category.

All 4-H members entered in the category must be a part of the act by playing a musical instrument, singing, or both (solo performance must play an instrument and sing).

Participants MUST incorporate singing in the acts, but cannot incorporate skits, poetry, or prose. They may, however, move around the stage and incorporate choreography with their presentation for the purpose of enhancing their showmanship. Judged on talent, showmanship, musical / vocal presentation when applicable, material chose and audience appeal.



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## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

### Year Two: Category Name Adjusted

Presentation may be musical instruments accompanied by background recorded music or an instrumental performance only.

All 4-H members entered in the category must be a part of the act by playing a musical instrument. No adult accompanist will be allowed in the act.

Participants may not sing or incorporate a skit, poetry, prose, or choreography with their act. Judged on talent, showmanship, musical presentation, material chosen and audience appeal.



## POETRY/PROSE

Acts which showcase poetry or prose are required. The act may NOT incorporate vocal, musical, and/or a choreographed routine. This category does not require 4-H related material, however, if an original poem or prose piece showcasing 4-H is written, this would be acceptable.

Every 4-H member entered in the category must be a part of the performance on stage. Judged on material chosen, message, talent, presentation style, props/costuming and audience appeal. Material **does not** have to be memorized.

**Defining Poetry and Prose:** Poetry is generally characterized by structured meter and rhyme that tells a story or provides a message to the reader. Prose is distinguished from poetry by its greater variety of rhythm and its closer resemblance to the patterns of everyday speech. Another description might be an excerpt from a larger piece such as a play or book.





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## CHOREOGRAPHED ROUTINE

The act requires choreography which can be demonstrated through twirling, pom pom squad routines, jump rope teams, juggling, acrobatics or dance (jazz, tap, country & western, ballroom, etc.). No speaking to form a skit or story line.

Sign language presentations to music have been added to choreographed routines. However, if a participant is **SINGING** and **SIGNING** this entry should be entered in the Variety Show category.

All 4-H members entered in the category must be a part of the act. Acts may use recorded music (via a USB or digital means) but may not use an accompanist. Judged on material chosen, talent, creativity, showmanship, costuming, and audience appeal.



## QUALIFYING FOR TEXAS 4-H ROUNDUP

### Senior Division 4-H members only (9th to 12th grade)

- The first and second place district winners in each of the seven (7) categories qualify for Texas 4-H Roundup.
  - The first and second place entries in each category from District advancing to Texas 4-H Roundup may be from the same county. *If a county has an entry in each category at District and each win first or second, then they can all advance to Texas 4-H Roundup.*
  - *Rule update of 2013: 4-H members MAY enter the same category in which they have previously been part of a first-place entry at Texas 4-H Roundup.*
- **Participation on Both Days.** 4-H members will be able to participate in one 4-H Talent Showcase category on Wednesday (*Choreographed Routines, Variety Show, Instrumental Music and Vocal*) AND one 4-H Talent Showcase category on Thursday (*4-H Skit, Poetry/Prose, and Solo/Band Performance*).
  - Choreographed Routines, Variety Show, Instrumental Music, and Vocal; there will be an optional walk-thru on Tuesday of Texas 4-H Roundup. This will also be the time for prop drop-off.
  - 4-H Skit, Poetry/Prose, and Solo/Band Performance; there will be an optional walk-thru on Wednesday of Texas 4-H Roundup. This will also be the time for prop drop-off.
- There will be an Online Orientation for all qualifying participants prior to Texas 4-H Roundup for all categories. Contestants will be notified via email in May (after 4hOnline registration closes) with the link for the orientation on May 14th at 7:00 p.m. (will be held via TEAMS).
- There will be an Awards Assembly on Wednesday night of Texas 4-H Roundup for Choreographed Routines, Variety Show, Instrumental Music, and Vocal and an Awards Assembly on Thursday night of Texas 4-H Roundup for 4-H Skit, Poetry/Prose, and Solo/Band Performance.



# TEXAS 4-H TALENT SHOWCASE

**Presentation Material.** PARTICIPANTS MUST COMPETE WITH THE SAME MATERIAL AT ALL LEVELS OF COMPETITION – COUNTY, DISTRICT, AND STATE.

For example, you cannot choose one song for your act and then change songs between District and State. Acts may fine-tune performances based on critiques from county and district judging, but changing material completely is prohibited.

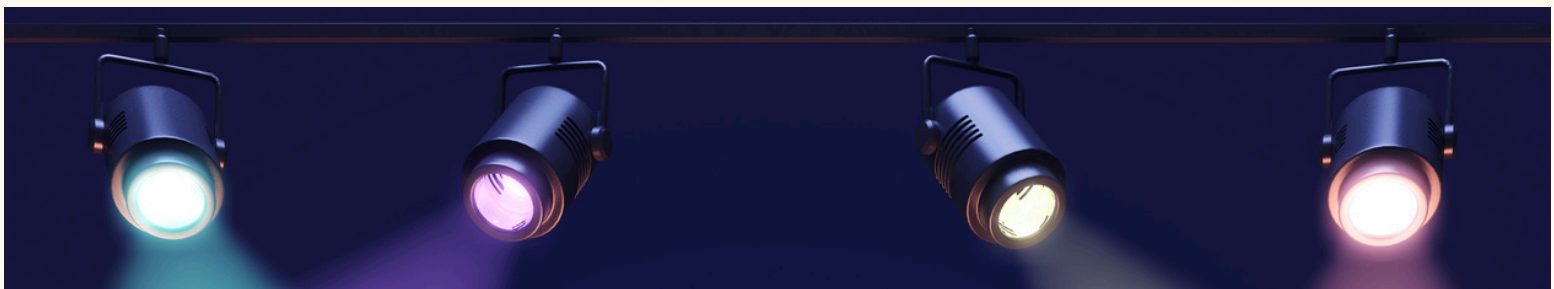


**Introduction of the Act.** Contestants do not need to introduce themselves. At Texas 4-H Roundup, each act will be introduced individually, immediately prior to their performance by the announcer. The introduction/description will be submitted as part of the Required Information Form that is due when registering for Texas 4-H Roundup. Anything that needs to be said should be included in the introduction to be read by the announcers. All advancing participants will be notified of the required information to be submitted for their act.

**If you choose to add information in your act, it will count against your performance time and may confuse judges depending on the delivery method.** This ruling may vary at County and District, so contestants should contact their County Extension Agent to determine what is appropriate for County and District performances.

Judges/Superintendent will determine the following (All decisions by the judges will be final)

- a. If an entry is in the correct category.
- b. Placings of all acts/performances.



**Props.** Regulations for props should be followed. Props utilized must be able to go through doors that are 6 ft. wide and 7 ft. tall. Each entry will be allowed to bring props that will be able to be stored in a space that is 3 ft. X 8 ft. Space at the state contest is LIMITED!

**Prohibited Materials.** The following materials may not be used in any category: talcum powder/baby powder, flour, pies, food, water, oil, loose feathers, flower petals, hay, straw, helium balloons, glitter, sand, confetti, open flames, or other substances which are hard to clean up, may cause damage, or be dangerous to participants. No roller skates, shoes with spikes, cleats, motorized vehicles or live animals will be allowed. Any prop resembling a firearm must receive prior approval.

The Rudder Stage Manager reserves the right to prohibit the use of any materials before or during the performance.



# TEXAS 4-H TALENT SHOWCASE

## Definitions of Terms for Score Sheets

The information below is a guide for scoring. Each term used on the score sheets is defined in an effort to clarify what is expected in each performance category. There is a score sheet for each of the six (7) categories.

**Inappropriateness in any category is not permitted and would change the score of that particular area dramatically and could lead to disqualification.** For example, a brilliantly executed skit that depends upon the use of foul language would not be acceptable. Any inappropriate reference to gender, age, or handicap will lead to disqualification.

- **MATERIAL CHOSEN** – This area refers to the appropriateness of the material selected. A vocalist should select the song that is within his/her voice range; a pianist should pass up the “showy” difficult piece for one he/she will play well. Material chosen also refers to the appropriateness of the selection for presentation before a 4-H audience. The target audience should be around 13 years of age and be PG or G rated.
- **TALENT** – This is the performer’s actual ability to do what the activity or skill requires. In any musical classification, this includes items such as the quality of music tones, intonation, manner of uttering tones with regard to rise, fall, pitch, harmony, rhythm and any other attributes of an artistic presentation. In choreographed routine, it includes rhythm, timing appropriate gestures, memorization and artistic delivery. Judges should be aware that some of the performers have not had formal training.
- **CREATIVITY** – Creativity is the ability to produce something new, unique, or original. An act may be original in the way it was developed and/or interpreted. Sometimes the act itself may not be original, but the costuming, staging, or delivery may show creativity. Additionally, the quality of the creativity should be measured.
- **SHOWMANSHIP** – Showmanship is the stage personality of the performer. It can include poise, confidence, facial expression, projection of voice, projection of music, body movements, gestures, and the performer’s stage presence, depending on the category (see score sheets for specific criteria). It is always the performer’s communication with the audience. It is his/her ability to make smooth entrances and exits, to avoid awkward pauses, and to acknowledge the applause of the audience. It is the use of the microphone and special stage props if these are a part of the act. In general, it is the whole personality of the performer while he/she is on stage. This term is used on several of the scoresheets and therefore the concept of showmanship will vary for each category.
- **COSTUME AND PROPS** – Costume and props should be appropriate and supportive of the act. For some acts, street clothes may be the most appropriate costume. If the special costumes are used, they should contribute to the effectiveness of the act. Props are the backdrop and/or other items used to add character and meaning to the presentation.
- **MESSAGE** – Communication of an idea or theme. What is the underlying message that will be taught or presented?
- **PRESENTATION STYLE** – Method of acting; distinctive or characteristic manner; overall excellence; skill or grace in performance and/or appearance.
- **VOCAL PRESENTATION** – Exercising the power of producing voice, speech or sound, expressing one’s self as to relate to character or message being portrayed.
- **MUSICAL PRESENTATION** – Music selected is appropriate to the skill level of the individual or group; sound level of the musical presentation is at an appropriate level; instruments are tuned properly.
- **AUDIENCE APPEAL** – Evokes reaction from audience that is desired from the performance (laughter, clapping, serious, quiet)



# Sample Act Descriptions

4-H Skit:	<p><b>Title:</b> Hopeless Otis Paints the Town Green</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Hopeless Otis and his side-kick Homer are invited to participate in a 4-H Community Service Project. His reluctance soon turns to active participation and interest as he learns that community service is more than just painting a house...it's touching the lives of those you help. Sit back and enjoy this humorous presentation by the Happy County 4-H Players from District 1.</p>
Choreographed Routines:	<p><b>Title:</b> Texas Prairie Toe Tappin' Fun!</p> <p><b>Description:</b> The Clover County Senior Dance Team from District 6 is dancing their way across Texas! This group has performed at local competitions, banquets and parades. Their presentation today will feature a medley of Texas Prairie Folk Dances with authentic costumes made by the clothing project team.</p>
Variety Show	<p><b>Title:</b> Matthew the Magician</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Now you see it, now you don't, Matthew from Green County, District 7 will amaze you with objects vanishing into thin air and then make them reappear. He has more tricks up his sleeve, so sit back and wait to be mesmerized.</p>
Instrumental Music:	<p><b>Title:</b> Ye Olde Irish Tunes Make You Smile!</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Jane Thompson, member of the Good Clover 4-H Club in Heart County, District 3, will perform a clarinet solo featuring "I'm Looking Over A Four Leaf Clover" and "Irish Eyes Are Smilin'", Irish pieces by Michael O'Grady.</p>
Poetry/Prose:	<p><b>Title:</b> Shake, Rattle &amp; Roll</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Tommy Lee Pigg, member of the Shooting Stars 4-H Club in Sunshine County, District 8, will deliver a blank verse rhyming poem entitled "Shake, Rattle &amp; Roll" written by Henry Fickelwinker that displays an unusual twist on words.</p>
Solo/Band Performance:	<p><b>Title:</b> Rockin' The 80's</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Clover County, District 9 is taking us back in time to the 1980's with their medley of songs from cover bands from that era. This 6-member team of musicians and vocalists will wow you with their big hair and awesome performance!</p>
Vocal:	<p><b>Title:</b> Marchin' With Maureen, The Jazz Queen!</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Maureen Lucille Bordeaux will jazz it up New Orleans style as she sings "Oh When the Saints Go Marchin' In." Maureen is an 8-year 4-H member from Green County, District 7 and has been performing in her local church choir and school ensemble for 4 years.</p>



# Rudder Theater Complex Information



<u>Rudder Theater</u>	<u>Rudder Auditorium</u>
<b>Wednesday:</b> Variety Show, Instrumental Music <b>Thursday:</b> Solo/Band, Poetry Prose	<b>Wednesday:</b> Choreographed Routine, Vocal <b>Thursday:</b> 4-H Skit (Poetry/Prose may be moved to this room TBD after entries)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raised Stage: approximately 30' wide and 15' deep</li> <li>• Curtains will not open/close between acts</li> <li>• Theatrical lighting, no spotlights</li> <li>• Piano</li> <li>• Tables</li> <li>• Stools</li> <li>• Chairs</li> <li>• Microphones and inputs based upon individual needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raised Stage: approximately 50' wide and 55' deep</li> <li>• Curtains will not open/close between acts</li> <li>• Theatrical lighting, no spotlights</li> <li>• Tables</li> <li>• Stools</li> <li>• Chairs</li> <li>• Microphones and inputs based upon individual needs</li> <li>• Floor microphones</li> </ul>

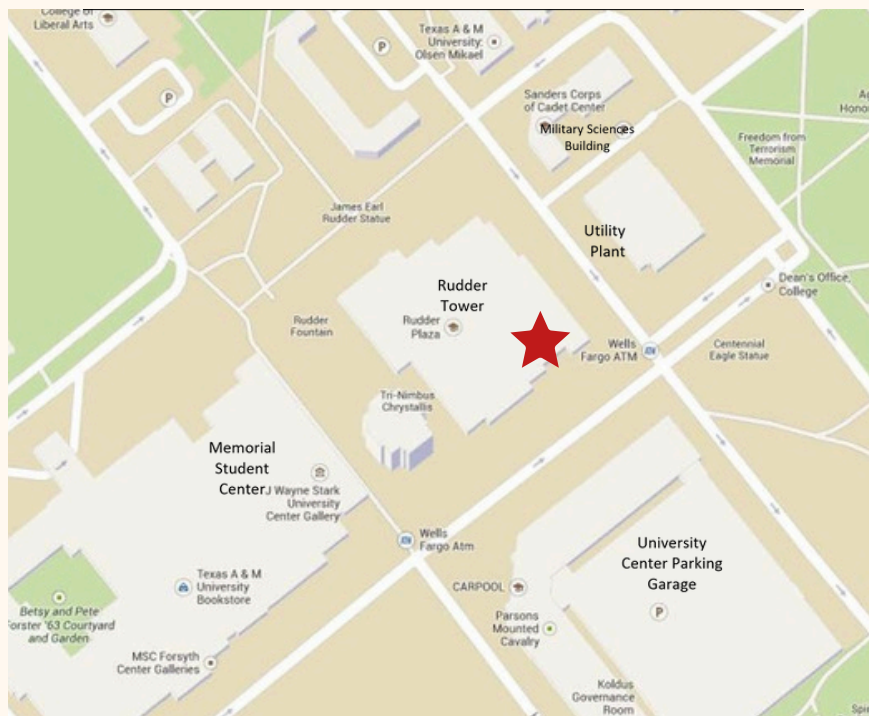
**Dressing rooms will be provided at Texas 4-H Roundup.**

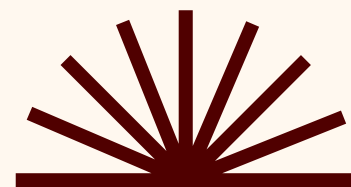
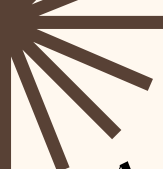
- Those performing in Rudder Theater (Solo/Band, Poetry/Prose, Instrumental Music and Variety Show) are located in the basement below the Rudder Theater. The entrance into the dressing rooms is in the hallway behind the theater where props will be stored.
- Those performing in Rudder Auditorium (4-H Skit, Vocal and Choreographed Routines) will use the dressing rooms behind the Auditorium Stage.

## Map/Directions to Rudder Theater Complex Loading Dock

<http://aggiemap.tamu.edu/?Bldg=0446>

- Drive northeast on Joe Routt Boulevard (in between Rudder Tower and the University Center Parking Garage).
- Joe Routt Blvd will turn left and become Coke Street (one-way street).
- Coke Street will turn left and become Lamar Street (one-way street).
- Lamar Street will "T" into Throckmorton Street (one-way street). Turn left.
- (You will have just made the block around the Utility Plant and the Military Sciences Building.)
- The loading dock will be on your right before you come to the stop sign at the intersection of Throckmorton Street and Joe Routt Blvd.





# Additional Talent Showcase Details

- NO Adult Accompanist will be permitted for any category. If music is required, it must be submitted on the Required Information Form or performed by the contestant.
- Practice/Warm Up. There **will NOT** be a location for warm-up or practice. 4-H members should rehearse and come prepared to present a top-notch performance. The Roundup schedule does not allow time for practice. A brief amount of time will be permitted to view stage, backstage, check sound, etc. at a designated time on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons.
- Audience Participation- Acts are not allowed for a member of the audience to come up on stage or participate in a performance in any way. (Example: Magic Act – any help or assistance with a trick in the act; that helper must be a registered participant as a team member for that specific category/act.)
- Adult Assistance – Set-up. Only adult coaches and/or agents will be allowed backstage, in the vicinity of the storage area of props, and to assist the 4-H members with set-up and break down of props and equipment. 4-H members or other youth who are not a part of the team will not be allowed to assist with set-up or take down. One person should be designated by the group to work with the stage manager when it is your turn to set up for your performance. This person should know exact locations for all equipment, props, etc. on stage and be able to give clear instructions.
- Adult Assistance - Performance. During a performance adult coaches may give cues for music backstage and help with costume/prop changes backstage. They are NOT allowed to participate in any other form in the act while the act is going on. Any voices heard during the performance from backstage must be either a participant OR a recorded voice.

## Texas 4-H Roundup Specifics

- Registration: Qualified youth will be required to register via 4-H Online, check with your county extension agent
  - All entries will be required to submit additional information needed for the contest via 4hOnline or other method (contestants will be notified in April/May)
- Recording and Photos: No photography or videotaping will be permitted in any contest category. NO EXCEPTIONS. This includes photography and video of you own county entry or using phones in general during the contest.
- Awards: The top five placing entries in each category as determined by the judges will receive awards provided by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service / Texas 4-H Program.
  - Contest Awards assemblies times and location will be announced in late May
  - 1st Place entries will be provided the opportunity to perform at the evening assemblies.

