STATE 4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST RULES

GENERAL RULES

4-H members ages 8-18 may register for State 4-H Public Speaking Contest. State 4-H Public Speaking Contest is an open contest, youth are not required to compete at the local level to be eligible for the state competition. Youth will compete in the following age categories: Juniors (ages 8-10), Intermediate (ages 11-13), and Senior (ages 14-18). During registration youth must select one of the following categories: Prepared, Extemporaneous, Technology Assisted, Interpretation, or Business Pitch. Registration will be in 4-H Online from July 15th – August 31st. Youth may not participate in more than one category per contest. Intermediates and Seniors who place first in a category may not compete in the same category & age group in future contests. All judges' decisions are final. All topics must be appropriate to the standards of a 4-H event and appropriate for all ages.

Point deductions for timing requirements will be 2 points for every 30 seconds over or under the time requirement. Seconds 1-30 will be penalized 2 points, seconds 31-60 will be penalized an additional 2 points, seconds 61-90 will be penalized another 2 points, etc.

PREPARED SPEAKING

- Speeches are to be 3-5 minutes in length for Juniors (ages 8-10), 4-6 minutes in length for Intermediates (ages 11-13) and 6-8 minutes in length for Seniors (ages 14-18). Points will be deducted for speeches not meeting these parameters. When speakers have met the minimum time, a judge will hold up a green card. When 30 seconds remain until time is expired, the judge will hold up a red card. The speaker should then wrap up to avoid a point deduction.
- Notes on index cards are perfectly acceptable. However, no props or visual aids may be used. Excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant at the discretion of the judges.
- Speeches must be an original work, created and written by the participant.

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING

- Participants will select a topic for their speech by randomly drawing three questions/statements from a pool of topics. They will select one question/statement and return the other two. A maximum of one minute will be allowed for this process. Topics will be relative to today's youth and may include current events, 4-H, and/or social issues. Junior and intermediate participants will have 8 minutes to organize their speech. Senior participants will have 3 minutes to organize their speech. No two contestants will speak on the same question/statement in the same year.

- Speeches are to be 3-5 minutes in length for all age divisions. When speakers have met the minimum time, a judge will hold up a green card. When 30 seconds remain until time is expired, the judge will hold up a red card. The speaker should then wrap up to avoid a point deduction.
- Notes on index cards are acceptable. Participants should bring their own note cards and pencils. Excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant at the discretion of the judges.
- No props or visual aids may be used. Parents are not allowed to assist the speakers or to be in the same room as they prepare their speech. Parents will be allowed to watch participants give their speech.
- Speeches must be an original work, created and written by the participant.

TECHNOLOGY ASSISTED SPEAKING

- Speeches are to be 3-5 minutes in length for Juniors (ages 8-10), 4-6 minutes in length for Intermediates (ages 11-13) and 6-8 minutes in length for Seniors (ages 14-18). Points will be deducted for speeches not meeting these parameters. When speakers have met the minimum time, a judge will hold up a green card. When 30 seconds remain until time is expired, the judge will hold up a red card. The speaker should then wrap up to avoid a point deduction.
- Notes on index cards are perfectly acceptable. However, no props may be used. Excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant at the discretion of the judges.
- Participants may use their own laptop, or a laptop provided at the event. In either event, a copy of the presentation must be brought to the contest by the speaker, to have a backup if technical difficulties should occur.
- Speeches must be an original work, created and written by the participant.

INTERPRETATION

- Interpretations are to be memorized and take place without music or other external audio or visual effects. Visual aids, such as posters, are not permitted, but special makeup and clothing may be worn as the contestant deems appropriate to the content of the interpretation.
- Speeches are to be 3-5 minutes in length for all age divisions. When speakers have met the minimum time, a judge will hold up a green card. When 30 seconds remain until time is expired, the judge will hold up a red card. The speaker should then wrap up to avoid a point deduction.

- Contestants are to bring two copies of the script, referencing the source(s). Non-English language must be translated. If speaking in a language other than English, the participant must inform the state 4-H office no later than August 31st, so that a judge with the appropriate language skills may be secured.

BUSINESS PITCH

- Business pitch speeches follow the same rules and guidelines as prepared, and technology assisted speeches. They allow for the use of presentation software (such as PowerPoint) by the speaker.
- Speeches are to be 3-5 minutes in length for Juniors (ages 8-10), 4-6 minutes in length for Intermediates (ages 11-13) and 6-8 minutes in length for Seniors (ages 14-18). Points will be deducted for speeches not meeting these parameters. When speakers have met the minimum time, a judge will hold up a green card. When 30 seconds remain until time is expired, the judge will hold up a red card. The speaker should then wrap up to avoid a point deduction.
- Notes on index cards are perfectly acceptable. Excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant at the discretion of the judges. A sample product or prototype of the product that is the topic of the speech may be used but is not required.
- Participants may use their own laptop, or a laptop provided at the event. In either event, a copy of the presentation must be brought to the contest by the speaker, to have a backup if technical difficulties should occur.
- Speeches must be an original work, created and written by the participant.