

# PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST



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## **Purposes:**

This event is designed:

1. To support the county 4-H public speaking program.
2. To broaden the 4-H interaction experiences of youth and adults from across the Commonwealth.
3. To challenge 4-H'ers skills & knowledge in public speaking.
4. To recognize 4-H'ers demonstrated abilities in public speaking.
5. To better acquaint 4-H'ers with the faculty, services, and facilities of The Pennsylvania State University.

## **Objectives:**

1. To instill an understanding of the need for communication skills.
2. To improve speaking skills of 4-H club members.

## **Eligibility:**

1. Participants must be at least 13 years of age and must not have reached their 19th birthday as of January 1 of the current year.
2. Participants must be currently enrolled as 4-H project members.
3. Former first place individuals are not eligible to compete.
4. Each county may enter all qualified speakers in this contest.

## **Contest Organization and Content:**

1. An original talk (public speech) will be prepared and presented by each individual.
2. The speech must be at least 4:30 in length and no longer than 7:30. Speakers outside these time limits will be disqualified from competition.
3. Note cards may be used but no illustrative material is permitted.
4. The speech may be on any topic or title. The following titles are offered only as suggestions. No topic or title will count more or less than another.
5. Speakers are encouraged to obtain help from 4-H leaders, teachers, ministers and/or any other interested individuals in their community. Extension offices and libraries are suggested sources for speech content and supportive information.
6. At the state contest two rounds of speaking may be necessary to determine the first place speaker. The first round will determine semi-finalists who will compete for the first place award.

## LIST OF TOPICS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. What 4-H has Done for Me, My                                  | 9. The Agricultural Situation   |
| 2. My Favorite 4-H Program                                       | 10. The 4-H Image Development   |
| 3. How 4-H Contributes to Personal Development                   | 11. 4-H Provides Career Opportunities                                       |
| 4. Steps Toward a Better 4-H Program                             | 12. Science in 4-H  |
| 5. How 4-H Work Contributes to Good Citizenship                  | 13. Is There a Communication Gap Good Citizenship Between Youth and Adults? |
| 6. How 4-H Contributes to Effective Leadership                   | 14. How Much Education Do I Need? Leadership                                |
| 7. Family and 4-H  | 15. 4-H Goes International  |
| 8. 4-H Work in Suburban and/or Home and My Community Urban Areas | 16. Youth Want to be Heard  |
|  | 17. 4-H and Our Country's Heritage  |

**Scoring:**

In the first round of speeches at the state level, contestants are divided and thus not scored by the same judges. Scoring by individual judges must be recognized as subjective and relative. Scores of speeches presented in different rooms and scored by different judges cannot be compared or contrasted absolutely. Raw score values from one room have no meaning in relation to raw scores from another room. It is possible, for example, that a score of 90 in one room may represent the top speaker whereas, in another room, a score of 78 may represent the top speaker. During the first round of speaking it is the ranking of scores (highest to lowest) in any one room that determines selection of semi-finalists and the award of merit ribbons.

For the second round of competition all semi-finalists are judged in one room by all judges and it is the relative ranking of these scores that determine the overall first place winner in the state competition.

An example of the score sheet is included in this handbook for your examination.

**Awards:**

1. Two highest scoring speakers in the semi-final round will be awarded plaques. One speaker, determined most appropriate by state 4-H leaders, will be asked to present his or her speech at the Recognition Assembly during the Penn State 4-H Achievement Days.
2. Merit ribbons will be awarded to all speakers based on first round competition.

**National Opportunities:**

The first place speaker on a horse-related topic will be invited to compete in the Eastern National 4-H Horse Public Speaking Contest in Kentucky and the Youth Horse Public Speaking Contest at the Quarter Horse Congress in Ohio.

**References:**

4-H Presents (1985) by Jerry H. Reyburn  
Speak Up (1993) PA adapted 4-H brochure from an Alabama 4-H publication  
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## PENNSYLVANIA 4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST SCORE SHEET

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Introduction was attention-getting				
Opening introduced purpose and subject				
Title tied with subject purpose				
<b>CONTENT</b>				
Main points were logically arranged				
Important points were easy to follow				
Appropriate supporting information				
Content was suitable for subject and purpose				
Sentences were short, easy to understand				
<b>CONCLUSION</b>				
Conclusion was logical, supported by content				
Conclusion was short, interesting, and final				
<b>DELIVERY</b>				
Friendliness				
Eye contact				
Rate of delivery				
Volume of delivery, pronunciation & diction				
Use of notes				
Natural, conversational				
Use of gestures				
<b>GENERAL</b>				
Communication				
Posture & presence				
Word choice, grammar, vocabulary				

Excellent      \_\_\_\_\_ x 5 = \_\_\_\_\_

Good            \_\_\_\_\_ x 4 = \_\_\_\_\_

Fair             \_\_\_\_\_ x 3 = \_\_\_\_\_

Poor             \_\_\_\_\_ x 2 = \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

(two points are subtracted for each  
minute over 7:30 or under 4:30)

**COMMENTS:**