

Division J-27-A – 4-H Extemporaneous Speaking Contest
Sunday
1:30 p.m.

This program is designed to encourage the development of the life skills of communicating with others through enhancing the ability to think, to organize, to speak, and to answer questions readily by participating 4-H'ers before an audience.

1. Participants must be senior 4-H'ers – having completed 9th through 12th grade (or that equivalent) in 2009.
2. Contest format:
 - a. Thirty minutes before the program, each participant will draw three of the available topics, selecting one to speak on. The selected topic will not be available to the other participants in the speaker's assigned room. The general nature of the topics will relate to 4-H. The other two topics drawn but not chosen will be returned to the available topics for the other participants.
 - b. A participant may not leave the preparation room until it is time to speak, nor may a participant receive help from a parent, leader, other adult, or any other youth. Each participant will have 30 minutes preparation time. A program official will assist participants with the time requirements.
 - c. All reference material will be screened by a program official on the following basis:
 - i. Participant may bring his/her own books, magazines, or newspaper clippings for reference during the thirty minutes of preparation.
 - ii. Reference material must be printed material such as books or magazines (cannot be notes, outlines, or speeches prepared by the participant or by another person for use in this program).
 - iii. Some relevant reference material will be available in the preparation room. This material will consist of historical material related to the 4-H program.
 - d. Each speech shall be the result of the 4-H'ers own efforts using approved reference material that a participant may bring to the preparation room. No other assistance may be provided. Plain 3"x5" note cards will be provided for each participant in the preparation room. If notes are used, the 3"x5" note cards provided must be used in delivering the speech.
 - e. Only notes made during the preparation period may be used.
 - f. Each speech shall not be less than four or more than six minutes with five minutes additional time allowed for related questions, which shall be asked by the judge. The participant will be shown time cards in an ascending order (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) by the timekeeper. "Stop" will be said at six (6) minutes.
 - g. The program timekeeper will introduce each participant by name and the club he/she represents. The participant will be expected to introduce his/her speech by title only.
 - h. Participants are not permitted to use any props, gadgets, posters, or audiovisuals of any sort. A podium will not be available.
3. Speeches will be evaluated using the following criteria:
 - a. Content related to topic.
 - b. Knowledge of the subject.
 - c. Organization of material.
 - d. Power of expression.
 - e. Voice.
 - f. Stage presence.
 - g. General effect.
 - h. Response to questions.
4. A judge's critique/conference with each participant will be included as part of the program.