# **UTAH 4-H** CREATING A FOUNDATIONAL COUNTY CONTEST STRUCTURE



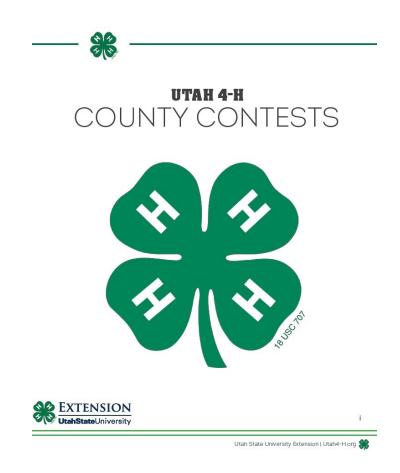
## **IDENTIFY COUNTY CONTESTS**

### **OPTION 1:** SOCIAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Gather youth in your area and play a game of Connection. Ask each youth to say what their favorite activity is in 4-H and outside of 4-H. If you need more information, ask them to also say what their siblings' or friends' favorite activities are. As each youth names hobbies/project areas, other youth should say "Connection!" when they have something in common. The youth may then choose one person who had a connection, and then it is their turn to list hobbies and project areas. As the facilitator, you should identify which county contests have the most interest from youth in your area as they list topics. Be sure to pay attention to the youth's ages - some contests may be more popular in different age divisions.

**OPTION 2:** IDENTIFY EXISTING CLUBS & MATCH THEM TO COUNTY CONTESTS

Identify the areas of highest interest that are already happening in your club. Which areas may not be participating at the state or national level? Which youth or volunteers seem most excited to expand their club's experience?



REFER TO THE COUNTY CONTESTS HANDBOOK AND IDENTIFY WHICH AREAS YOU ARE INTERESTED IN IMPLEMENTING, THAT YOU BELIEVE WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR COUNTY, OR THAT A VOLUNTEER IN YOUR COUNTY WOULD BE EXCITED ABOUT HOSTING. LIST POTENTIAL COUNTY CONTESTS BELOW:

As you think about implementing county contests, it is
important to think about who could help you facilitate
(youth leaders, volunteers, interns), and where you
would host the event.

CONTEST	FACILITATOR	LOCATION

### HOSTING COUNTY CONTESTS

#### COMBINING EVENTS

As you determine which contests will be popular in your county, try grouping together similar topics. For example, Hippology and Horse Public Speaking may help to boost numbers in both contests if they are hosted together.

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#### EXAMPLE OF CONTESTS THAT COULD BE HELD ON THE SAME DAY

HEALTHY CUISINE 4-H HORSE PUBLIC SPEAKING IMPROMPTU PUBLIC SPEAKING LIVESTOCK JUDGING FASHION REVIEW ALL TALENT CONTESTS

- CHEF EXTRAORDINNAIRE
  - 4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING
- 4-H DEMOS
  - LIVESTOCK BOWL
  - SHOP SMART

#### ACCOMMODATING POPULAR CONTESTS

Some contests will have a much larger turn out in your county. If you begin to have more interest in one contest, try hosting several contests to allow youth to qualify for State Contests. For example, if shooting sports is highly attended, allow youth to compete in a shooting sports contest three times, and the highest cumulative scores will qualify for State Contests.

### IN YOUR COUNTY...

# Quick Tips for a Successful County Contest



RUN THE CONTEST JUST LIKE THE STATE LEVEL CONTEST • Use the same rules for the younger contests as the State rules so that the younger youth will be familiar with the rules once they compete at State.

• Hold the contest at the same time and place for all ages so that the younger youth can learn from the seniors and the seniors can act as mentors.

• Use the State level judging sheets to prepare youth for State.

## GIVE AN INCENTIVE

Give points to youth who participate and give prizes at the end of the year based on the number of points earned.
Give all age groups ribbons and highlight the outstanding individual or team from each age division.

UTILIZE LEADERS/TEEN COUNCIL MEMBERS • Use leaders by teaching them about county contests and have them help facilitate the contests.

• Use Teen Council members to teach Jr. Teen Council members and other youth about the contests and let them practice before hand.

# FOCUS ON THE SKILLS

• Have a mock contest where youth learn the basic skills of the contest. (Example: Instead of having a normal cooking contest, have a mock contest where youth learn new and simple skills such as measuring ingredients to prepare them for an actual contest.)



• Hold a different contest or contest areas every month to lighten your load.



• In Bowl contests, have the winning senior team go against the winning junior and intermediate team at the end of the contest. Most of the time, the scores are very close and the youth love having fun competing against another age group!

## CREATE A COUNTY CONTESTS TIME LINE

As you establish which contests have the most interest in your county, start determining when the best times would be to host each contest. Pay attention to what else may be happening within your community - remember that youth from every age division will be involved. If there is another event that attracts a similar audience, you should be sure you aren't competing for attendance. Below, block out dates that may conflict with other activities.

# 2016

JANUARY         Income         Income	FEBRUARY         I<	MARCH         I <thi< th="">         I         <thi< th=""> <thi< th=""></thi<></thi<></thi<>	American         American
MAY         No.         No.         No.           1         2         3         4         5         6         7           8         9         10         11         12         13         14           15         16         17         18         19         20         21           22         23         24         25         26         27         28           29         30         31	JUNE         I	JULL         JULL         Inter         Inter         Inter         Inter           3         4         5         6         7         8         9           10         11         12         13         14         15         16           17         18         19         20         21         22         23           24         25         26         27         28         29         30           31	AUGUST         I
SEPTEMBER         1         2         3           4         5         6         7         8         9         10           11         12         13         14         15         16         17           18         19         20         21         22         23         24           25         26         27         28         29         30	Image: Control of the state of the	NOVEMBER         I           1         2         3         4         5           6         7         8         9         10         11         12           13         14         15         16         17         18         19           20         21         22         23         24         25         26           27         28         29         30	DECEMBER         1         2         3           4         5         6         7         8         9         10           11         12         13         14         15         16         17           18         19         20         21         22         23         24           25         26         27         28         29         30         31

### ESTABLISH A REGULAR SCHEDULE

Notice what days seem to be most open to your schedule. It is helpful for families in your county to know that all contests fall on the same day of the week or month. As you schedule contests, try to determine when those in your county would be most available. It is also helpful to get a head start on the contest season. Think about starting on October 1st, and hosting a contest every month to keep the community involved year round.

### SEND OUT A NEWSLETTER

When you have finalized the logistics of your county contests for the year, you should start sending out the information to your 4-H members and families.

DATE	CONTEST	LOCATION	FACILITATOR

### SAMPLE COUNTY CONTESTS ANNUAL SCHEDULE/NEWSLETTER

## **4-H CONTEST** 2015-2016

Weber County 4-H offers many different contests each year. Contests are a great way for youth to demonstrate what they have learned. Contests are FREE and are open to all enrolled youth 3rd to 12th grade. Each event will require pre-registration a week prior to the contest. 9th to 12th grade youth that earn a blue ribbon at the county contests will be eligible to compete at the state contest level in July 2016.

You can find the complete details and judging forms for each contest on the county website at www.webercounty4-H.org (under Contests). Following is a brief summary of the current contests offered in Weber county.

Date	Contest Description
November 12	<b>Favorite Foods:</b> Contestants prepare their favorite foods dish at home. The dish can be a entrée, dessert, salad, snack, beverage, or appetizer. The contestant will bring the completed dish, set it up on an attractive place setting, interview with judges, and then the judges will sample the prepared dish.
January 22, February 25, March 25, April 22	<b>Robotics Challenge Nights:</b> Youth enrolled in robotics clubs will have the opportunity to compete in robotic challenges.
January 27	<b>Chef Extraordinaire:</b> Youth plan, prepare and serve a nutritionally balanced dinner for four guests and a judge within a three hour time limit. The recipes selected should not contribute excessive amounts of fat, sugar, or sodium. Special consideration will be given to those recipes that are high in vitamins, minerals, and fiber. Contestants must clean up within the three-hour period.
January 27	<b>Healthy Cuisine:</b> Youth plan and prepare a nutritionally balanced, affordable meal for two judges. This is a timed, 1-hour contest with 45 minutes to cook the meal and 15 minutes to clean up.
February 11	<b>World of Work:</b> Contestants will come prepared with a completed resume, job application and description. You will be given an interview time in which to complete a 10 minute interview. Contestants should treat this contest as if they were actually going through a job application and interview process.
February 18	<b>Talent Contest:</b> Youth share a talent performance in the discipline of their choice such a vocal, drama, dance, instrumental, comedy, etc.
March 5 & 19, April 16	<b>Shooting Sports:</b> Each participant may compete in three shooting activities, an outdoor skills test, and complete a written test. Individual scores will be determined from the combined target scores (900 points maximum) and the outdoor skills test (100 points maximum). The written test score (100 points maximum) will be used as a tie-breaker.

### GET THE WORD OUT!!

Use multiple methods to spread the news about the opportunities in your county. Use the following checklist to be sure you are reaching the best audience:

FACEBOOK
INSTAGRAM
EMAIL
NEWSLETTER
PROJECT SPECIFIC GROUPS (SHOOTING RANGE, ETC)
4H ONLINE
TEXT MESSAGES (AVAILABLE THROUGH 4H ONLINE)
HANG FLIERS
LOCAL PUBLISHINGS
WORD OF MOUTH (REMIND PEOPLE!)

### WHAT DOES A GOOD SOCIAL MEDIA POST LOOK LIKE?

Remember to include the "who", "what", "where", "when", "why", and "how much".





### CONSTRUCTING THE REGISTRATION

4H Online is a great tool to keep track of youth who want to compete in your contests. There are a variety of ways to create your registration. If you want to keep a open registration that encompasses all contests, you can use a template that is already built in the 4H Online program. Using 4H Online, you can manage entries, run reports, send reminder emails/texts, and approve memberships. If you need help setting up your county contests on 4H Online, contact the State 4-H Office.

State	e Contests 2	016		
Contest I	Select an item \$			
If you selected "Team" on this event, please list your team members :				
Contest II:				
If you selected "Team" on this event, please list your team	select an item v			
in you selected ream on this event, please list your team members.:				
Contest III	Select an item \$			
If you selected "Team" on this event, please list your team members.:				
Additional Track If you are participating in Congres Interviews, or multiple tracks that require you to sign up for four events, please select your additional event:	Select an item \$	Stat	e Contests 201	6
ixtra Items		Contest	✓ Select an item	
Banquet Tickets (\$15.00) - Only select for extra guests, you will be provided with a ticket at registration.:	Select an item \$	If you selected "Team" on this event, please list your team	4-H Demonstrations Agricultural (Individual) - \$0.00 4-H Demonstrations Agricultural (Team) - \$0.00	
Breakfast Tickets (\$8.00) - Only select for extra guests, you will be provided with a ticket at registration.:	Select an item \$	Contest II	4-H Demonstrations Science (Individual) - \$0.00 4-H Demonstrations Science (Team) - \$0.00 4-H Demonstrations Other (Individual) - \$0.00	
Sunday Night Lodging (\$16.00):	Select an item \$	Contest I	4-H Demonstrations Other (Team) - \$0.00 4-H FCS Presentations (Individual) - \$0.00	
ersonal Information		If you selected "Team" on this event, please list your team members.	4-H FCS Presentations (Team) - \$0.00	
			4-H Public Speaking - \$0.00 Chef Extraordinaire (Individual) - \$0.00	
Who would you prefer as your roommate?:		Contest III		
T-Shirt Size:	Small \$	If you selected "Team" on this event, please list your team	Congress Interviews - \$0.00 Consumer Bowl (Team) - \$0.00	
	Small	If you selected " learn" on this event, please list your team members.	Fashion Review - \$0.00 Favorite Foods (Individual) - \$0.00	
pecial Requests		A definition of The other	Favorite Foods (Team) - \$0.00 Favorite Foods (Team) - \$0.00	
Dietary Needs::		Additional Track If you are participating in Congres Interviews, or multiple tracks that require you to sign up for four events, please select your additional	Healthy Cuisine (Individual) - \$0.00 Healthy Cuisine (Team) - \$0.00	
Dietary Needs::		réquire you to sign up for four events, please select your additiona event.	Hippology (Individual) - \$0.00	
		Extra Items	Hippology (Team) - \$0.00 Horse Bowl (Team) - \$0.00	
Medical Needs::		Banquet Tickets (\$15.00) - Only select for extra guests, you will be provided with a ticket at registration.	Horse Bowl (Team) - \$0.00	
			Horse Demonstrations (Individual) - \$0.00 Sewing Contest - \$0.00	
		Breakfast Tickets (\$8.00) - Only select for extra guests, you will be provided with a ticket at registration.	Horse Demonstrations (Team) - \$0.00	
Contest Requests::		Sunday Night Lodging (\$16.00)	Shop Smart Challenge - \$0.00 Horse Judging (Individual) - \$0.00	
Banquet Tickets:	0 ¢ x \$15.00 each	Personal Information	Shooting Sports (Individual) (\$10.00) - \$0.00	
Sangobi Hokela.			Horse Judging (Team) - \$0.00 Shooting Sports (Team) (\$10.00) - \$0.00	
ditional		Who would you prefer as your roommate?	Horse Public Speaking - \$0.00	
vey		T-Shirt Size	Talent Dance (Individual) - \$0.00 Impromptu Public Speaking - \$0.00	
		Special Requests	Talent Dance (Team) - \$0.00	
© Comuni	ght 2006-2016 RegistrationMax LLC All rights rese		Livestock Bowl (Team) - \$0.00	
	gnt 2006-2016 RegistrationMax LLC All rights rese are connected to TEXAS1-IIS-A 4HOnline v1.1 Revision 1066	Dietary Needs:	Talent Instrumental (Individual) - \$0.00 Livestock Judging (Individual) - \$0.00	
			Talent Instrumental (Team) - \$0.00	
		Medical Needs:	Livestock Judging (Team) - \$0.00 Talent Piano (Individual) - \$0.00	
		Medical Needs:	Talent Piano (Team) - \$0.00	
			Talent Variety (Individual) - \$0.00 Talent Variety (Team) - \$0.00	
		Contest Requests:	Talent Variety (Team) - \$0.00 Talent Vocal (Individual) - \$0.00	
			Talent Vocal (Team) - \$0.00	
		Banquet Tickets	Track (Citizenship) - \$0.00 Track (Healthy Living) - \$0.00	
		Additional	Track (Leadership) - \$0.00	
		Survey	Track (Science) - \$0.00 Video Production (Individual) - \$0.00	
			Video Production (Team) - \$0.00	
			World of Work - \$0.00	

### **RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS**

County Contests can be an excellent opportunity to recruit volunteers. Usually each contest should be judged by two people, so that their scores may be averaged. Here are a few types of volunteers you can potentially recruit to judge a contest:

	A VOLUNTEER WHO IS PARTIALLY INVOLVED, BUT WANTS TO EXPERIENCE MORE OPPORTUNITIES IN 4-H.
	A VOLUNTEER WHO IS INVOLVED IN ANOTHER CLOSELY RELATED PROJECT AREA.
	PARENTS WHOSE CHILDREN ARE NOT COMPETING IN THE SPECIFIC CONTEST.
	AN EXPERT IN THE PROJECT AREA IN THE COMMUNITY.
	A FRIEND OF 4-H.
	A POTENTIAL SPONSOR WHO SHOULD SEE THE TALENT IN 4-H YOUTH.
	INVITE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO HELP JUDGE AMAZING 4-H YOUTH.
aren	ember to involve youth volunteers in every contest. Involving those who t competing gives them an opportunity to see if they may want to try ething new in the future. Below are potential tasks for youth volunteers:
	CONDUCT THE PLEDGES.
	CREATE AND GATHER THANK YOU CARDS TO JUDGES FROM COMPETITORS.
	MANAGE/RUN TIME FOR CONTESTANTS.
	REACH OUT TO POTENTIAL JUDGES IN PLANNING STAGES.

### AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Each contest should have awards for the winners, and possibly certificates for participants. If ribbons are not available, stickers indicating which placing the youth received should be placed on the certificates.





GOAL SETTING MID TERM GOALS 9-12 MONTHS	
WHAT 1.	
HOW	
WHEN	-
WHAT 2.	
HOW	-
WHEN	_
WHAT 3.	-
HOW	-
WHEN	_

