

Virtual 4-H Contest Invitational

4-H Prepared Speech - updated 8/2021

Adapted from the Western National Roundup Guidelines

Contest Eligibility



- A. Each state will determine senior division eligibility based on their own state guidelines. This contest is for senior age youth only.
- B. Each States may enter 2 individual contestants in the Prepared Speech competition.
- C. This is NOT a nationally sanctioned 4-H event. This is a Utah 4-H sponsored event that is open to the senior age 4-H youth in every state. Therefore this does not affect eligibility to compete in any state or national 4-H contest in the future.
- D. All contestants must be enrolled in 4-H in their state in order to compete.

CONTEST RULES

1. Contestant can prepare a speech on any topic relative to today's youth. Topic is not limited to be 4-H related but contestant should relate their experience as a 4-H'er to their topic of choice.
2. Contestants may not use any costumes, posters, visual aids, or props for their presentations.
3. Contestants are not allowed to present any items to the judges.
4. Each speech will be timed and must between 6-8 minutes in duration. Two points will be deducted for each 30 seconds over or under the time limit.
5. Contestants may use notes. However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judges.
6. Contestants will be presenting their speech to the judges over zoom. Please arrange your background, camera position, etc. which will best represent yourself to give your speech.
7. Contestants will wait in the zoom waiting room and will be admitted into their competition room when the judges are ready for them to present.
8. Contestant order will be pre-determined and emailed to the contestant and coach prior to the competition date. Please enter the waiting room 15 minutes before your competition so you are available when the judges are ready to admit you to the competition room.
9. Depending on the number of contestants, there might be preliminary rounds and the top 2 finalists from each of those rounds will come back for the final prepared speech competition to select the winner.
10. Ties will be broken by the judges.

Awards

Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion winners will be recognized for the Prepared Speech:

- Grand Champion - Certificate and Award
- Reserve Grand Champion - Certificate and Award

Winners will be announced at the virtual awards ceremony Saturday night. All certificates will be emailed to contestants and awards will be mailed to the contestants home after the the Virtual 4-H Contest Invitational.

Virtual 4-H Contest Invitational 4-H Prepared Speech Score Sheet

CONTESTANT NAME:

SPEECH TOPIC:

STATE:

BASIS FOR SCORING

Points
Value

Points
Earned

Comments:

A. Subject

1. Use of 4-H and/or relevance to youth:
(information accurate, complete, up-to-date, appropriate for today's youth)

20

B. Organization

1. Introduction:
(Attention getting, indicates direction and purpose of speech)

8

2. Body:
(Main Points clearly stated, follows through with purpose of speech)

8

3. Conclusion:
(Ends with a purpose, summarized)

8

4. Overall Coverage of Subject:
(Includes pertinent facts about the subject in sufficient detail, use of quotes/facts/research)

8

C. Delivery

1. Bodily Action:
(Poise, eye contact, gestures, speaker;s attitude)

15

2. Voice:
(Pitch, quality, force rate articulation, pronunciation)

15

1. Skill in use of Notes:
(Notes were not used or did not distract from speech)

8

D. General

1. Personal Appearance

10

Total Points:

100

0

deduction of points for time limit violations if needed

Speech Time:

Time limit is 6-8 minutes. Participants will be given a 30 second reminder before the minimum time is met and a 30 second warning before the end of time period. Penalty of 2 points for each 30 seconds over or under on time. (Example seconds 1-29 over or under time limit will not be penalized but 30 seconds or more will have points deducted)

Final Score:

0

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Prepared Speech Contest

Score Sheet Explanation

A. Subject

1. **Use of 4-H and/or relevance to youth:** Does the speaker relate the speech to 4-H, their 4-H project work, lessons they learned through 4-H, or have a relevance to today's youth. Is the topic narrow enough for the message to be given completely? Is the information current?

B. Organization

1. **Introduction:** Does the introduction catch the interest of the audience while presenting both the purpose and subject of the speech?
2. **Body:** Are the main points clearly stated? Does the speaker follow through with the purpose of the speech? Do ideas center around a central theme in a logical order, easily followed and understood by listeners?
3. **Conclusion:** Does the conclusion tie the main points of the speech to the purpose in an interesting way that makes the audience remember the speech?
4. **Overall Coverage of Subject:** Does the presentation include specific pertinent information about the subject in specific detail? Is there enough information presented to thoroughly explain the topic?

C. Delivery

1. **Bodily Action:** Is the speaker poised and confident? Does the speaker maintain eye contact with the audience? Are movements and gestures natural, purposeful, and spontaneous?
2. **Voice:** Is the speaker pleasant to listen to and loud enough to be heard? Is the speaker's voice clear, steady, rich, and full? Does the speaker vary the pitch of his/her voice for interest? Does the speaker use the rate at which he/she speaks effectively?
3. **Skill in use of Notes:** Did the speaker depend on notes to present the information? Were the notes a distraction to the audience or speaker?

D. General

1. **Personal Appearance:** Is the speaker clean, fresh, tidy, neat, and well groomed? Hairstyle, jewelry, makeup, etc., should not distract the audience or the presenter.

Deduction for time: Time limit is 6-8 minutes. Participants will be given a 30 second reminder before the minimum time is met (at 5 minutes 30 seconds) and a 30 second warning before the end of time period (at 7 minutes 30 seconds). Penalty of 2 points for each 30 seconds over or under on time. (Example seconds 1-29 will not be penalized but 30 seconds or more will have points deducted)