

4-H Demonstrations Guidelines



Demonstrations: Age levels as of January 1, of the current 4-H year:

- Junior - 9 – 13
- Senior - 14 – 21

A demonstration shows how to do or how to make something, show as many steps as possible, and the resulting finished product need not be tangible. Posters or charts may be used to advantage to illustrate, list steps or summarize. Be sure the demonstration shows some action.

- Each member should be asked to prepare a demonstration on any topic of his/her choice. The demonstration must be prepared by the 4-H member. Advice from an adult is permitted, but the work must be the effort of the member.
- The maximum length of time for a demonstration is 15 minutes, including one minute allowed for setting up and one minute for removing the demonstration. Judges will also base their scoring on the time the demonstration holds the attention of the audience and the depth of the topic.

NOTE: The setting up and taking down are to be included as part of the judgement. Five (5) points will be deducted for every minute the demonstration is over fifteen (15) minutes. Time for questions from the audience is not included in the timing.

- The demonstration may be given by a single contestant or by a team of two working together and sharing the roles of telling and showing. No demonstration with more than two contestants will be permitted in competition.
- Common sense should be used in food demonstrations. Judges should take into account proper food handling techniques.
- A demonstration may be entered at only one age level. In case of a team demonstration where the members are of different ages, it will be entered at the level of the older member.
- A new demonstration must be prepared by the member or team each year. Demonstrations from previous years will be disqualified.
- A member may proceed to county level as a winner in Public Speaking or Demonstrations but not both in any one year.
- A member can compete at the provincial level in the same age division two years or more regardless if they win or lose.
- A panel of judges selected from the community (region, etc.) would be asked to choose the most outstanding talk or demonstration from each age group to participate at the next level. Each judge will score each presentation individually.
- The level of topic and the degree of difficulty with which the subject matter is presented, with respect to age division, are to be considered in the evaluations.



- Judges are encouraged to add written comments on their personal impressions and constructive criticisms. Score sheets will be returned at the club, county and regional levels and upon request at the Provincial level at the end of the event. These notes are always more meaningful and more helpful in preparing to improve for the next level of competition or the next year than the numerical scores. Judges are cautioned to check the addition on their score sheets well before turning them in.
- All judges are to be oriented with rules prior to any 4-H competition. It is an asset for judges to have a 4-H background. It is suggested that rally organizers attempt to have at least two judges who are familiar with the 4-H program or have previous judging experience.
- The decision of the judges will be final.
- Contestants should be well groomed, neatly dressed and have good posture.
- The decision of the judges is final.
- Use of a lectern, podium, or microphone will not be permitted to the competitors at any level of competition. Posters, or other display materials may be placed on an easel for demonstrations or illustrated talks.
- If, for any reason, the first-place contestant at any level is unavailable or disqualified, then the second-place winner in the same category will be given the opportunity to compete at the next level.

Events Available in 4-H Public Speaking and Demonstrations:

Club level - competing with fellow 4-H members within one's own club in one's own age group.

County level - competitions available for club winners in the same category.

Regional level - for county winners competing with winners in the same age category from each county in region.

Provincial level - for the six (6) regional winners competing with other regional winners in same age levels.

PLEASE NOTE: Easels may not be provided for use at county, regional or provincial competitions be prepared to bring your own.