

# County Public Speaking Contest

Date: **January 31, 2023 @ 6:00pm**



Location: **Agricenter Building "C"** (7777 Walnut Grove Rd, Memphis, TN 38120)



**ABOUT** (For more information, please contact Tim, Michael, Kelly, or Kyla at 901-752-1207)

4-H'ers (Grades 4 - 12) will deliver a timed, prepared speech to a panel of judges. All 1st Place winners will advance to the Western Regional Competition (Grades 9 - 12) or the Southwest Area Sub-Regional Competition (Grades 4 - 8).

**Registration: 5:00pm to 5:45pm**

**Contest Commences: 6:00pm**

## GUIDELINES:

Speeches are made up of three parts: Introduction, Body, Conclusion

**Introduction**—start your speech with a question or a catchy phrase, tell your audience what you will be speaking about.

**Body**—this contains the different points you'd like to talk about.

**Conclusion**—end your speech with a poem, neat fact, catchy phrase again or a related joke. Don't forget to remind them of the purpose of your speech's main topic.

## RULES:

4th Grade: 1 ~ 2 minutes

5th Grade: 2 ~ 3 minutes

6th Grade: 3 ~ 4 minutes

7th Grade: 4 ~ 5 minutes

8th Grade: 4 ~ 5 minutes

4th—8th Grade: You may choose your own topic. Examples such as: "My favorite \_\_\_\_.", "A person you admire.", "A subject or topic you are learning about in school." **Note cards may be used, but NO visuals.**

9th Grade: 5 ~ 7 minutes

10th Grade: 5 ~ 7 minutes

9th—12th Grade: All speeches must relate in some way to the 4-H member's experience in 4-H as well as something learned. It should also promote 4-H.

11th Grade: 5 ~ 7 minutes

12th Grade: 5 ~ 7 minutes

11th—12th Grade: In addition to the regular 4-H speech, 11th and 12th Grade 4-H'ers will be expected to deliver an extemporaneous or impromptu speech.

Speakers will be expected to dress appropriately.

Girls: suit, dress, nice top, modest skirt or pants, hair should be pulled away from face.

Boys: suit; khaki or dark dress slacks; nice, buttoned, collared shirt (polo or full button-down); tie (optional)

**ABSOLUTELY NO:** jeans (blue or any color), athletic wear, action wear, t-shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts, head covering (hats, caps, beanies, doo-rags, bandanas...), shorts, flip-flips, sandals, open toe shoes.

# County Public Speaking Contest (Continued...)



## EXPLANATION of Judging Criteria and Points

### Speaker

**Appearance:** As the speaker approaches the lectern and throughout the presentation, is their posture good; does they stand solidly on the floor; are their clothes (does not matter whether or not they are new or fashionable) clean and pressed? Or does the speaker sway from one foot to another; lean on the lectern or table; slump and show poor grooming? A perfect score for this category is 10 points.

**Language:** Is it understandable, pleasing, meaningful, vivid and properly announced with proper grammar? Scores may range from 0 to 20.

**Projection / Voice:** Do they have eye contact with the audience? Does the presentation have sufficient volume? Is it clear, distinct and presented with expression and enthusiasm? Or does the speaker instead present a memorized or read report? Do they communicate? Scores may range from 0 to 10.

**Preparation:** Whether or not the speaker occasionally refers to notes, do they seem to be well prepared? Or do they read the speech, stumble over words or thoughts, or lack preparation (whether notes or memory) to carry through the presentation? Scores may vary between 0 and 15.

### Subject Matter and Composition

**Organization:** Do ideas center around a central theme in a logical order, easily followed and understood by listeners? Or does the speech seem poorly organized with random ideas or with ideas which do not fit into the theme? Points may range from 0 to 10 here.

**Sources:** Is the information accurate? Is the topic narrow enough for the message to be given completely? Has the speaker earned the right to speak on the subject through study and experience (preferably in 4-H)? Is the information apparently current? Or is the information seemingly out-of-date, too broad to be covered completely or incorrect? From 0 to 10 points are possible here.

**Introduction, Summary and Conclusion:** Does the introduction catch the interest of the audience while presenting the theme for the entire speech? Speakers should NOT begin by giving name and club or by recognizing the “honorable judges, ladies and gentlemen, etc.” Does the summary tie the important points of the speech to the theme in an interesting way that makes you remember the speech? Or does the speech have no real introduction or perhaps an inadequate introduction or summary? Points will vary from 0 to 10 in this category with half the scoring for the introduction and half for the summary.

**Time Penalties:** 5 points will be deducted for being under the minimum time. 1 point will be deducted for every 30 seconds a speech exceeds the maximum time limit.

**Tie-Breaker:** To break a tie use, the “Use of Language” score from the score card will be used.