

# COUNTY PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

**Date:** January 29, 2026 @ 6pm

**Location:** Agricenter Building C (7777 Walnut Grove Rd)



**Pre-Register By:** January 22, 2026

**Check-in:** 5pm – 5:45pm

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

## GUIDELINES:

Speeches are made up of three parts: Introduction, Body, and 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. You should include at least 3 points.

**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

Notecards may be used, but NO visuals of any type.

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, button collared shirt (Polo or full button-down), tie (optional)

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** 1 – 2 minutes

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** 2 – 3 minutes

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** 3 – 4 minutes

**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** 4 – 5 minutes

**9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade:** 5 – 7 minutes

**4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** You may choose your own topic. Examples – “My favorite \_\_\_\_\_”, “A person you admire.”, “A subject or topic you are learning about in school.”

**11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade:** In addition to the regular 4-H speech, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders will be expected to deliver an extemporaneous or impromptu speech.

**9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade:** All speeches must relate in some way to the youth's experience in 4-H as well as something learned. It should also promote 4-H.

**Absolutely NO:** Jeans (blue or any color), athletic wear, action wear, t-shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts, head coverings (hats, caps, beanies, durags, bandanas, etc.), shorts, or open-toed shoes including flip flops and sandals.

# COUNTY PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST (CONT.)

## Explanation of Judging Criteria and Points

### APPEARANCE (1 - 10 POINTS)

As the speaker approaches the lectern and throughout the presentation, is their posture good; do they stand solidly on the floor; are their clothes (does not matter whether or not they are new or fashionable) clean and pressed? 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 (0 - 20 POINTS)

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

### PROJECTION / VOICE (0 - 10 POINTS)

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

### PREPARATION (0 - 15 POINTS)

Whether or not the speaker occasionally refers to notes, do they seem to be well prepared? 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 (0 - 10 points):** Does the speech stay focused on a clear theme, with ideas presented in a logical order that's easy to follow? Or does it feel scattered, with unrelated or off-topic points?

**Sources (0 - 10 points):** Is the information accurate, up to date, and specific enough for the time given? Has the speaker shown preparation through research or personal experience, ideally within 4-H?

**Introduction, Summary and Conclusion (0 - 10 points):** Does the introduction engage the audience and clearly present the topic (without formal greetings)? Does the conclusion effectively summarize key points and leave a lasting impression? Half of the score is for the intro, half for the conclusion.

**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, the "Use of Language" score from the score card will be used.