

Western National Roundup 4-H Prepared Speech Contest Rules

Superintendents:

Lori Bledsoe, Co-Superintendent

Northwest District 4-H Youth
Program Development Coordinator
1109 Experiment Street
Flynt Building, Room 227
Griffin, Georgia 30223
Phone: (770) 229-3408
Email: lpurcell@uga.edu

Justin Crowe, Co-Superintendent

Director and State Program Leader
4-H Youth Development
Agricultural Leadership, Education and
Communications
University of Tennessee Extension
205 Morgan Hall, 2621 Morgan Circle
Knoxville, TN 37996
Phone: 865-974-2128
Email: jcrowe3@utk.edu

Steve Sutton, Co-Superintendent

Assistant Director, Tennessee 4-H Foundation
University of Tennessee Extension
205 Morgan Hall, 2621 Morgan Circle
Knoxville, TN 37996
Phone: 865-974-2128
Email: ssutton2@utk.edu

ELIGIBILITY

- A. A State/Territory/District of Columbia is allowed up to three entries in the prepared speech contest. Each state will determine eligibility and will have final decision over eligibility.
- B. Entries not officially entered will not be permitted to participate for any reason.
- C. An individual may enter a National 4-H competitive event in a specific program area only once.
- D. The eligibility requirements to enter a National 4-H Competitive Event are:
 1. Contestant must already have passed his or her 14th birthday, and may not have reached his or her 19th birthday, as of January 1 of the year in which the National 4-H Competitive Event is held*. However, the State 4-H Leader may grant a special authorization to compete, for youth with developmental disabilities who exceed the upper age limit.
 2. All contestants must be members of 4-H in the state they are representing during the year in which the National 4-H Competitive Event is held.*

*The January dates for the Western National Roundup event are considered part of the previous year for the purpose of allowing all youth to compete in the

national events in their last year of eligibility. (Approved by 4-H NPL and Director, Youth Development, F4-HN/CSREES June 1, 2004)

3. The contestant(s) must be certified as the official state entry by the State 4-H Leader or by a person designated by the State 4-H Leader. The individual(s) may be selected by any procedure the State 4-H Leader believes is appropriate.
 4. The contestant, his or her county 4-H staff member, and the State 4-H Leader must certify as follows on the application form or an accompanying memo:
“This contestant has not participated in post-secondary coursework in the subject area of the national 4-H competition, nor has he or she participated in training for post-secondary competition in the subject area of the national 4-H competition.” *Violation of this will result in forfeiture of any awards or recognition which have been won in the National 4-H Competitive Event.*
- E. All participants must first qualify through the represented state and meet all the state eligibility rules.

CONTEST RULES

1. Contestant can prepare a speech on any topic relative to today’s youth. Topic is not limited to 4-H project work but contestant should relate their experiences 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. A public address system will not be used or allowed, but a podium will be provided.
7. Only videography or pictures of your contestant is allowed, except by Western National Roundup officials.
8. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing and announced at the coaches meeting.
9. All contestants will be present for all speeches unless they are in the holding room or have another competition requirement. Audience members are welcome.
10. Ties will be broken by the judges.

11. Judges will use the Western National Roundup Prepared Speech Score Sheet.

AWARDS

1. Awards will be announced and ribbons will be awarded to the top presentations.

Western National Roundup 4-H Impromptu Speech Contest Rules

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Program Development Coordinator
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Email: lpurcell@uga.edu

Justin Crowe, Co-Superintendent

Extension Specialist
4-H Youth Development
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Phone: 865-974-2128
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- E. All participants must first qualify through the represented state and meet all the state eligibility rules.

CONTEST RULES

1. Contestant will select a topic for their speech by randomly drawing three questions from a pool of questions. They will select one question and return the other two. A maximum of one minute will be allowed for this process. Questions will be relative to today's youth and may include current events, 4-H, and/or social issues. Examples of the type of questions include:
 - a. If I were an author, I would write about...
 - b. One issue facing teenagers today is...
 - c. If I could describe my personality as a tree, which tree would I be...
 - d. What has being involved in 4-H taught me?
2. Questions will be at the discretion of the superintendents. Only the superintendents will know the questions prior to the contest. No two contestants will speak on the same topic in the same year.
3. Contestants may not use any costumes, posters, visual aids, or props for their presentations.
4. Contestants are not allowed to present any items to the judges.
5. Contestants will be allowed 3 minutes to organize their thoughts before beginning their presentation. Time will begin when they select their question.
6. Each speech will be timed and must be between 3-5 minutes in duration. Two points will be deducted for each 30 seconds over or under the time limit.

7. Contestants will be allowed to organize their thoughts on a 5x7 blank note card (supplied). However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judges.
8. A public address system will not be used or allowed, but a podium will be provided.
9. Only videography or pictures of your contestant is allowed, except by Western National Roundup officials.
10. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing and announced at the coaches meeting.
11. All contestants will be present for all speeches unless they are in the holding room or have another competition requirement. Audience members are welcome.
12. Ties will be broken by the judges.
13. Judges will use the Western National Roundup Prepared Speech Score Sheet.

AWARDS

1. Awards will be announced and ribbons will be awarded to the top presentations.

Western National Roundup 4-H Prepared Speech Contest Score Sheet

		Name	Name	Name	Name
	Point Value				
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, summarizes)	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				
3. Skill in use of Notes: (Notes were not used or did not distract from speech)	8				
D. General					
1. Personal appearance	10				
Total	100				
Time of speech					
Deduction for time: <i>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 will not be penalized but 30 seconds or more will have points deducted)</i>					
Adjusted and final score					

Western National Roundup 4-H 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)

Western National Roundup 4-H Impromptu Speech Contest Score Sheet

		Name	Name	Name	Name
	Point Value				
A. Organization					
1. Introduction: (Attention getting, indicates direction and purpose of speech)	9				
2. Body: (Main points clearly stated, important points were easy to follow)	12				
3. Conclusion: (Stresses important points, has definite closing)	9				
4. Overall Quality: (Did not repeat content to fill time, originality, topic coverage)	10				
5. Related topic to 4-H and/or today's youth	10				
B. Delivery					
1. Bodily Action: (Poise, eye contact, gestures, speaker's attitude)	15				
2. Voice: (Pitch, quality, force rate articulation, pronunciation)	15				
3. Language Effectiveness: (Appropriate words, skillful in using meaningful quotes/facts/research)	10				
C. General					
1. Personal appearance	10				
Total	100				
Time of speech					
Deduction for time: <i>Time limit is 3-5 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 will not be penalized but 30 seconds or more will have points deducted)</i>					
Adjusted and final score					

Western National Roundup 4-H Impromptu Speech Contest Score Sheet Explanation

A. Organization

1. Introduction: Does the introduction catch the interest of the audience while presenting both the purpose and subject of the speech? Does the audience understand and know what the subject is?
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 Quality: Does the presentation include specific pertinent information about the subject in specific detail? Is information repeated to fill time? Is the information shared creative and original?
5. Related topic to 4-H and/or today's youth: Does the speaker relate the answer to the question back to 4-H, their experience in 4-H, or explain how it relates to today's youth?

B. 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. Language Effectiveness: Does the speaker chose appropriate words to share? Are any quotes, facts, or figures used to explain the topic? Does the speaker use a variety of examples to explain the topic?

C. 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 3-5 minutes. Participants will be given a 30 second reminder before the minimum time is met (at 2 minutes 30 seconds) and a 30 second warning before the end of time period (at 4 minutes and 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)