

Be The Best In Oklahoma Public Speaking Contest Information  
For 4-H Members, Volunteers and Parents



**General Guidelines**  
**2019 Be The BEST In**  
**Oklahoma 4-H Public**  
**Speaking Contest**

The following guidelines have been developed for the Be The BEST In Oklahoma 4-H Public Speaking Contest. All participants are subject to the following guidelines.

**HISTORY:**

The first Be The BEST In Oklahoma 4-H Public Speaking Contest was held in May 2014. It was the dream and goal of State 4-H Secretary and Pontotoc County 4-H member Olivia Hamilton to provide a state level public speaking contest open to all 4-H members ages 9-19. The second goal was for other senior 4-H members to move into this leadership role when Olivia graduated. The contest is in its fifth year.

**OBJECTIVES:**

The Be The BEST In Oklahoma 4-H Public Speaking Contest is being conducted for the purpose of promoting a greater interest in public speaking and to allow all 4-H members the opportunity to develop and polish their public speaking skills.

**DATE OF THE CONTEST:**

This contest will be held on May 11 at Stillwater Middle School, 2200 S. Sangre Road, Stillwater, OK 74074. All participants must be enrolled in 4-H and be a recognized 4-H member in their county. The Oklahoma State 4-H Club Program Policies Lit. No. 5 will be utilized to determine membership, age categories, and general rules. 4-H members do not have to qualify at a county or district contest to participate.

**ENTRY INFORMATION:**

All entries and registration fees must be received in the **PONTOTOC COUNTY OSU EXTENSION OFFICE, 1700 N. BROADWAY, ADA, OK 74820, NO LATER THAN APRIL 19.** Questions? Contact Becky Walker, Pontotoc Co. Extension Educator, (580) 332-2153 /Becky.Walker@okstate.edu. Participants must use the Be The BEST In Oklahoma 4-H Public Speaking Contest Entry Form/Score Sheet for contest entry. This form can be found at <http://oces.okstate.edu/pontotoc/4-h> Please complete an entry form/score sheet for each type of presentation you will be giving. Please identify the respective age category, presentation type, subject category, and title of presentation on each form.

**NUMBER AND PRESENTATION TOPICS:**

Participants may enter two (2) presentations. The types of presentations are: Speech, Illustrated, PowerPoint and Famous Person. Participants may also enter Extemporaneous as a third public speaking

opportunity but must do another presentation before being eligible for Extemporaneous.

If the participant is entering two presentations, they must be completely different topics. Example: A participant could enter a regular speech about dogs in the small animal category and enter an illustrated presentation in the foods category.

**REGISTRATION:**

Registration will be from 9:00a-9:30a. Contestants will check in and then report directly to their presentation rooms. The contest will start promptly at 10:00a. It is the responsibility of the individual or team to be at the proper place at the proper time to give the presentation or notify the door monitor where you may be located if giving more than one presentation.

**FEES:**

The entry fee is \$10.00 per individual. There will NOT be an additional cost for more than one entry. No refunds will be given.

**CANCELLATIONS:**

Any individual scheduled for a presentation who is unable to present should notify the contest officials. No exceptions will be made for personal time conflicts.

**AGE DIVISIONS:**

Junior:	Grades 3 <sup>rd</sup> (and 8 years old)-5 <sup>th</sup>
Intermediate:	Grades 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>
Senior:	Grades 9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>

All ages are based on the grade September 1 of the current 4-H year (2018-19).

**SUGGESTED APPROPRIATE DRESS:**

Snappy casual, including a 4-H T-Shirt or attire appropriate to the theme of the presentation.

**MAXIMUM TIME LIMITS:**

Any presentation that goes over the maximum time limit by 2 minutes will be stopped by the judge(s). Please refer to the guidelines for each presentation for specific time limits. There is a 1 point deduction for every 30 seconds over or under the time limit.

**ALL SET UP, PREPARATION AND DELIVERY OF PRESENTATION MUST BE THE WORK OF THE PARTICIPANT ONLY.**

**CONDUCT**

Parents and/or volunteers are asked not to approach judges directly before, during or after the contest. Judges have been asked to evaluate presentations and provide feedback by invitation of the Be The BEST In Oklahoma 4-H Public Speaking Contest. Questions or comments concerning judging or any other topic should be directed to the contest officials. All judges' decisions are final. Protests will not be considered. Score sheets will not be returned the day of the contest. They will be given to the respective county educators to return them to the 4-H members.

**CATEGORIES: (see page 3 for category definitions)**

Categories may be combined/divided at the discretion of the committee due to the participant number. If a category has 3 entries or less they will be combined at the discretion of the committee. There will be no classification changes or additions after April 19.

**BRING YOUR OWN EQUIPMENT:**

***Easels, podiums, or extension cords will not be provided.*** Special audio-visual equipment (except for PowerPoint presentations) will not be provided at the contest. The individual is responsible for providing these items.

**DON'T BRING:**

Posters with loose glitter. Glittered posters should be laminated. Glitter used for any presentations should be in a closed container and only used in the speaking room assigned to that participant.

Firearms, live ammunition, rocket engines, explosive powders or live animals are not allowed.

**AWARDS:**

Awards will be presented to the 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> place individuals per age division, per presentation type, per presentation category.

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**SPEECH**

1. Only individuals will be allowed to enter this category.
2. Props or visuals ARE NOT to be used in this type of presentation.
3. Speech Length:  
Juniors: 2-5 minutes  
Intermediate: 5-7 minutes  
Seniors: 5-7 minutes

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**ILLUSTRATED**

1. Illustrated presentations include both demonstrations and illustrated talks. Props and or/visuals must be used to qualify for this event. Size of props used must be appropriate for room size. Props can be no larger than 30 inches in width and 6 feet in height.
2. Illustrated Presentation Length:  
Juniors: 3-10 minutes  
Intermediate: 5-12 minutes  
Seniors: 5-12 minutes
3. Teams and individuals will not compete for the same awards. Teams are composed of two individuals and may consist of no more.
4. Teams with individuals of two different age categories will participate in the older age category of the participating individuals.  
Example: A team consisting of a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader and 8<sup>th</sup> grader will participate in the

intermediate category (Intermediate: Grades 6-8th)

5. Food Demonstration Presentations: All 4-H members giving these types of presentations must bring all needed equipment with them, including items needed to clean up after presentation. No supplies will be available. Water in the room may be optional. Please keep these things in mind when compiling your materials needed for presentation. Electricity will be available. It is the responsibility of the individual/teams to clean up the demonstration table following their presentation.

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**POWERPOINT**

PowerPoint presentations will follow the general 4-H public speaking contest guidelines with the following additions:

1. Only individuals will be allowed to enter this category.
2. All illustrated talks using PowerPoint will be entered in category #11.
3. Participants will be required to use the equipment provided.
4. The Be The BEST In Oklahoma 4-H Public Speaking Contest will provide a laptop computer, digital projector and screen to use during the presentations. This contest is limited to only PowerPoint software running on Windows XP for the illustrated presentation, no other presentation programs will be provided or allowed.

Presentation should be on flash drive. No Zip™ disk or zipped files should be used as it may not be compatible with equipment and are not allowed.

Participants must provide a 6 slide per page printed hand out of the presentation to the judge. These handouts will be for the contest judge's benefit (especially, in case of equipment compatibility problems or failure).

Please go directly to your room after check in to give flash drive and presentation handout to the room monitor.

5. Presentations will be judged; 20% on the PowerPoint presentation and 80% on verbal presentation skills. See the entry/score sheet for more detailed scoring information. Participant must present the program (including slide advancing) without assistance.
6. PowerPoint Length:  
Juniors: 3-5 minutes  
Intermediate: 5-7 minutes  
Seniors: 5-7 minutes

## FAMOUS PERSON

The 4-H Famous Person contest is designed to provide a 4-H member with the opportunity of portraying a person from sports, pop culture or history, either from the past or present, through speech and props. The 4-H member will not only be provided a public speaking opportunity, but will also develop research skills through seeking information regarding their famous person. 4-H members also have an opportunity to be creative in both costume and prop design which is used to "tell their story".

1. Members **should not** set up props upon entering the room. The maximum time for prop set up is 5 minutes. Adults are not allowed to assist the 4-H member in any way. Members are responsible for their own set up.
2. Individuals and teams are allowed.
3. Famous Person/Character presentation length:  
Juniors: 2-5 minutes  
Intermediate: 5-7 minutes  
Seniors: 5-7 minutes
4. All props must be no larger than 30" wide or over 6 feet tall.
5. No live firearms (a toy gun should be used) or live animals.
6. It is expected that 4-H members ONLY portray famous people of good moral and character. Their dress or costume must be appropriate regardless of who they are portraying; one that reflects the values of the 4-H program.
7. If props leave behind any type of mess, example hay, grass, etc. the 4-H member is responsible for cleaning up their area.
8. Props are intended to add to the presentation and members are encouraged to be creative in their use. Costuming is also part of this contest.

## EXTEMPORANEOUS

1. All topics will relate to the general 4-H program. Topics will be selected by, or under the supervision of, the contest supervisors. Topics will be phrased in the form of a question specific enough for the judges to determine whether the speech is relevant to the topic.
2. Contestants will be allowed to draw three (3) topics and within one (1) minute must select one (1) and report the topic to the person supervising the drawing. The topic selected will be recorded by the person supervising the drawing.
3. Each participant has 5 minutes to prepare for the speech. Contestants will speak as soon after their preparation time as possible. This is subject to the availability of the judge(s). Each contestant will be permitted to make notes during his/her preparation time.

4. The presentation will not last more than five (5) minutes.
5. The presentation may be followed by one question per judge. Each question will be relevant and designed to secure verification, clarification, or amplification.
6. No electronic retrieval systems will be allowed.

## Explanation of Categories

- 01 **Animal Science** (Horse, Beef, Dairy, Goat, Swine, Sheep, Poultry, Vet Science)
- 02 **Small Animal/Pets** (Birds, Cats, Cavey, Dogs, Fish, Rabbits)
- 03 **General Ag** (Ag related topics that are neither animal science nor plant/natural sciences)
- 04 **Plant/Natural Science** (Agronomy, Horticulture, Entomology, Wildlife, Forestry, Environmental, Natural Resources, Camping, Shooting Sports, Rocketry, Bicycle, Electric, Woodworking, Petroleum Power)
- 05 **Science & Technology** (Not for Powerpoint presentations. They are category 11.) (Computers, Robotics, Science Experiments, Physical Sciences, GPS, Aerospace, Rocketry)
- 06 **Communication and Visual Arts** (Photography, Speaking, Recreation, Fine Arts, Arts & Crafts, Performing Arts, Music, Hobbies, Collections, Biographies (Not Famous Person))
- 07 **Family & Consumer Sciences** (Childcare, Fabric & Fashions, Safety, Personal Development, Consumer Education)
- 08 **Social Sciences** (Citizenship, Leadership, 4-H Leadership, Government, Community Service, 4-H Community Service, History, 4-H History, Military, Geography, Historical Figure Biography (Not Famous Person))
- 09 **Health & Wellness** (Health, Nutrition, Food Safety, Fitness, Sports)
- 10 **Foods** (Food preparation with finished product including nutrition facts and food safety.)
- 11 **PowerPoint**
- 12 **Famous Person** (Autobiography, Dress In Costume, Props, Play The Character)
- 13 **Extemporaneous**