Public Presentations Contest Judges Orientation Notes

(Rev. 3/5/18, HW; 11/13/18 LB)

Thank you for volunteering your time to encourage youth to grow and build life skills!

Our Program Goal:
This experience is meant to be positive and encouraging for the 4-H members. The purpose is to help the youth grow as speakers and leaders from their experiences. Contests in public speaking, demonstrations, illustrated talks, and creative communications provide youth the opportunity to practice important life skills. 4-H members can talk on any topic, but must choose a different topic and title each year. Training in public presentations by clubs is encouraged.

Presentation Categories:
(There are different score sheets for each category.)
1. Public Speaking: This is a talk presented without visual or other aids. Notes are allowed but youth should not read the speech. The purpose of this more formal talk is to inform, to persuade, to entertain, to stimulate action or further interest in a topic of their choice. It may contain more quotations, humor or imagery than other presentation forms.
2. Demonstrations: (Show How) In this type of presentation, the 4-H Club Member will prepare a show how (to make, to do, to prepare) type of presentation on a selected topic. Ex.: (a) How to build a rocket, (b) How to show a chicken (c) How to play guitar. There are additional rules for food demonstrations.
3. Illustrated Talk: (Visual Presentations) This is a speech presented with the use of visual aids, such as charts, pictures, posters, graphs, samples, models, etc. The 4-H member uses the visual aids to tell about the topic but does not show how to make/do something. Example: Using these visual aids, a speaker might talk about some snacks as a part of good nutrition, animal breeds, or a favorite book.
4. Creative Communication: This is a presentation that is normally performed on stage. It may include but is not limited to stand-up comedy, storytelling, drama, debate, or presentations using puppets, skits, clowning, poetry, singing, music, etc.

Divisions:
Cloverbuds (5-7 years old as of Jan. 1)
Children in the Cloverbud category, under the age of 8 as of January 1st, are not to be judged. Please make positive comments only on their score sheets. The Room Monitor should point out to the judges which youth are Cloverbuds and not to be judged. (Cloverbuds do not compete at the State Competition)
Junior Division: 4-H Members 8-13 years of age as of January 1st. Junior presentations should be 3 to 10 minutes.
Senior Division: 4-H Members 14-18 years of age as of January 1st. Senior presentations should be 5 to 10 minutes.
**Teams:** Some members may choose to make their presentation as a team. Team members will be scored together on the same score sheet but will each receive their own ribbon. At the State Contest team winners will share cash awards.

- Mixed division teams: In the case that a team presentation consists of one or more Cloverbud members, the entire team will not be judged, Cloverbud division rules apply. In the case that a team is a mix of Juniors and Seniors and no Cloverbuds, the team will be judged as Seniors.

**General Guidelines**

**Questions**
At the end of each presentation, judges should ask at least one question of each speaker. These could be content based, or questions about how this ties into their other 4H projects, why they chose this topic, how they performed the research...

**Scoring:**
You can consult with other judges, the room monitor, or the program coordinator if you have questions, but your ultimate judging decisions should be independent.

Please write comments on the score sheets that are positive, encourage improvement and continued participation.

*Do not take points off for things the youth has no control of. (i.e. live animals are not allowed in these contest, therefore points should not be deducted in a rabbit showmanship presentation with a stuffed bunny.)*

We wouldn’t expect any child to get 100 points and wouldn’t want you to score any of the participants 100, 99 or 98 unless they are truly outstanding. We hope the children who do a good job receive a blue ribbon, scoring between 85 and 97 points. Youth who do less than you would expect from an average child of that age should receive a red ribbon. (70 to 84 points) Only youth who are totally unprepared or can’t remember their talk, so they seem totally unprepared, should receive a white ribbon. Participants must score 90 or above to qualify for the state contest. A score in the low 90’s allows participants who do a quality job to be encouraged and have the opportunity to use the comments on the score sheet to improve the talk for the state contest.

Once all the participants in your room have presented and been scored, the room monitor will have the audience and participants leave the room or will find a place for you and the other judge(s) from your room to meet privately. With the room monitor, judges should review the averages to make sure you all agree on the outcome. Upon completion of the review, awards will be distributed by the room monitor. Judges are invited to speak briefly to the group overall to express what was done well and what needs improvement.

**State Contest:** The top 3 scorers in each category receive cash prizes in addition to ribbons. Judges may be asked to break ties in consultation with 4-H staff.

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