Becoming a 4-H Public Presentations Site!

Public speaking skills are valuable to everyone. Youth with public speaking skills are more confident, and are better prepared for the adult world. 4-H is proud to be a leader in teaching and encouraging youth to develop these skills. In 4-H, we offer many opportunities for youth to practice public speaking – in learning situations, non-competitive public settings and in competitions.

4-H Community clubs, after-school programs, schools and agencies are invited to hold local 4-H Public Presentations Contests to qualify for the State 4-H Contest held at the University of Rhode Island in March. Please read the rules and guidelines below for setting up a Local 4-H Public Presentations Contest for your group.

1. All clubs need to be led by actively enrolled and approved 4-H volunteers and have enrolled in 4-H as a full Club or as a Group Enrollment for the current 4-H year. New agencies or schools the 4-H office will help you with this easy process!
2. Complete the required online Site Registration Form before December 1st.
3. Inform youth and their parents about the 4-H Public Presentation Contest and encourage them to read the Contest Rules and Guidelines which are posted on the 4-H website.
4. Practice public speaking skills in the club setting and/or attend a 4-H public speaking workshop.
5. Choose a date for your local contest. Contest must occur between Oct 1 and February 1st of the current 4-H year/school year. Give youth and parents as much notice as possible. If a club member cannot attend your registered Local Contest, the youth may register for the State 4-H Public Presentations Qualifying Contest.
6. Have youth register in advance for your contest. Pre-registration demonstrates interest and commit to the program and allows you to prepare. Collect relevant participant information such as name, contact information, speech category and topic. Sample available.
7. Line-up volunteers to serve as judges, room monitors and timekeepers. It is recommended that youth are judged by at least 2 judges and a maximum of 4 judges. (Judges must not be related to the youth contestants and should be consistent for all contestants) Train volunteers prior to the contest using the State 4-H Judges Orientation Notes and Room Monitor Duties documents. Also provide the Public Presentations Contest Rules and Guidelines and sample score sheets to the volunteers/judges.
8. Submit the Contest Site Results Online Form to the State 4-H office to receive a packet of award ribbons you will distribute to the contestants. We will also mail you letters of invitation to compete at the State Contest at URI for any youth that qualifies with a 90 or above. If a youth who qualifying for States, is not an active 4-H member enrolled in the 4-H online system, they will be required to do so and pay the enrollment fee, prior to the contest date. Non-4-H youth will not be allowed to compete.