Becoming a 2019 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 on March 2nd 2019. Please read the below guide for setting up a Local 4-H Public Presentations Contest for your group. The detailed 2019 RI 4H Public Presentation Rules and Guidelines are available on the 4H website and should be read thoroughly so as to avoid any confusion.

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. Any new agencies or schools that are participating in 4-H SPIN programs should know the 4-H office can help you with this easy process!
2. 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.
3. Inform youth and their parents about the 4-H Public Presentation Contest and encourage them to read the 2019 Rules and Guidelines which are posted on the 4-H website.
4. Complete the required online Site Registration Form at least two weeks before your contest date. If you have any questions or need help gathering supplies, this will provide time to do so. If you are planning to invite members outside your group to participate, the earlier you register the better.
5. Have youth register in advance for your contest. Pre-registration demonstrates a commitment to the program and allows the youth time to prepare. Please collect identifying information (name, contact) as well as the participants speech category and topic. A ‘Sample Registration’ form is available to print on the 4H website. Please read the ‘categories’ section of the 2019 Rules and Guidelines to see special opportunities in several categories you may not have heard of.
6. Practice public speaking skills in the club setting and/or attend a 4-H public speaking workshop.
7. Line-up volunteers to serve as judges, room monitors and timekeepers. We recommend 2-4 judges, all of whom must not be related to the participating youth, and should be consistent for the length of the contest. 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. Be sure that the youth thank the judges in some way (ex: a small 4-H related gift or a thank you card signed by the participants)
8. Submit the Contest Site Results Online Form to the State 4-H office no later than February 10th. Any youth who score higher than a 90 will qualify for the state competition. We don’t expect that everyone will qualify for the state contest. In general about 30-40% of our local/district contest participants qualify for state. If you have a participant who wishes to be included in the State Horse Public Presentation category make sure that they register with HORSE at the beginning of their title. If it is not written, we will not know to put them in that category and they will not be included in that competition room.