

Shelby County 4-H Public Speaking

Sunday, March 15

6:30 p.m., 4-H Center, Shelbyville

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in 4-H Public Speaking Contest, please contact the Extension office at the following phone number and/or address: University of Illinois Extension-Shelby County, 1125 W. North 2nd Street, Shelbyville, (217) 774-9546 at least two weeks prior to the event.

The 4-H Public Speaking Contest is open for the public to attend.

“The Department of Agriculture shall use its best efforts to secure sufficient appropriations to fund premiums. In any year for which the General Assembly of the State of Illinois fails to make an appropriation sufficient to pay such premiums, premium amounts may not be accurately reflected in this Premium Book.”

Entries will be judged by the merit system. Exhibits in each class will be rated and placed in one of three groups:

1. Project met standards, Blue Award
2. Project needs some improvement, Red Award
3. Project needs much improvement, White Award

Ribbons or other suitable awards will be given to indicate the above placings.

As funds become available, premiums will be paid based on the X factor, with 3X for Blue, 2X for Red, and 1X for White.

Premiums: IRS Requirement—Program participants (including minors) will be required to provide their social security number or foreign national tax ID number prior to receiving a prize, gift or award to ensure IRS reporting as required by law. This sensitive information is kept confidential and handled through security protected software (PEAR). Participants will not be eligible for prize, gift or award if social security or foreign national tax ID information is not provided.

Shelby County 4-H Public Speaking Guidelines

- Enrollment deadline in ZSuites in the Public Speaking Project is March 2, 2026.
- Entries must be submitted online <https://go.illinois.edu/PublicSpeakingRegistration> by March 9, 2026.
- Contact Yolanda with any questions at nation2@illinois.edu or 217-774-9546.

COMMUNICATIONS: PUBLIC SPEAKING

Enrollment in the Public Presentations project is required to participate in this section. No live animals are allowed in speeches. Counties may advance a total of 3 speech entries from any category to the state contest.

Age divisions:

Participating Youth must be 8 years of age on or before September 1, 2025.

Participating youth turning 14 years of age on or before September 1, 2025, must enroll as advanced.

Resources:

Youth looking for resources to help prepare for this contest can reference the following:

- [Finding your Voice: Public Speaking made Easy](#) (Public Speaking)
- Refer to the AI policy at go.illinois.edu/4hai for Public Speaking specific guidance

Formal Speech

Self-written | Notes Allowed | No props | Individual | 4-5 minutes for beginners; 5-6 minutes for advanced

Formal Speech - Original Beginner Ages 8-13 (SF 50501A)

Formal Speech - Original Advanced Ages 14 & Up (SF 50501B)

Formal Speeches share the presenter's own unique view and are intended to motivate, persuade, or inform an audience and may include a call to action. Youth may deliver a speech on any topic they wish.

Illustrated Speech

Self-written | Notes Allowed | Illustrations Required | Individual | 4-5 minutes for beginners; 5-6 minutes for advanced

Illustrated Speech - Beginner Ages 8-13 (SF 50503A)

Illustrated Speech - Advanced Ages 14 & Up (SF 50503B)

Illustrated Speeches may be used to inform, persuade, or motivate the audience while using a visual aid. Visual aids may be two dimensional, three-dimensional, or digital. Youth may include audience participation. Digital visual aids must be stored on a USB flash drive. Illustrated speeches may be:

- How-to demonstrations which show the audience how to do something.
- Object lessons which use objects as metaphors to share a message.
- Educational models where drawings or diagrams help explain a topic.

Original Works

Self-written | Notes Allowed | Props and Costumes Allowed | Individual or 2-Person Team | Youth must provide manuscripts to judge | 4-6 minutes

Original Works – Individual (SF 50504)

Original Works – Team (SF 50505)

Original works must be written entirely by the presenter. It may be presented as an individual or a two-person team entry. Manuscripts must be brought to the contest. Presentations may be designed for TV, radio, or online media and must be presented live. The types of entries could include:

- Prose and Short Stories
- Poetry/Spoken Word

- Broadcast Media Program
- Theatrical
- Combined Program: Combine any number of the above elements along with other creative presentation forms

Oral Interpretation

Published Work | Props and Costumes Allowed | Individual or 2-Person Team | Youth must provide manuscripts to judge | 4-6 minutes

Oral Interpretation – Individual (SF 50506)

Oral Interpretation – Team (SF 50507)

Presentations in Oral Interpretation must be published works, and manuscripts or transcripts must be brought to the event. They may be presented as an individual or a two-person team entry. The types of entries could include:

- Prose and Short Stories
- Poetry
- Theatrical Interpretation
- Published Speech Recitation: Excerpt from a spoken presentation delivered by a public figure, such as Winston Churchill, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., or Maya Angelou
- Combined Program: Combine any number of the above elements along with other creative presentation forms



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