



# Grundy County Public Speaking Contest

March 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

**University of Illinois Extension Office – Grundy County Office**

4004 N Division St., Morris, IL 60450

This event is open to the public.

Register by: March 23, 2026, on [ZSuite](#)

## Public Speaking Overview

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 entries from any category to the state contest. A 4-H member may advance in one individual category and one team category. Participating Youth must be 8 years of age on or before September 1, 2025, in order to be eligible for the state fair. 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](http://go.illinois.edu/4hai) for Public Speaking specific guidance



**Illinois Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

University of Illinois, US Department of Agriculture, Local Extension Councils Cooperating. University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. The 4-H Name and Emblem are protected under 18 USC 707.

## Contest Division and Class

### 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 | 4-5minutes 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

## General 4-H Rules and Regulations

1. Any person, regardless of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, ancestry, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, or disability, may participate in 4-H programs. Youth who are 8 years of age and have not reached their 19th birthday on or before September 1 of the current 4-H year may enroll in a 4-H club.
2. Eligibility to show is limited to youth officially enrolled in a 4-H project in a 4-H club in Grundy County. 4-H members must also attend club meetings after enrollment to be eligible to show.
3. Advance entries are required for ALL 4-H exhibits. 4-H'ers may exhibit only in project areas in which they are enrolled. Enrollment is a matter of record in the Extension office. 4-H age is calculated as of September 1 of the calendar year.
4. 4-H'ers may enter and exhibit only 2 entries per class.
5. Entries will be judged on the dual-merit system. Exhibits in each class will be rated and placed in one of three groups:
  - a. Blue award – presented to exhibits that meet the standards
  - b. Red award – presented to exhibits that need some improvements
  - c. White award – presented to exhibits that need much improvement
6. University of Illinois Extension personnel do not assume liability for loss, theft, or damage to any exhibit.

## Reasonable Accommodations

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate, please contact the Grundy County Extension Office. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your needs.

## Contact Information

University of Illinois Extension – Grundy County Office  
4004 N. Division St.  
Morris, IL 60450

- Brittney Muchetto-DePatis, 4-H Youth Development Educator, [blm3@illinois.edu](mailto:blm3@illinois.edu)
- Emilia Elabed, 4-H Youth Development Educator, [eelabed@illinois.edu](mailto:eelabed@illinois.edu)

## Premium Distribution

“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.”

1. 4-H members are limited to receiving one premium per class exhibited in premium-eligible projects. This will include livestock classes.
2. 4-H premiums will be awarded to 4-H youth ages 8-18 exhibiting in premium-eligible classes if premium monies are available. Premiums will be paid using an "X" factor based on the amount of premium money available from the state. Premium values will be based on the following “X” factors.
3. **Tax Implications for Prizes, Gifts or Awards** – 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 (including premiums) to ensure proper 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.
4. 4-H premiums (if available) will be distributed by the Grundy County Extension once funds are released and will be distributed in person during the following fiscal year.
5. Cloverbud members (ages 5-7) do not receive premiums and are not eligible to advance to the State Public Speaking Contest

### X-factor values for Grundy County 4-H Exhibitions

Exhibit	Blue	Red	White
General Projects/Public Speaking	3x	2x	1x
Dog Show/Cat Show/Poultry	3x	2x	1x
Camelid/Goats/Sheep/Swine	5x	4x	3x
Dairy Cattle/Horse & Pony/Rabbit/Beef	7x	6x	5x