

# Shelby County 4-H Public Speaking Contest Information

## Sunday, March 16

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

- **Enrollment deadline in ZSuites in the Public Speaking Project is March 3, 2025.**
- Entries are due into the Shelby County Extension Office by March 7, 2025. Entries may be mailed as a PDF and sent to [nation2@illinois.edu](mailto:nation2@illinois.edu) or mailed/dropped off to the Shelby County Extension Office.
- When submitting your entry, please let Yolanda know if a projector is needed.
- Contact Yolanda with any questions at [nation2@illinois.edu](mailto: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 entries from any category to the state contest. A 4-H member may advance in one individual category and one team category. **Participating** youth turning 14 years of age on or before **September 1, 2024, 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)

### 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 sent in advance of the contest and are due to Yolanda by March 11.** 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 submitted prior 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