

## COMMUNICATIONS: PUBLIC SPEAKING & DEMONSTRATIONS

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 6 p.m.

Superintendent:

Highland Community College, Extension Office, Room 153

Pennie Miller – 815-291-9051

**Event is open to the public. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.**

**Register by: Monday, March 3, 2025 through FairEntry, <http://stephenson4-hfair.fairentry.com>**

1. **Please note:** The state Public Speaking contest will be held on **Saturday, April 26, 2025** at the Parkland Community College, Champaign, IL. Each county is allowed a total of three entries from any category. Youth must be selected in a local county 4-H contest to advance to the state contest.
2. Enrollment in the Public Presentations project is required to participate in this section for Food/General demos and Public Speaking.
3. The only equipment provided (upon written request) will be a podium, table, screen, projector and extension cord. Exhibitors must request this equipment AT LEAST 48 hours prior to the presentation.
4. No parents will be permitted in the staging area or to assist with equipment being used during the presentation; however, parents are welcome to sit in the audience to observe.
5. No live animals are allowed in speeches.
6. A 4-H member may advance in one individual category and one team category
7. 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 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 | Manuscripts sent in Advance | 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. Presentations may be designed for TV, radio, or online media and must be presented live. Youth must provide printed manuscripts to judge. 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 | Manuscripts sent in Advance | 4-6 minutes**

Oral Interpretation – Individual (SF 50506)

Oral Interpretation – 2-person team (SF 50507)

Presentations in Oral Interpretation must be published works. They may be presented as an individual or a two-person team entry. Youth must provide printed manuscripts to judge. 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

### **Food Demonstration (CF 18001) (not eligible for state fair)**

Food demonstrations should be approximately **8-10 minutes** in length; however, there will not be a time penalty. The time limit will be taken into consideration at the judge's discretion. Demonstrations may be done by an individual or team of two (2) members. Refer to the **Illinois 4-H Foods Demonstration Guide** found on the Illinois 4-H web site under *Members: 4-H Projects: Healthy Living; Food and Nutrition*.

Exhibitors are responsible for furnishing all equipment and supplies, with the exception of an electric range, refrigerator, and demonstration table. Each exhibitor is responsible for setting up his/her own demonstration area. The food demonstration must relate to one of the state-offered classes from the

Food & Nutrition or Decorated Foods project area. Food Demonstration exhibits are to be in one of the following categories: *4-H Cooking 101; 4-H Cooking 201; 4-H Cooking 301; 4-H Cooking 401; Preservation: Canning, Drying, Jams/Jellies/Preserves, Pickles & Relishes, or Combination; Decorated Foods: Cookies, Cupcakes, Candy Making, or Cake Decorating.*

**General Demonstration** (CF 18002) (not eligible for state fair)

Demonstrations may pertain to any topic (except Food & Nutrition). Demonstrations may be given by an individual or a team of two (2) members. Exhibitors are responsible for furnishing all equipment and supplies needed. Demonstrations must be **8-10 minutes** in length.