

Speaking Fest Guidelines



General Speaking Fest Guidelines

All participants must be Brown County 4-H members.

The Speaking Fest categories are as follows.

- A. Original Speech
- B. Interpretive Speech
- C. Storytelling (single or duet)
- D. Poetry Reading
- E. Demonstration (single or duet)
- F. Multimedia Presentation

Individuals can participate in one or two categories.

Each category has a time limit. A short introduction can be given for the piece. This introduction can include information about the author, the setting, or other circumstances about your selection. The time for any introduction is included in the overall time for your performance. Deviation from the stated time limits will be considered by the judges when evaluating the performance for awards.

Any appropriate speaking material can be chosen. Presentations already prepared for use in forensics or other programs are acceptable.

Theme focused clothing is allowed. No microphones may be used.

Modest attire is to be selected.

After each performance, the participants will meet with the judges for an individual verbal and written evaluation.

All participants in Grade K – 2 (Cloverbuds) will receive a green participation ribbon. All other participants, Grade 3 and above, will be awarded a blue (1st place) or red (2nd place) ribbon for their performance. Any number of blue or red ribbons can be presented overall for each category.

All entries earning a blue ribbon will be eligible for a best overall performance award. The recipient of this award will receive a “Best Individual Performance” certificate to acknowledge this accomplishment. All grade divisions will be grouped together for consideration of this award. A “Best Individual Performance” certificate may not necessarily be awarded in every category or more than one award can possibly be given in a single category depending on the quality of performances.

Additional guidelines for the individual categories are as follows.

Original Speech

Grade and time divisions for Original Speech are as follows.

Beginner:	Grades K - 2	1-3 minutes
Elementary:	Grades 3 & 4	2-5 minutes
Intermediate:	Grades 5 & 6	3-6 minutes
Junior:	Grades 7 & 8	4-8 minutes
Senior:	Grades 9 - 12	5-8 minutes

1. The Original Speech must be an original piece written by the participant.
2. All entries must have a title.
3. Possible topics include, any special or interesting experience, vacation activities, historical event, an original fictional or non-fictional story, a persuasive speech, or an opinion on an appropriate issue.
4. Memorization of work is encouraged, although, the use of notes is allowed.
5. Visuals or props cannot be used.

Interpretive Speech

Grade and time divisions for Interpretive Speech are as follows.

Beginner:	Grades K - 2	1-3 minutes
Elementary:	Grades 3 & 4	2-5 minutes
Intermediate:	Grades 5 & 6	3-6 minutes
Junior:	Grades 7 & 8	4-8 minutes
Senior:	Grades 9 - 12	5-8 minutes

1. The Interpretive Speech cannot be an original piece written by the participant.
2. All entries must have a title and author.
3. Speech must have been written and/or delivered by others. Interpretive Speech includes dedications talks, inaugural speeches, talks given to mark important events in world, national, state, or local history, or other speeches of interest. These speeches may have been presented originally by a U.S. President or some other governmental leader, a military officer, a sports figure, a teacher, a relative, or friend, etc. A partial work of a larger speech can be chosen.
4. Memorization of work is encouraged, although, the use of notes is allowed.
5. Visuals or props cannot be used.

Storytelling

Grade and time divisions for Storytelling are as follows.

Beginner:	Grades K - 2	1-3 minutes
Elementary:	Grades 3 & 4	2-5 minutes
Intermediate:	Grades 5 & 6	3-6 minutes
Junior:	Grades 7 & 8	4-8 minutes
Senior:	Grades 9 - 12	5-8 minutes

1. The Storytelling piece cannot be original work of the participant.
2. All entries must have a title and author.
3. A partial work of a larger story can be chosen.
4. Memorization of work is encouraged, although, the use of notes is allowed.
5. Story cannot be improvised.
6. Visuals or props cannot be used.
7. Facial expressions, gestures, and body movements are encouraged. Play acting the story is allowed.
8. Storytelling can be done as an individual or duet performance.
9. For duet presentations, the time limits of the upper grade participant will be used.

Poetry Reading

Grade and time divisions for Poetry Reading are as follows.

Beginner:	Grades K - 2	1-3 minutes
Elementary:	Grades 3 & 4	2-5 minutes
Intermediate:	Grades 5 & 6	3-6 minutes
Junior:	Grades 7 & 8	4-8 minutes
Senior:	Grades 9 - 12	5-8 minutes

1. Poetry can be the original work of the participant or the work of others.
2. All entries must have a title and author.
3. One or more poems can be used to fill the allotted time of the participant's grade division. If multiple poems are selected, they should focus on a specific theme or emotion. This theme or emotion should be announced to the audience before beginning the presentation.

4. If more than one poem is used, introductions and/or transitions may be necessary to assure a smooth subject flow from one poem to another.
5. Memorization of work is encouraged, although, poetry can be entirely read, partially read, or delivered with notes.
6. Visuals or props cannot be used.

Demonstration

Grade and time divisions for Demonstration are as follows.

Beginner:	Grades K - 2	1-4 minutes
Elementary:	Grades 3 & 4	2-6 minutes
Intermediate:	Grades 5 & 6	4-8 minutes
Junior:	Grades 7 & 8	5-10 minutes
Senior:	Grades 9 - 12	6-10 minutes

1. All entries must have a title.
2. Subject ideas include 4-H project work, general interest items, hobbies, etc. Any subject that can be both described and shown can be a demonstration topic. It is important to remember that the demonstration is to show “how to make or do” something. It should not just describe and show what was made or how something works. For example, you should be actually showing how ingredients are mixed, fabric or other material is cut, boards are glued or nailed, etc. This will allow the audience to see how something is made. Some portions of the demonstrated item can be pre-made to maintain audience interest and to stay within the allotted time limit.
3. The purpose of the demonstration is to inform the audience. The demonstration is not meant to necessarily entertain the audience with a non-standard alternate or comical way to perform the activity.
4. All demonstrations should include the general steps to make the item written on a poster. A drawing board easel will be available to display the poster(s). These steps should be used to help explain the materials and information needed, and the steps taken to make the demonstrated item. These general steps can be used to review your demonstration at the conclusion of your talk.
5. At the conclusion of their demonstration, the participant(s) should be prepared to answer questions from the judges and audience about the item demonstrated and its use.
6. Wall outlet electrical current cannot be used. Battery power is allowed.
7. Demonstrations can be done as an individual or duet performance.
8. For duet demonstrations, the time limits of the upper grade participant will be used.

Multimedia Presentation

Grade and time divisions for Multimedia are as follows.

Beginner:	Grades K – 2	1-4 minutes
Elementary:	Grades 3 & 4	2-6 minutes
Intermediate:	Grades 5 & 6	4-8 minutes
Junior:	Grades 7 & 8	5-10 minutes
Senior:	Grades 9 – 13	6-10 minutes

1. All entries must have a title.
2. Presentation topics may include 4-H member experiences, 4-H project related, or other appropriate areas of interest,
3. Multimedia presentations are Power Point presentations, and require interaction by the presenter. The multimedia presentation is not a photo slideshow; the content should be presented in an introduction /body/ conclusion format. The presentation should include audio/sound and may include video that is embedded or inserted into the Power Point presentation, CD players are not allowed.
4. A PC compatible computer will be available with Microsoft Power Point 2007, a LCD projector, and speakers will be provided.