

County 4-H Public Speaking Contest – Wednesday, July 15, 2026

9:00 am at OSU Extension Office

- Pre-registration required by Wednesday, July 9, 2026
- Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.
- **Public Speaking Incentives for 4-H Members!** The 4-H Advisory Committee will award a \$10 voucher to each member participating. One award per member. Each participant will be entered in a drawing for a cash award sponsored by Bob and Peg Byers.



The following events are offered to 4-H members (not Cloverbuds):

9:00 am: * 4-H Demonstration & Illustrated Talk without Technology Contest (Junior Division – ages 8-10)

- * 4-H Demonstration & Illustrated Talk with or without Technology Contest (Intermediate Division – ages 11-13 and Senior Division – ages 14 & up)
- * 4-H Team Demonstration & Illustrated Talk with or without Technology Contest (Jr, intermediate, Sr.)
- * 4-H Pledge Contest (recite the pledge)
- * 4-H Creed Contest (recite the creed)
- * 4-H Marketing Contest – thank you card, holiday card, 4-H Infomercial Promoting 4-H (items due to Extension Office July 9)

Guidelines for Illustrated Talk or Demonstration WITHOUT use of Computer Technology: *Junior*

1. Judges will evaluate all Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks using the following criteria: appearance, introduction, delivery, content, conclusion, materials, and personal interview with the participant(s).
2. Presentations, whether given by an individual or a team, should last between 6 and 9 minutes, with four points deducted for times over or under. Contest participants are welcome to ask audience members if there are any questions after the demonstration has concluded. Any time used to ask or answer questions after a demonstration has concluded will not be considered part of the actual demonstration time.
3. A team demonstration will consist of two people sharing the speaking and teaching role. When members of a team fall into different age categories, they will participate in the older member's division.
4. A member or team may select any topic for his or her demonstration or illustrated talk, except for those noted under guideline #7 below.
5. The presenter can use appropriate props and other visual aides to teach others about a subject or how to do something. The topic, materials, and posters should be selected and prepared by the 4-H member. Topics, materials and posters previously used by someone else in another demonstration should not be utilized. No PowerPoint or computer generated messages can be used for this contest.
6. Two easels and a table will be available for use by participants in each demonstration area upon request.
7. Firearms, bows, arrows, and weapons are not permitted in the Demonstration Contest and may not be used in a 4-H demonstration or illustrated talk. Plastic or wooden replicas are permissible.



7. Contest divisions will be:

- Jr. Individual (Age 8-10 as of January 1 of Current Year)
- Jr. Team (Oldest Team Member is Age 8-10 as of January 1 of Current Year)



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Guidelines for Illustrated Talk or Demonstration WITH or WITHOUT the use of Computer Technology: Intermediate and Senior

1. Judges will evaluate all Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks using the following criteria: appearance, introduction, delivery, communication skills, content, conclusion, materials, and personal interview with the participant. The member(s) will also be evaluated on their ability to effectively use technology, if applicable, within their presentation.
2. Presentations should last between 9 and 12 minutes, with four points deducted for times over or under. Contest participants are welcome to ask audience members if there are any questions after the demonstration has concluded. Any time used to ask or answer questions after a demonstration has concluded will not be considered part of the actual demonstration time.
3. A team presentation will consist of two people sharing the speaking and teaching role. When members of a team fall into different age categories, they will participate in the older member's division.
4. The presenter(s) can use appropriate props and/or computer generated visual aides to teach others about a subject or how to do something. Use of computer generated visuals is NOT required. Examples:
 - *A Demonstration may be delivered in this category. PowerPoint type technology *may be added* in addition to other props to help present the message.
 - *An Illustrated Talk may be delivered in this category with member(s) using PowerPoint type technology to present all or part of the visual message; *must be* accompanied by live narration.
5. Requires live speech delivered along with the PowerPoint or poster message. (No pre-recorded narration)
6. Contest divisions will be:
 - Intermediate Individual (Age 11-13 as of January 1 of Current Year)
 - Intermediate Team (Oldest Team Member is Age 11-13 as of January 1 of Current Year)
 - Senior Individual (Age 14 and up)
 - Senior Team



4-H Pledge Contest

Participants must be ages 8-11 as of January 1st of this year. Judges will evaluate participants based on Voice, Stage Presence, Power of Expression, and General Effect. When reciting the pledge, use correct hand movements.

4-H Pledge

I pledge:

My head to clearer thinking, (Raise the right hand to the forehead)
My heart to greater loyalty, (Place right hand over the heart)
My hands to larger service, (Extend hands with palms upward) and
My health to better living, (Drop hands at the sides for the remainder)
For my club, my community, my country, and my world.



4-H Creed Contest

Participants must be ages 12-18 as of January 1st of this year. Judges will evaluate participants based on Voice, Stage Presence, Power of Expression, and General Effect, plus Response to Questions (Ability to satisfactorily answer the questions from the judges showing and understanding the Creed).

The National 4-H Creed

I believe in 4-H Club work for the opportunity it will give me to become a useful citizen.

I believe in the training of my HEAD for the power it will give me to think, to plan, and to reason.

I believe in the training of my HEART for the nobleness it will give me to become kind, sympathetic, and true.

I believe in the training of my HANDS for the ability it will give me to be helpful, useful, and skillful.

I believe in the training of my HEALTH for the strength it will give me to enjoy life, to resist disease, and to work efficiently.

I believe in my country, my state, and my community, and in my responsibility for their development. In all these things I believe, and I am willing to dedicate my efforts to their fulfillment.

Marketing Contest – items must be turned into the OSU Extension Office by July 9

Thank you Card with / without the use of computer graphics or scrapbooking– Junior (8-10)

- Entries should be an original "thank you" card with artwork on the cover. An inside message is not required, but may be included at the discretion of the designer. Inside messages will not be judged. Use of the 4-H emblem is required.
- Card should be on 8 ½ x 11 white cardstock, folded once.
- Art and message must be the original work of the member.
- Member may use any medium, including crayon, chalk, pen and ink, pencil, markers, etc. Designs must be handlettered and drawn or cut by hand.
- When using 4-H emblem that is downloaded, it must go into the graphics division.
- Artwork or lettering created with the aid of scrapbooking tools or computers is permitted provided the design is the original work of the member. No commercially designed clipart may be used.
- These designs must be able to be duplicated.
- Member's name, age, and county should be neatly printed in the lower right-hand corner of the back of the card.
- Evaluation will be based on the quality, creativity, and originality of the design.

Holiday Card with / without the use of computer graphics or scrapbooking – Intermediate (11-13)

- Entries should be an original "Holiday" card with artwork on the cover. An inside message is not required but may be included at the discretion of the designer. Inside messages will not be judged. Use of the 4-H emblem is strongly encouraged, but not required.
- Card should be on 8 ½ x 11 white cardstock, folded in half. (Only one fold)
- Art and message must be the original work of the member.



- Member may use any medium, including crayon, chalk, pen and ink, pencil, markers, etc. Designs must be handlettered and drawn or cut by hand.
- When using 4-H logo that is downloaded it must go into the graphics division.
- Artwork or lettering created with the aid of scrapbooking tools or computers is permitted provided the design is the original work of the member. No commercially designed clipart may be used.
- These designs must be able to be duplicated.
- Member's name, age, and county should be neatly printed in the lower right-hand corner of the back of the card.
- Evaluation will be based on the quality, creativity, and originality of the design.

4-H Infomercial Promoting 4-H – Senior (14 and up)

- This is a video "short" that promotes the 4-H program
- This must be a fully automated, stand-alone video presentation with sound and narration as appropriate. Think "YouTube." The video should include recorded visual, sound, and narration to convey a message.
- The video should be the original work of the member making the entry.
- Images in the video should be appropriate for promoting 4-H. Use pictures of youth who are of 4-H age; when possible, show the diversity of membership, projects, and activities; show youth exercising appropriate safety practices (i.e. wearing helmets on horseback).
- The video should be 2-4 minutes long. Penalties may be assessed for videos less than 2 minutes or longer than 4 minutes.
- Videos must be submitted on a DVD and must play using QuickTime Player or Windows Media Player.
- The member's name, age, and county must be neatly written on the DVD, along with the presentation title.
- Evaluation will be based on the quality and originality of the message, which should persuade the viewer to action, as well as on the creative and professional use of technology.
- By submitting an entry, you agree to allow counties and or the State 4-H office to use the promotional video to promote 4-H throughout Ohio.



County winners will advance on to the Ohio State Fair Competition!

County 4-H Public Speaking Contest – Wednesday, July 15, 2026

- Registration Due – Wednesday, July 9, 2026
- Event – Wednesday, July 15, 2026
- Time – The contest will begin at 9:00 am
- Location – OSU Extension Office, 1115 Gilman Ave., Marietta
- **Public Speaking Incentives for 4-H Members!** The 4-H Advisory Committee will award a \$8 voucher to each member participating. One award per member. Each participant will be entered in a drawing for a cash award sponsored by Bob and Peg Byers.

For complete contest guidelines: <https://go.osu.edu/washjudging>

Name: _____

Club: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Age as of January 1st: _____ Date of Birth: _____



Please check the category(s) you plan to enter:

____ 4-H Demonstration & Illustrated Talk without Technology Contest (Junior Division – ages 8-10)

____ 4-H Demonstration & Illustrated Talk with or without Technology Contest (Intermediate Division – ages 11-13 and Senior Division – ages 14 & up)

____ 4-H Team Demonstration & Illustrated Talk with or without Technology Contest (Jr., Intermediate, Sr.)

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____ 4-H Creed Contest (ages 12-18) – recite the creed

____ 4-H Marketing Contest – thank you card, holiday card, 4-H Infomercial Promoting 4-H (items due to Extension Office July 9)

Entry Deadline: July 9, 2026

Mail Entry to: OSU Extension, 1115 Gilman Ave., Marietta, OH 45750



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