

Colorado State 4-H

Prepared Speech Contest Rules

Superintendent: Sheila G. Kelley, Superintendent
Extension Director/4-H Agent
PO Box 189
Kiowa, CO 80117
303-621-3162 office
303-621-3161 fax
sheila.kelley@colostate.edu

Eligibility:

The prepared public speaking contest is open to two participants per county who are between 14 and 19 years of ages as of January 1.

Previous winners may enter, but will not be eligible for the National Western 4-H Roundup trip. In the event a previous winner wins, second place would win the Western 4-H Roundup trip.

Contest Rules:

1. Contestants can prepare a speech on any topic relative to today's youth, but they must relate it to 4-H in some way.

In addition, topics and content must be 4-H appropriate. We ask that all presenters be sensitive to the diverse audience that attends the fair. All materials to be presented are subject to review and approval by the superintendent. Materials which include foul language, racial or religious overtones, or other topics/subjects deemed inappropriate by the superintendents will not be allowed. The judges will make the final determination.

2. Contestants may not use any costumes, posters, visual aids, or props for their presentations.
3. Contestants are not allowed to present any items to the judges.
4. Each speech will be timed and must be between 6-8 minutes in duration. Two points will be deducted for each 30 seconds over or under the time limit. Participants will be given a 30-second warning before end of time period.
5. Contestants may use notes. However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judges.
6. A public address system may be used when available but is not required.
7. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing and announced before the contest begins.

8. Judging will be done by adult judges.
9. Ties will be broken by the judges.
10. Judges will use the Colorado State Speech Contest Prepared Speech Score Sheet.

Awards:

1. Awards will be announced and ribbons will go to the top four (4) presentations.

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COLORADO 4-H Prepared Speech Score Sheet

Speaker's Name: _____ County: _____

Topic: _____

BASIS FOR SCORING	Needs Improvement	Fair	Good	Excellent	COMMENTS
General Appearance (10% of score)					
Posture & poise	1	2	3 4	5	
Appropriate dress, no visible distractions	1	2	3 4	5	
Projection to Audience (10% of score)					
Eye contact & facial expressions	1	2	3 4	5	
Body control, gestures	1	2	3 4	5	
Voice Control (15% of score)					
Pitch & volume	1	2	3 4	5	
Inflection & emphasis	1	2	3 4	5	
Articulation	1	2	3 4	5	
Pronunciation & Enunciation (10% of score)	1 2	3 4 5	6 7 8	9 10	
Language Effectiveness (10% of score)					
Appropriate words	1	2	3 4	5	
Skill in using meaningful quotes	1	2	3 4	5	
Organization of Content (25% of score)					
Introductory statements of key points	1	2	3 4	5	
Introduction gains attention	1	2	3 4	5	
Body – Development of key points	1	2	3 4	5	
Conclusion – Summary of key points	1	2	3 4	5	
Statement & coverage of topic	1	2	3 4	5	
Overall Quality (20% of score)					
Originality	1	2	3 4	5	
Appropriate topic	1	2	3 4	5	
Skill in use of notes	1	2	3 4	5	
Topic coverage	1	2	3 4	5	
COLUMN TOTAL:					

Total Points: _____

Time of Speech: _____ minutes _____ seconds

Deduction for Time: - _____

FINAL SCORE: _____
(100 Pts. Possible)

Prepared speeches must be 6 to 8 minutes long. A penalty of 2 points for each 30 seconds over or under the time limit will be assessed.