UConn 4-H Public Speaking Contest
Guidelines & General Rules

Contest Objectives:
• To acquire skills, confidence and poise in speaking to groups by the use of interesting and familiar topic areas.
• To expand topic based knowledge.
• To learn skills necessary to properly research and compile information on a specific topic.
• To learn organizational skills and ways to effectively express ideas in a logical and concise manner to a diverse audience whether in person or through electronic means.
• To evaluate skills and recognize accomplishment in a positive competitive atmosphere.
• To encourage the sharing of ideas through the use of assorted presentation tools.

Contest Age Brackets:
• Senior – any youth 13-18 years of age as of January 1
• Junior – any youth 9-12 years of age as of January 1
• Novice – any youth 7-8 years of age as of January 1
  ▪ Participation only available at local/county level
  ▪ No Novice bracket at state level contests
• Explorer – any youth 5-6 years of age as of January 1
  ▪ Participation only available at local/county level
  ▪ No Explorer bracket at state level contests
  ▪ “Show and Tell” only – not scored or compete against others

Contest Presentation Categories:
• Speech
  ▪ Note Cards Only – involves educating on a topic of interest without the use of visual aids, props or additional materials
• Visual Presentation
  ▪ Demonstration – involves doing something (making, creating, finishing, etc.) while educating the audience through explanation of the steps being performed
  ▪ Illustrated Talk – involves speaking to the audience with the aid of an illustration such as a diagram, chart, model, photo, etc.
  ▪ Electronic Media – A demonstration or illustrated talk incorporating the use of electronic content such as PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.
• Team Presentation
  ▪ Must compete through use of a Visual Presentation (see above) and not Speech
  ▪ All members of the groups must be meaningfully involved in the presentation
  ▪ If move onto level II (virtual presentation) all team members must all be in the same physical location to deliver presentation to virtual audience
  ▪ Consult with county educator for group size limits
All group members must be in the same age bracket to qualify beyond local/county level
- Any mixed aged team at local/county level must compete in bracket of highest aged member of team
- No novice/junior or junior/senior teams at level II or above

Contest Time Requirements:
- **Senior (13-18 years)** – presentation should be 5-8 minutes in length
- **Junior (9-12 years)** – presentation should be 3-5 minutes in length
- **Novice (7-8 years)** – presentation should be 3-5 minutes in length

Contest Levels
- **Level I – Local/County Contests**
  - Held through live events at the county level.
  - Coordinated by the county educator(s). Can consist of one county or include a group of counties offering a contest in partnership as a regional event.
    - All materials necessary for completion of contest should be coordinated by the local/county contest facilitator.
  - Should take place from late January to the end of February.
  - Any speaker/presenter/team 9 yrs or older who achieves a blue ribbon at the county level is invited to participate in the level II virtual state qualifier to take place in March.
    - Individuals have the option to move forward or choose not to compete further
  - List of all qualifying county level blue ribbon recipients should be submitted to the state public speaking contest team no later than March 1.
    - Blank spreadsheet will be provided to county contest facilitators.
- **Level II – State Qualifier Contest**
  - To take place in a Virtual contest via digital meeting portal (Zoom, WebEx, etc.)
  - Level II contests will take place in early March during the week in the evening.
    - Night 1 – Visual Presentation
    - Night 2 – Speech
  - Qualified presenters will be invited to participate by direct email invitation by members of the state public speaking contest team.
  - All virtual contests will be facilitated by members of the state public speaking contest team or their designees.
  - A waiting room will be in effect for all virtual contests
    - Participants will be invited to arrive in the waiting room 5-10 minutes prior to their assigned presentation time.
    - Presenters will be admitted to the room as it is their turn to present.
    - In the room will be the presenter, judges, room host/contest facilitator and one parent/coach who will be allowed to view the presentation
- **Level III – State Finals Contest**
  - Scheduled to take place live on the last Saturday in March in the W.B. Young Building on the UConn Storrs campus.
The **top four** scorers from each division of the Level II contest will qualify to compete at the Level III contest.

- Individual divisions will run simultaneously in assigned rooms throughout the building.
- Opening and closing ceremonies will consist of all participants and invited guests.
- State finals winners will be invited to participate in the North East Presentation Festival which takes place each fall. This contest incorporates states from Maine to West Virginia.

**Other Information of Importance**

- The same scoring rubric will be utilized at all levels of competition. Scoring rubrics will be provided by the state public speaking contest team to all local/county contest facilitators.
- A Google spreadsheet will be provided to all local/county contest facilitators to accurately record all those moving onto greater levels of competition.
- Judges are normally the only individuals allowed to ask follow up questions during a public speaking contest at any level.
- The judges’ decisions are final for all public speaking contests.
- All contest related questions should be directed to the local/county contest facilitator or state public speaking contest team.
- Awards for local/county contests are the responsibility of the local/county contest facilitator. All awards for state level contests will be coordinated by the state public speaking contest team.
- All revisions will be routed through the state 4-H Team for discussion and alteration/approval.

**Important Dates**

- **January 18** – Public Speaking Virtual Workshop
- **February 10** – Windham County Public Speaking Contest
- **February 11** – Tolland/Hartford County Public Speaking Contest
- **February 15** – Middlesex/New Haven County Public Speaking Contest
- **February 18** – Litchfield County Public Speaking Contest
- **February 24** – New London County Public Speaking Contest
- **March 1** – All county level blue ribbon recipients who will be moving onto Level II state qualifier due to Marc for processing.
- **March 8** – Visual Presentation Level II Contest
- **March 9** – Speech Level II Contest
- **March 10** – Team Level II Contest
- **March 25** – Level III State Finals at UConn Storrs campus

**State Public Speaking Contest Team**

- Marc Cournoyer
- Emily Alger
- Bill Davenport
- Nancy Wilhelm