

BI-COUNTY FAIR PUBLIC SPEAKING

GENERAL REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Patricia Largo and Kathy Landers, McKinley County Extension 4-H Agents
Shellby Yazzie, NMSU Tribal Extension 4-H Agent
Chase Elkins, Cibola County Ag/4-H Agent

SUPERINTENDENT:

Patricia Largo

INFORMATION:

Cibola County Extension Office, (505) 287-9266 / cibolaextension.nmsu.edu
McKinley County Extension Office, (505) 863-3432/ mckinleyextension.nmsu.edu

4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING ENTRIES ARE DONE ONLINE AT:

<https://fairentry.com/Fair/SignIn/21608> from July 21, 2025 to August 11, 2025 – please note that entries close at 9 pm.

PARTICIPATION:

C - Cloverbuds (Ages 5-8)*
N- Novice (Ages 9-11)
J- Junior (Ages 12-13)
S- Senior (Ages 14-19)

CONTESTS:

Impromptu Speaking
Prepared Speech
Poetry

PURPOSE:

To give 4-H youth the opportunity to learn public speaking, teaching and expression skills. To foster development of poise and self-confidence when speaking before a group, be it Prepared or Impromptu.

To teach the ability to organized thoughts to present information in a logical manner which the general public can recognize and appreciate.

ELIGIBILITY:

General guidelines will apply, but 4-H members may be enrolled in any project. Enrollment in public speaking is not required.

* Please remember according to State 4-H rules Cloverbuds do not compete. Cloverbuds may participate in Public Speaking as part of an exploration of interest and skills, receiving age-appropriate recognition for participating.

IMPROMPTU SPEAKING

General Information:

1. A speech given without any previous preparation before speaking, except for the immediate preparation time before speaking.
 - a. Novice: 2 minutes
 - b. Junior: 2 minutes
 - c. Senior: 3 minutes
2. The contestant will select a topic for their speech by randomly drawing from a pool of questions relative to today's youth and may include current events, 4-H, and/or social issues. Randomly draw 2 or 3 questions, select one and return the un-selected. A maximum of one minute will be allowed for this process.
 - a. Novice: Randomly draw 2 questions
 - b. Junior: Randomly draw 2 questions
 - c. Senior: Randomly draw 3 questions
3. Begin to formulate the speech based on the selected question. Speech should have an introduction, body and summary.
 - a. Only senior contestants will be allowed to organize their thoughts on a 5x7 blank note card (supplied).
 - b. However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judges
4. Length of Speech:
 - a. Novice: 1-2 minutes
 - b. Junior: 2-3 minutes
 - c. Senior: 3-5 minutes
5. Other contestants and audience may be present for speeches
6. Youth draw a number and line up accordingly, as necessary. Talking while in line disqualifies the participant
7. Judges will use attached scorecards.

Tie Breaker

1. Presentation score
2. Organization score

Awards:

First through fifth place ribbons will be awarded to the novice, junior, and senior participants. Cloverbuds will be recognized for participating by receiving a Cloverbud Ribbon.

Prepared Speech

General Information:

1. Contestants can prepare a speech on any topic relative to today's youth. Topic is not required to be 4-H related but must be of interest to youth.
2. Examples of prepared speech are:
 - a. Informational
 - i. helps listener know or understand more about a topic
 - b. Persuasion
 - i. encourages listener to accept a challenge, change an attitude, or take action as a result of the speech
 - c. Inspirations
 - i. has emotional impact on the listener
 - d. Entertaining
 - i. speech is designed to fit a special occasion and to entertain the audience
3. Notes may be used
 - a. For Seniors only: excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judges.
4. Contestants may not use any costumes, posters, visual aids, or props with prepared speech.
5. Length of Speech
 - a. Novice: 2-4 minutes
 - b. Junior: 4-6 minutes
 - c. Senior: 6-8 minutes
6. Other contestants and audience may be present for speeches
7. Speakers draw a number for speaking order, if necessary
8. Judges will use attached scorecards

Tie Breaker

1. Presentation of prepared speech score.
2. Organization of prepared speech score.
3. Knowledge of prepared speech score.

Awards:

First through fifth place ribbons will be awarded to the novice, junior, and senior participants. Cloverbuds will be recognized for participating by receiving a Cloverbud Ribbon.

Poetry

General Information:

1. Poem can be original or from a book
2. Must be memorized
3. May incorporate vocal, musical, and/or dance
 - a. Cannot be more than half of the performance time
 - b. Set-up and break down: 4 minutes total
4. Length of Poem:
 - a. Novice: 1-2 minutes
 - b. Junior: 2-4 minutes
 - c. Senior: 4-6 minutes
5. Other contestants and audience may be present for speeches
6. Speakers draw a number for speaking order, if necessary
7. Judges will use attached scorecards

Tie Breaker

1. Interpretation score.
2. Presentation score.
3. Knowledge score.

Awards:

First through fifth place ribbons will be awarded to the novice, junior, and senior participants. Cloverbuds will be recognized for participating by receiving a Cloverbud Ribbon.