

Educational Presentations/Public Speaking Contest Memo

Date: Friday, April 10, 2026

Location: Grayson College
6101 Grayson Drive
Denison, Texas 75020

Check-In: 2:00 p.m.

Orientation: 2:30 p.m.

Contest: Begins following orientation

Registration. Each participating member is required to register on 4-H Online (<https://texas.4honline.com>) and pay the \$15.00 registration fee. Registration will open on March 4, 2026 and closes at midnight on March 18, 2026. No late registrations will be accepted.

Participation. Participants must be active 4-H members enrolled in a Texas 4-H and Youth Development County program in District IV and be eligible to compete according to UIL rules. The top 3 senior entries in each category will qualify for state.

Age. Age divisions are determined by a participant's grade as of September 1 of the current 4-H year. Age divisions for this contest are:

Junior	Grades 3, 4, 5
Intermediate	Grades 6, 7, 8
Senior	Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Entries Per County. Each county may enter an unlimited number of teams/individuals per age division listed above.

Eligibility. Educational Presentations may be an individual effort or conducted by a team of two 4-H members.

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Academic Eligibility. According to the Texas Education Code, a 4-H member must be deemed “eligible” to compete in an event that takes place on a weekday or weekend. All 4-H youth, including youth in public, private, and/or home school must adhere to the following guidelines regarding extracurricular activities and academic eligibility:

- Complete a “Declaration of Eligibility Form”
OR
- Name of 4-H member must appear on a list of eligible students to participate in a specific extracurricular activity signed by the school principal or designee.
- Contact your local county extension office for the process used by YOUR county.

If a 4-H member is ineligible for a 4-H competitive event, the agent must notify the 4-H member, his/her parents, and the district office, by letter/email, of this situation. If the parent has any questions, he/she should be referred to the school administrator.

Eligibility forms will be returned to and remain in the county offices

Originality. Educational Presentations MUST be the original work of the 4-H member. 4-H members may NOT share/utilize the same presentations delivered by other members/siblings/family members.

Topic Subject. Subjects in the educational presentations should address emerging or current issues in each of the contest areas. Some contests provide a suggested list of topics that the educational presentation may cover along with a resource list. Senior contestants are encouraged to research these emerging and/or current issues to develop presentations. See the links below for the topic categories.

Accuracy of Information/Resources. With the computer and internet being used heavily in educational presentations, 4-H members must know the difference between research and non-research-based information. Contestants are required to use information that is factual and can be supported through adequate documentation. Examples of such websites are federal, state, and local governments, independent research sites, and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service websites. Internet information that is questionable includes personal documentation sites, chat rooms, message boards, etc. 4-H members must prepare a list of references (i.e. bibliography, works cited) for their presentation.

Subject Matter. The skills and knowledge used in any 4-H contest should be the result of experiences in a project in which the members have participated. A presentation must relate to the contest entered, contain current information, and not be better suited for another contest. It should also be appropriate for the member’s age and experience. Appropriate credit must be given for references used.

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Educational Presentations Contest Rules

Time Limits. A time limit of 12 minutes will be allowed for each educational presentation. An additional nine minutes will be provided for on-stage arrangements and cleanup in connection with the presentation. A penalty of two points per minute or partial minute overtime will be deducted from the final score. Following the presentation, there may be up to 5 minutes of question and answer period by the judges.

Visuals. The use of charts, photographs, computer graphics/programs, and other visual materials are permitted. Visuals should contribute to the presentation. Each presentation is an example of the participant's ability to communicate an idea. No firearms, weapons, fireworks, open-flamed burners, live ammunition or live animals are allowed to be used by a contestant in any Roundup contest.

However, posters and pictures of such items are allowed and encouraged. We encourage all visuals to be appealing to the audience and easily read/seen by the audience. Choose your visual taking that into consideration.

Judges' Questions. Judges may ask contestants questions at the end of their presentation. Following the presentation, there may be up to 5 minutes of question and answer period by the judges. Only official judges and superintendents may ask questions of the contestants.

Score Sheets. 4-H Educational Presentation Score Sheet, V 2023 will be used by contest judges in scoring educational presentations regardless of presentation style (method demonstration, illustrated talk, or speech). Separate score sheets are used in public speaking. All score sheets are available on the Texas 4-H Youth Development website.

Judges' Gifts/Handouts. Gifts of any kind MAY NOT be presented to the judges in any contest. Handouts may be made available to the entire audience.

Use of Firearms, Weapons, Fireworks, Open-Flamed Burners and/or Ammunition. No firearms, weapons, fireworks, open-flamed burners or live ammunition are allowed to be used in any Roundup contest. However, posters and pictures of such items are allowed and encouraged. No items and/or props that are combustible, flammable, or under extreme pressure can be used in any Roundup contest. These include camp stoves, propane tanks, and/or open flames.

Service Animals. Service animals that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for persons with disabilities are permitted at the event. Non-service animals are not allowed. Comfort or emotional support animals are not service animals.

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Live Animals, Insects, and Reptiles. No pets or live animals/insects/reptiles are permitted for use by contestants in a contest. Service animals are permitted in accordance with ADA regulations. If you have questions on other items that may not be allowed, it is highly recommended you contact the local County Extension Agent and/or the District IV Extension Program Specialist – 4-H Youth Development.

Equipment. There are limitations or recommendations for juniors and intermediates as it relates to equipment and visual aids. Outlined below are the age-division specific rules for educational presentations:

Juniors	Intermediates	Seniors
No computer aided/projected presentation equipment allowed. Posters and an easel are a suitable and recommended alternative. Props and other visual aids are allowed.	Computer aided presentation equipment is allowed, but posters are highly recommended and encouraged. Props and other visual aids are allowed.	Any type of presentation equipment, props, and visual aids are allowed (if also allowed by state rules).

Participants are required to bring 100% of their own equipment (props, posters, easels, personal computer, visual aids, extension cords, etc.), with the exception of a screen, table and projector, which will be available in each presentation room. It is also encouraged to bring your own adapter in case your computer does not have a HDMI port.

Take into consideration that Internet connectivity may not be available. Be prepared to incorporate any video or other graphics that may require Internet to be directly embedded in the presentation. Make sure the image/video is included as part of the thumb drive or method used to provide your presentation to the contest Superintendent/Coordinator.

Contest officials will not have any equipment such as computers, projectors, or video adapters available. It is the contestant's sole responsibility to secure and bring all necessary equipment, and to know how to operate and troubleshoot it. Please have your presentation pre-loaded on your computer.

FYI to Senior Contestants that advance on to Texas 4-H Roundup.....All presentations must be in some form of Microsoft Office (PowerPoint, Word, or Excel). All fonts used must be true type. These fonts specifically include Arial and Times New Roman (See Texas 4-H Roundup Rules & Guidelines for more information).

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Public Speaking Contest Rules

- Speeches should be between 5 - 8 minutes. Point deductions will be taken for those under/over.
- The presentation should serve to persuade others regarding a particular issue or concern. It should also be appropriate for the member's age and experience.
- Appropriate credit must be given for references used. Public Speaking Score Sheet Version 9.2023 will be used for the contest.
- Visual aids and props may not be used.
- Following the presentation, there may be up to 5 minutes of question and answer period by the judges.
- Only official judges and superintendents may ask questions of the contestants.
- 4-H members may be asked to provide the title of their presentation and a short statement related to what their presentation is about at the time of registration.
- Speeches **MUST** be the original work of the 4-H member. 4-H members may **NOT** share/utilize the same presentations delivered by other members/siblings/family members.

Awards. 1st through 5th place rosettes will be awarded. 1st – 3rd place winners in each Educational Presentations Senior Category and Senior Public Speaking will advance to Texas 4-H Roundup.

Participants with Disabilities. If you need any type of accommodation to participate in this program or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Denita Young at 972-952-9252 or djyoung@ag.tamu.edu at least 2 weeks prior to the program or note such needs when registering on 4-H Online.

Resource Links. <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/events/roundup/>

Educational Presentations Resources. [Guidelines](#) | [Categories](#) | [Score Sheet](#)

Public Speaking Resources. [Rules](#) | [Project Page](#) | [Score Sheet](#)

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