



MERRIMACK 4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING

WHAT IS IT?

It has been said that public speaking is the number one fear of most Americans. 4-H gives youth a jump start on this skill by offering an opportunity for members to learn skills needed in public speaking and to have the opportunity to present their skills for feedback from a panel of judges. This opportunity is provided at the 4-H Public Speaking event. Parents and youth both report this program teaches self confidence. Members may choose the topic of their choice which can be their favorite project or a very formal talk on a specific project or area of interest. Some suggested general topic areas to consider are: Home/Family, School, Current Issues, Trips/Vacation, Humorous Topics, Historical Events and Favorite Pet. Check out the [Public Speaking Scoresheet](#) to see what the judges will be looking for.

WHO CAN TAKE PART?

Any 4-H Member between the ages of 8 – 18 as of January 1st of the current year. Cloverbuds (youth 5-7 years old) are eligible to participate in the Cloverbud Show & Tell and the Cloverbud Pet Rock Showmanship event!

SUGGESTED LENGTH OF TIME FOR SPEECH:

Juniors (8-10 years old):	2-4 minutes
Intermediates (11-13 years old):	5-8 minutes
Seniors (14 and older):	7-10 minutes

INTERPRETIVE READING:

4-Hers read a favorite poem, story, famous speech, or part of a book. Reading out loud with expression is a skill that bring alive the message to the audience. It's okay to bring props to complement your reading. Time limit for all ages is 3 – 5 minutes. Check out the [Interpretive Reading Scoresheet](#) to see what the judges are looking for. **This event is not a Qualifying event for State 4-H Presents.

CLOVERBUDS SHOW & TELL:

Cloverbud members can present a "Show & Tell". This is a non-competitive and fun way to share what you like and learn from others, too. Show & tell presentations should be 1 to 3 minutes. Check out the [Cloverbud Show & Tell Comment Card](#) to see what the judges are looking for. **This event is none competitive event and is not a Qualifying event for State 4-H Presents.

CLOVERBUD PET ROCK SHOWMANSHIP:

Cloverbuds may submit one pet rock for Showmanship.

- Choose a rock that is big enough to add features but not too big to pick up.
- Make sure your Pet Rock has a face on one end and a tail on the other end. You may add other features (legs, wings, hair or fur) if you wish.
- Show yourself and your pet rock to best advantage: This means dressing in neat and clean clothes and make sure your rock is clean.
- Put your rock down and give a short summary. (For example, say my pet rock is 4 months old. My pet is made of granite. I had fun finding and decorating my rock. Etc.)
- The judge may ask questions about your rock. Be sure to thank them at the end. Check out the [Pet Rock Showmanship Comment Card](#) to see what they are looking for. **This event is none competitive event and is not a Qualifying event for State 4-H Presents.

HORSE PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST:

A unique [scoresheet](#) is used for horse-themed speeches. Top Senior may be eligible to work with a coach and prepare to compete at the National 4-H Horse Round-Up in Louisville, Kentucky. Outstanding Intermediates recognized at the awards ceremony. Additionally, each county may send:

- 2 Senior Horse Public Speakers provided those members have not previously participated in public speaking at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup. Winners and alternates in the Horse Communications events are eligible to compete at the Northeast Regional 4-H Horse Contest annually.
- 2 Intermediate Public Speakers with a horse-themed topic.

QUALIFYING FOR STATE 4-H PRESENTS:

Each county may send their top 2 Intermediates (age 11-13) and top 2 Seniors (age 14-18), to speak on any topic.