

Niagara County 4-H Public Presentations Youth Presenter's Guide



4-H public Presentation Advancement Opportunities

4-H Public Presentations is a progressive program that allows 4-H youth presenters to have the opportunity to develop and enhance their public speaking skills as they advance to a more challenging level of evaluation through a coordinated series of events. Each time a presenter is evaluated, they then have an opportunity to fine-tune their presentation before taking it to the next level. The higher a participant advances, the more competitive the program becomes.

Practice Session

A practice session will be offered that you can sign up for. This is not mandatory but is strongly recommended. This is done prior to the actual county presentation. You do not have to have a complete presentation ready. This is a way to review what you have assembled and receive some valuable input to continue to develop your presentation.



Level #1 ~ Niagara County Public Presentation

All 4-Her's (5-18 years of age) are invited to give their presentation to a community audience at a county-wide event in front of trained evaluators. Evaluators will constructively critique each presentation, using the Danish system the primary method of evaluation, and provide positive feedback as well as suggestions for improvement.



Level # 2 ~ District Public Presentations

Those youth (Ages 9 & up) who demonstrate a readiness for a more challenging presentation may be given an opportunity to advance to the next level ~ District Public Presentations. At this level, using the same -but more polished - presentation, presenters speak to an audience in a public venue, once again being critiqued by trained evaluators.



Level # 3 ~ NYS Public Presentation Event (if offered)

Each year (3) 4-H teens from every county in NY, who have demonstrated exceptional public presentation skills, are selected to advance to the highest level, and give their presentation at the NYS Public Presentation Event.

Guidelines for 4-H Presenters

- Age Restrictions: County Level
 - Cloverbud Fun Talks for ages 5 - 8
 - 4-H Public Presentations (ages 9 & up)
- Age Restrictions: District Level
 - Must be 9 years of age or older
 - Recommended to attend district presentation based on your Niagara County presentation score.
- If you are selected to go to District, you must give the SAME presentation given at the county level. Using tips from your evaluator(s) 4-H members should work to enhance and strengthen their presentation skills for the District level.
- Live animal presentations are not allowed at the county or district level.
- Food Demonstrations: Youth presenters with cooking demos must indicate the need for electricity should it be required for the use of hot plates, electric grills, or woks etc. Please also provide an electric cord just in case the cords don't reach.
- Posters: Posters/handouts may be hand-drawn or computer generated. Neither method is better than the other. Posters should be easy to read, neat, and organized. They should be easy to read from a distance.
- Creative Introduction: How you introduce your topic and catch audience attention is important. You can use a quote, a witty remark, a personal experience, question, or surprising fact.
- Clothing: All presenters should dress in neat and clean attire: jeans and a nice shirt, khakis and a polo, skirt and a blouse, etc. Higher scores can be given when the dress enhances and/or compliments the presentation. Be sure to explain you dress in the presentation. (i.e. skater clothes for a presentation on skate boarding or show clothes for a showmanship presentation.) A suit and tie does not automatically merit a higher rating.
- Time Limits: Presentations should not exceed 15 minutes; deductions for overage may be given. Time is gauged on age and experience. Older and more experienced presenters are expected to give a longer presentation. The question and answer period after your presentation is not part of the timed portion of the presentation.
- You will need to have a conclusion to your presentation. This is where you will emphasize the important points of your presentation that you have talked about.
- Citing Sources: This is Mandatory. Presenters are required to cite their sources. Presenters can either say their sources, show their sources, or bring their sources. The number of sources are dependent on age: Ages 9-12 should have two or more sources; Ages 13+ should have 3 or more sources.
- Questions: This is Mandatory. The presenter is required to ask the audience "Is there any questions?" after their presentation. When a question is asked, the presenter needs to say, "The questions was..." and repeat the question prior to answering it.
- Technology: Be prepared for technology not to work. Do not assume Wi-Fi will be available. NO GOOGLE DOCS presentations. PowerPoint only. Have all presentations on a flash drive. A computer and projector will be provided.

- Remember to deliver your presentation to the audience and the evaluators. Practice your presentation so you don't have to rely on note cards. This avoids reading your presentation to the audience.
- The Niagara County Cornell Cooperative Extension website has resources for you to look at to help get your presentation completed. <http://cceniagaracounty.org/4-h-youth/public-presentations>

The Danish System

Cornell Cooperative Extension's 4-H Youth Development Program uses the Danish Judging System as its primary method for evaluation 4-H Public Presentations. Using this method, each youth presentation is evaluated based on the "ideal" standard for the presenters' age, experience, ability and developmental level. Therefore, each presentation is not compared to or in competition with other presentations.

The Danish System of judging is based on ribbon colors. Excellent (blue), Good (red), or Worthy (white). The goal is to make the best better with guidance and mentoring.

What to Expect On Presentation Day

Show up to your presentation at least 15 minutes prior to your start time. When you arrive, register at the registration table. You will be told what room you will be presenting in. When you arrive at the room, if the door is closed, please do not enter until the room host opens the door. On the outside of each room, the schedule of presentations will be listed. You are more than welcome to listen to other presentations. While waiting to present. When it is your turn to present, set up your visuals and let the room host know when you are ready to present.

Types Of Public Presentations:

- Cloverbud (ages 5 - 6)
 - Length of Presentation should be between 1 and 5 minutes
 - Types of presentations:
 - **Recitation** : a recitation of the 4-H pledge, 4-H creed, story or poem
 - **Show & Tell** (Demonstration) A simple show and tell to talk about something they enjoy.
 - Introduction: Presenter should start with "Hello my name is ..."
- Cloverbud (Ages 7 - 8)
 - Length of presentation should be between 3 to 8 minutes
 - Types of presentations:
 - **Demonstration**: the presenter shows how to do something; make or repair something one step at a time. Models or illustrations may be used as needed to explain information, show the steps in the process being demonstrated, or show a large scale replica of something that is too small for the audience to see.
 - Ideas: How to make peanut butter and jelly, how to care for a pet, how to build something out of Legos or blocks, supplies needed to go fishing.
- 4-H Member
 - Length of Presentation for 9 - 12 should be between 5 and 12 minutes
 - Length of Presentation for 13 & Older should be between 10 and 15 minutes
 - Types of presentations:
 - **Demonstration**: the presenter shows how to do something; make or repair something one step at a time. Could be baking, dance steps, playing an instrument, building a kite. Models or illustrations may be used as needed to explain information, show the steps in the process being demonstrated, or show a large scale replica of something that is too small for the audience to see.
 - Team demonstrations are allowed.
 - **Illustrated Talk**: The presenter uses visual aids to tell about the topic. The effective use of charts, graphs, pictures, posters, slides, overheads, examples, models, etc. play a major role in communication the presenter's message.
 - Team illustrated talks are NOT permitted

- **Formal Speech:** Meant to persuade, motivate, or inform the audience without the use of visuals. Proper note card use is allowed. Presenter chooses and researches a topic of choice. A speech is written in the presenters own words. Quotes may be used to emphasize a point. An example is you feel pasteurized milk is better than raw milk. The presenter informs the audience about the topic, persuades the audience as to why the presenter feels that way, and motivates the audience to look at the facts that were presented.
 - Team Speeches are NOT permitted.
- **Creative Communications** this bridges the gap between message delivery and the performing arts. Art forms such as recitation, dramatic interpretation, puppetry, skits, clowning, singing, music, and storytelling are used as a vehicle to conveying a message. Two types:
 - **Dramatic Interpretation:** The presenter or Team delivers a reenactment of a piece of scripted material. Content of the presentation can be taken from plays, movies, sketches, and monologues - dramatic or comedic. This form of presentation, by definition, should include props and costumes. Props need to be simple and minimal, not detracting from the strength of the presenter(s). Original pieces written by the presenter are accepted in this category.
 - Team Dramatic Interpretation is allowed.
 - **Recitation:** The presenter, with the use of vocal inflection and body language, delivers their rendition of a piece of pre-written material. Props may NOT be used, but appropriate dress to subtly represent the character or mood of the written piece is acceptable. Dress should not overwhelm the presentation. Memorization is expected, but notes are permitted. This area is not intended for presentation of original pieces written by the presenter.
 - Team Recitation is NOT permitted.

- **Teen Interview:** For ages 15 - 19. An interview opportunity is offered to 4-H members 15 and over. This is designed to give the older 4-H member an opportunity to learn and practice interviewing techniques. The interview can either be for a mock college or a job interview. They will be asked to complete a resume and cover letter for the job application or complete a college entry form. Each participant should come dressed appropriately for an interview. You will be sent the job description you will be applying for or if it is for college entry, you will be sent the application form and requirements. Be prepared to answer questions, and treat the interview as if it is at an actual business or place of employment

Sources:

- NY 4-H Youth Development Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putman County; 4-H Public Presentations 2019 Youth Presenter's Guide; January 2019.
- NYS Public Presentations Program Event Coordinator and Members of the NYS Public Presentations Planning Committee & SEDA Public Presentations Committee