

## **Rockland County 4-H Public Presentations 2026**

### **Overview and Event Details**

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# 4-H Presentations Overview

## What is a 4-H Presentation?

A presentation is a method used to communicate an idea or topic by showing, telling, or expressing your opinion. The presentation may be a demonstration, a talk, a speech, or a skit. A 4-H Presentation helps you learn to:

- Research a subject
- Organize ideas in a logical order
- Share your spark or your passion
- Practice public speaking skills

Each year, the Rockland County 4-H Program hosts a 4-H Public Presentations Event in March where youth are able to present on a subject of interest to them. During the event, two or three evaluators use a feedback form and assess their presentation on a standard set of criteria. The evaluators' job is to provide feedback to help the youth improve their public speaking abilities.

## Who is eligible?

All 4-H members ages 5-18 (age as of January 1).\*

\*Youth must be enrolled 4-H members in Rockland County to participate in the county event. Not enrolled? Contact Kristin Ruggiero at [klf37@cornell.edu](mailto:klf37@cornell.edu) to sign up (it's free)!

## Preparing for the Event:

- To prepare for the 4-H Public Presentations Event, youth and parents/guardians should review the resources provided on the CCE Rockland website: [Cornell Cooperative Extension | Public Presentations \(rocklandcce.org\)](http://Cornell Cooperative Extension | Public Presentations (rocklandcce.org)).
- Members are especially encouraged to read the [4-H Public Speaking Best Practices](http://4-H Public Speaking Best Practices) and complete the [Planning Worksheets: Selecting a Topic & Presentation Organizer](http://Planning Worksheets: Selecting a Topic & Presentation Organizer) from the University of California 4-H Presentation Manual.

## The Types of Presentations Include:

- **Cloverbuds (ages 5-7)**
  - Young presenters are encouraged to create a presentation 3-7 minutes long on a topic of their choosing (can be a show-and-tell, short demonstration, etc.).
  - The focus is on helping the members gain confidence speaking in front of others.
- **Demonstration**
  - The presenter shows and explains how to do or make something.
  - Appropriate equipment, models or illustrations, posters/visuals are used as needed to explain information being conveyed and to show the steps in the process being demonstrated. It is sometimes necessary to show a larger-scale replica of something too small for the audience to see.
  - A finished product is shown.
  - Team presentations are allowed (max. 2 people).

- **Illustrated Talk**

- The presenter uses visual aids to tell about the topic.
- The effective use of charts, pictures, posters, slides, PowerPoint slides, overheads, graphs, examples, models etc. play a major role in communicating the presenter's message.
- Team presentations are allowed (max. 2 people).

- **Speech**

- The presenter aims to persuade, motivate, or inform the audience without the use of visuals. Proper use of cue cards is acceptable (See [How to Make Cue Cards for Speeches](#)).
- Advocacy of political or religious views is not appropriate.
- A Speech is presented in conversational language, but poetry, quotations, humor, or imagery may be incorporated to command attention or emphasize a point.
- Citing sources can increase the credibility of the speech if it does not interfere with the delivery. Consider citing sources in the speech with the statements 'According to...', 'As explained by..,' etc.
  - Persuasive Speech
    - Address BOTH sides of the argument.
    - Use ethos (guiding beliefs of a person, group, or organization), logos (appeal to reason and logic), and pathos (a quality that causes people to feel sympathy and sadness).
    - Speak to the audience with knowledge and passion on the subject.
  - Motivational/Informative Speech
    - Inform or educate the audience on a single issue or topic.
    - Have a clear and understandable theme or thesis.
    - The presenter is expected to discuss the chosen topic intelligently, with a degree of originality, in an interesting manner, and with some benefit to the audience.

- **Creative Communications**

- Recitation
  - The presenter delivers their rendition of a piece of pre-written material (not an original piece of material written by the presenter).
  - No props.
  - Attire that subtly represents the character or mood of the written piece of material is acceptable, but should not overwhelm the oral presentation.
  - Memorization is expected, but proper use of notes is permitted either in the form of note cards or a book (See [How to Make Cue Cards for Speeches](#)).
- Dramatic Interpretation
  - The presenter delivers a re-enactment of a piece of scripted material acceptable for use in a public school classroom. The content can be taken from plays, movies, sketches, or monologues.
  - 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(s) are accepted in this category.
  - Team presentations are allowed (max. 2 people).

- **Interview (ages 13+)**

- 4-H teens undergo a simulated job or college entrance interview with a volunteer evaluator.

- The résumé, cover letter, and application (written presentation) will be judged based on appearance and content. These documents will be submitted for judging prior to the face-to-face interview.
- The oral presentation will be the actual interview using questions selected from a set list. The face-to-face interview should last about 15-20 minutes.
- Visit [Cornell Cooperative Extension | Public Presentations \(rocklandcce.org\)](http://rocklandcce.org) for interview details and resources.

## Time Limits:

- 5-15 Minutes
- Timing of a presentation begins when the presenter starts to talk and ends at the close of the presenter's conclusion or summary. Citing sources and questions/answers are not a part of the overall time measurement of the presentation.

Note: Cloverbuds (youth ages 5-7) are welcome to submit a presentation of between 3 and 7 minutes long. Cloverbud presentations will not be judged, but will receive feedback and a participation ribbon.

## Team Presentations:

- Up to two youth may present together.
- In a team presentation, both youth score together as a team on one form.
- Team presentations are only allowed in the categories of Demonstration, Illustrated Talk, and Dramatic Interpretation.

## Live Animals:

- Live animals are allowed, but the presenter is responsible for the sanitation and humane well-being of the animal throughout the event.
- Live animals need to have appropriate health certificates and be caged or leashed appropriately.
- If bringing a live animal, please email Kristin Ruggiero beforehand at [krf37@cornell.edu](mailto:krf37@cornell.edu).

## Food Demonstrations:

Food products that are created during a presentation can only be offered to the evaluators. Health restrictions prevent foods from being shared with the audience. If these foods are taken away from the presentation area, the presenter can then take personal responsibility for the sharing of food items. For details regarding food demonstrations, please view [How to Do a Food Demonstration](#) (also available on the [Cornell Cooperative Extension | Public Presentations \(rocklandcce.org\)](http://rocklandcce.org) website).

## Research/Citing Sources:

### Number of Sources:

- Ages 8-12: Use a minimum of 2 reliable sources
- Ages 13+: Use a minimum of 3 reliable sources

### Citing Sources: *Mandatory Requirement*

- SAY IT – Reference the source during your presentation and/or after the conclusion
- BRING IT – Bring the source (book, article, etc.)
- SHOW IT – Include a slide or section on your poster with the cited sources (APA or MLA is preferred)

## General Tips:

- Select a topic that interests you and explain your interest/personal connection during your presentation.
- Use the recommendations in the [4-H Public Speaking Best Practices](#)
- Complete the [Planning Worksheets: Selecting a Topic & Presentation Organizer](#)
- **Do not memorize your presentation (unless it's a Recitation or Dramatic Interpretation)**
  - Memorization may work for some people, but learning the presentation is better because it creates a more conversational tone.
  - Instead of writing out your presentation and memorizing the words or using flashcards, create an outline and practice.
  - If using visual aids, use your outline to serve as the text of your poster board/digital slide illustrations.
  - Include dates, statistics, graphs, etc. in your visual aids that are difficult to remember.
- Review the Feedback Form for your selected presentation type – available at [Cornell Cooperative Extension | Public Presentations \(rocklandcce.org\)](#)
- Practice in front of an audience (family, friends, club members, etc.).
- If you would like help preparing your presentation, please feel free to contact Kristin Ruggiero at [krf37@cornell.edu](mailto:krf37@cornell.edu).

## Opportunity for Advancement:

Youth ages 9 and up (as of January 1) are able to advance to the Southeast District Public Presentations, which are taking place in-person on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Dutchess County Community College Fishkill Campus (461 US-9, Fishkill, NY 12524).

## 2026 Event Details

For 2026, the Rockland County 4-H Program is hosting the 4-H Public Presentation Event both in-person and virtually. Youth can join in person on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, or submit a recorded video of their presentation by Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Register Online:

To register for the event (whether in-person or virtual), go to: [2026 Rockland County 4-H Public Presentations Registration Portal](#)

## In-Person Event Information

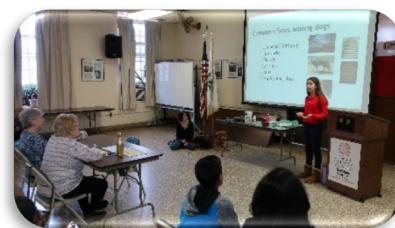
**Date:** Saturday, March 14, 2026

**Time:** 9:00 am – (approximately) 12:00 pm

**Where:** Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rockland County (10 Patriot Hills Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980)

## Physical Space:

- **Room Set-Up:**
  - Youth present in front of the auditorium
  - Two evaluators at a table in the front
  - Audience members sit in chairs behind the evaluators



If you prefer to give your presentation in front of the evaluators only (without the audience present), CCE Rockland will have an alternative space prepared.

- **For Visual Aids:**

- **CCE Rockland will supply:**

- Whiteboard
- Poster easel
- Computer with projector
- Small table

If you have additional space or equipment needs for your presentation, please contact Kristin Ruggiero at [klf37@cornell.edu](mailto:klf37@cornell.edu).

- **If using digital slides (Google Slides, PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.):**

- Save the presentation on a flash drive and/or email the presentation to Kristin Ruggiero ([klf37@cornell.edu](mailto:klf37@cornell.edu)) by **4:00pm on Friday, March 13.**
- Presenters will not be able to connect their personal laptops or computers to the projector.

### **Audience:**

- **Who is in the audience?**

- 4-H Members
- Parents/Family Members
- Volunteers

- **How many people?**

- 20-50

- **What does the audience know about the topic?**

- Assume they know nothing

### **Attire:**

- **Dress to relate with topic**

- Examples: Boy Scout uniform if presenting about the Scouts; horse show riding attire if explaining about horse shows.
- If you dress to relate to the topic, make sure to explain your wardrobe (use it as a visual aid).

Or

- **Wear attire that is neat, clean, and acceptable in repair and appearance**

- Not recommended: Jeans and athletic/leisure wear unless they relate to your topic.

## **Virtual Event Information**

**Video Submission Deadline:** Sunday, March 15, 2026

**Upload video to:** [2026 Rockland County 4-H Public Presentations Box Folder](#) (Please follow guidelines listed under 'Video Submission' below)

### **Video Criteria**

- **Q: Should I film in front of an audience?**

A: Filming in front of an audience is NOT required for a virtual 4-H Public Presentation. We recommend presenting in front of family if you would like to present to an audience. As long as there is no

background noise and the camera can record the presenter/presentation clearly, feel free to try this method.

- **Q: I have visual aids. How should I record my video to capture them and myself speaking?**

A: There are multiple ways you can record your video when using visual aids. The evaluators will take this unique situation into account. Don't make it overly complicated.

- **Posters:** If you are using posters as your visual aids, you may want to tape them up, set them up on a table or chair, or have someone else hold them for you while you present.
- **Slides:** You can present from a laptop/computer screen and video yourself alongside the screen. The trick is to do a short test video and make sure the images and text on your slides are being captured by the video well. If you have the equipment, you can display your slides from a phone or laptop to a TV (there are a few different methods explained at [How to Play a PowerPoint Slideshow on TV \(slidemodel.com\)](http://How%20to%20Play%20a%20PowerPoint%20Slideshow%20on%20TV%20(slidemodel.com))). Another option is to record yourself on a video conferencing platform, like Microsoft Teams or Zoom where you can share your slides while you are being recorded. In that situation, be sure to make eye contact with the webcam as you present.

The most important thing is that the judge can see you while you are presenting. The next most important thing is for the judge to see your visuals.

- **Q: How do I incorporate audience questions into my virtual presentation?**

A: The audience question portion is NOT required for this division. We recommend practicing in front of a live audience (your family members) to practice responding to questions. You may also consider possible questions and ask/answer them at the end of your presentation.

- **Q: How long should the presentation be?**

A: Presentations should be between 5 and 15 minutes long.

Note: Cloverbuds (youth ages 5-7) are welcome to submit a presentation of between 3 and 7 minutes long. Cloverbud presentations will not be judged, but will receive feedback and a participation ribbon.

- **Q: Can I do my presentation more than once?**

A: We recommend practicing your presentation at least once before creating a final submission. Please note that each participant may only submit ONE VIDEO to be evaluated.

- **Q: Can I edit my video?**

A: We ask that any video submitted be filmed in one shot. This means that videos should not show evidence of editing, including splicing and rearranging clips to produce one video. The only exception is in the case where you need to move location for the presentation to continue (i.e. moving from an inside room to a barn, kitchen, etc.).

- **Q: I recorded my club presentation. Can I submit this video?**

A: Sure. If you already recorded your club level presentation and would like to submit it, please do. Check the video to make sure the recording quality was sufficient. If you received valuable suggestions after your club presentation, though, you may want to revise it and re-record it. Note- if you qualify for District Public Presentations, you will be expected to present that same presentation again at the district level, though you will need to improve your presentation based on the feedback you receive from your county evaluators.

- **Q: I registered for the in-person 4-H Public Presentation Event on March 14<sup>th</sup>, but I am no longer able to attend. Can I submit a video instead?**

A: Yes. If you are not able to attend the in-person event, please email Kristin Ruggiero ahead of time at [krf37@cornell.edu](mailto:krf37@cornell.edu) and submit your video using the [Box Link](#) by Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Video Submission

- **Q: How do I upload my video?**

1. After you record your video, rename it on the computer, making sure to include your first initial and last name. You may also include a shortened version of your presentation title.  
Example: If I recorded a presentation on Disaster Preparedness for Horses, my video recording could have the title: KRuggieroDisasterPrep.

2. Upload your video to Box using this [Box link](#)

Note: You do not need a Box account to upload the video. No one will have access to your video except for the 4-H Educator and the evaluators.

- **Q: I am having trouble uploading my video. What can I do?**

A: Contact Kristin Ruggiero at [krf37@cornell.edu](mailto:krf37@cornell.edu).

- **Q: Can I submit a video more than once?**

A: No. Each participant is allowed one video submission.

- **Q: How do I know if my video was submitted correctly?**

A: The 4-H Educator will email you to confirm your submission and alert you to any issues.

## After Submission

- **Q: When will I receive my feedback form?**

A: The evaluators have until March 29<sup>th</sup> to evaluate virtual presentations. An email including a PDF of

your feedback form will be sent out by Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

- **Q: What happens to my video after I submit it?**

A: Videos will be shared with the evaluators, who will complete the Public Presentations Feedback Form for your type of presentation. The 4-H Educator will send you a copy of your feedback form after the evaluation period ends.

- **Q: Can I meet with the evaluators?**

A: Yes. After you receive your feedback form, you will be able to schedule a time with the evaluators to discuss the presentation and receive suggestions for improvement.

- **Q: What if I do not receive my feedback form?**

A: If you have not received your feedback form after Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, please contact the 4-H Educator at [klf37@cornell.edu](mailto:klf37@cornell.edu).

- **Q: Will we be able to see other virtual presentations?**

A: Yes. After the presentations are evaluated, the Rockland County 4-H Program will upload the videos to a Box folder, which will be shared with participants and parents/guardians. Note: Participants will have the option not to share their videos.