

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

### **Overview and Event Details**

#### **Table of Contents**

4-H Presentations Overview.....	1
What is a 4-H Presentation?.....	1
Who is eligible? .....	1
Preparing for the Event.....	1
The Types of Presentations Include.....	1
• Cloverbuds (ages 5-7).....	1
• Demonstration .....	1
• Illustrated Talk.....	2
• Speech .....	2
• Creative Communications .....	2
• Interview (ages 13+).....	3
Time Limits .....	3
Team Presentations .....	3
Live Animals .....	3
Food Demonstrations.....	3
Research/Citing Sources.....	4
General Tips.....	4
Opportunity for Advancement.....	4
2025 Event Details .....	4
Register Online .....	4
In-Person Event Information.....	5
Physical Space .....	5
Audience.....	5
Attire .....	5

# 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 Orange 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, an evaluator(s) 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 Orange County to participate in the county event. Not enrolled? Contact DeAnna Sardella ds2285@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 Orange website: [Cornell Cooperative Extension | Public Presentations](#).
- Members are especially encouraged to read the [4-H Public Speaking Best Practices](#) and complete the [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 that is 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](#) for interview details and resources.
  - Note: Interviews are not able to advance to the District Level.

### **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 - 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 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 DeAnna Sardella beforehand at ds2285@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](#) 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 (at least 4 is recommended)

### 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](#)
- Practice in front of an audience (family, friends, club members, etc.).
- If you would like help preparing your presentation, please feel free to contact DeAnna Sardella at ds2285@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 26<sup>th</sup> at the Dutchess County Community College (53 Pendell Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601).

### 2026 Event Details

For 2026, the Orange County 4-H Program is hosting the 4-H Public Presentation Event both in-person and virtually.

### Register Online:

To register for the event (whether in-person or virtual), go to: [Cornell Cooperative Extension | Public Presentations](#).

## In-Person Event Information

In person public presentations will be held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County Office located at 18 Seward Avenue, Middletown, NY 10940.

### Dates/times are as follows:

- **Monday March 16, 5:00-7:00 pm**
- **Wednesday, March 18, 5:00-7:00 pm**
- **Thursday March 19, 5:00-7:00 pm(virtual only)**
- **Saturday March 21, 10:00 am-2:00 pm**

### **Physical Space:**

- **Room Set-Up:**
  - Youth present in front of the room
  - Evaluators sit at a table in the front
- **For Visual Aids:**
  - **CCE Orange will supply:**
    - White board
    - Poster easel
    - Computer with projector
    - Small table

If you have additional space or equipment needs for your presentation, please contact DeAnna Sardella at ds2285@cornell.edu

- **If using digital slides (Google Slides, PowerPoint, etc.):**
  - Save the presentation on a flash drive and/or email the presentation to DeAnna Sardella at ds2285@cornell.edu by **4:00pm on the day of your presentation.**
  - Presenters with PCs will be able to connect their personal laptops or computers to the projector (Macs require additional adaptors and may be incompatible).

### **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.