

**CARROLL CO. 4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST -
2025**



SUPERINTENDENTS: Della Leister (443) 375-0123 Rita Becker (443) 375-1114

CONTEST: SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2025 – 9-11 A.M. – CARROLL CO. EXTENSION OFFICE

- Participants will need to report to the registration table in Burns Hall immediately upon arrival to check-in and wait until your assigned room is available. You will need to pre-register. **Registration will occur through the Carroll County 4-H and FFA Fair website/registration system (www.carrollcountyfair.com).** The online entry system will open in early January and will close on March 1st at 11:59pm.

RULES AND REGULATIONS –

1. The contest consists of the following categories: Prepared Speech, Extemporaneous Speech, Radio Spot Announcement, 4-H Pledge, Interpretations – Humorous, Poetry & Dramatic.
2. Contestants will participate in appropriate age category: Clovers = ages 5 – 7 years; Juniors = ages 8 – 10 years; Intermediates = ages 11 – 13 years; Seniors = ages 14 – 18 years. Ages are determined as of January 1st of the year in which the contest is held.
3. First-Year Juniors are 4-H members ages 8 – 10 years of age as of January 1 of the current year who have not participated or competed in either a county Demonstration Day or Public Speaking Contest.
4. First-Year Juniors may participate in Division C (Junior) OR Division B (First-Year Junior); BUT NOT BOTH.
5. Time limits: **Judges may deduct points for speeches not meeting or exceeding time limits.**
Prepared Speeches – Clovers = 2 to 4 minutes; Juniors = 3 to 5 minutes; Intermediates and Seniors = 4 to 6 minutes
Extemporaneous Speeches – Juniors and Intermediates = 2 to 3 minutes; Seniors – 3 to 5 minutes
Radio Spot Announcements - 30 seconds for all age groups
Dramatic Interpretation, Poetry Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation – Clovers, Juniors, and Intermediates = 2 to 3 minutes; Seniors = 3 to 5 minutes
6. Visual aids, including posters, are not permitted. Appropriate gestures are encouraged. Dramatic Interpretation contestants may opt to sit for their presentation.

Prepared Speech

7. **Prepared Speech** contestants may speak on any topic. It may be wise to discuss topics that could be considered as controversial with your 4-H or Extension Educator before the contest. The speech may be written for a specific audience such as a 4-H club, PTA, or a community-service organization. Note cards containing a key word outline are permitted. Only Juniors and Clovers may use a complete script.

8. Memorization is not encouraged; however, speaking from an outline is encouraged.

Extemporaneous Speech

9. **Extemporaneous Speech** contestants will draw three topics on the day of the contest. They will choose one topic to speak on. Juniors and Intermediates may have up to 30 minutes and Seniors may have up to 15 minutes to prepare their talk. Contestants may use one side of up to four or both sides of up to two 4” x 6” note cards to write their key word outline. No speech should be fully written on the cards.

Radio Spots

10. **Radio Spots** should be exactly 30 seconds in length and may include a musical or sound effect introduction and/or background, but **MAY NOT INCLUDE** a spoken introduction or “tag” by anyone other than the contestant. If music or a sound effect is used, the contestant must provide and operate the sound-making device.

The contestant **MUST** provide a complete written script (including notations about music/sound effects) to the timekeeper to aid in timing accuracy. Musical/sound-effect introductions and endings are considered a part of the radio spot and must not cause the 30-second time limit to be exceeded. The spot should relate to 4-H, be original and be created by the contestant. With the speaker’s permission, spots may be considered for promotional purposes.

11. Speakers may speak or interpret in a language of their choice. If using a language other than English, the participant must inform the Extension Office before the event so that judges may be acquired.

Interpretations

12. **Dramatic** – the memorized oral interpretation by an individual or a serious selection of narrative or dramatic literature. The speaker shall memorize this oral interpretation. It shall be a serious selection of narrative or dramatic literature. Monologues are acceptable. Mime (use of your body to create an interpretation) is also acceptable. Cuttings may incorporate characters, but monologues are acceptable. Contestants should bring two (2) copies of the

script they will be using including reference. Language other than English must be translated.

13. **Poetry** – the memorized oral interpretation by the speaker. Contestants should bring two (2) copies of the script they will be using including reference. Language other than English must be translated.
14. **Humorous** – the memorized oral interpretation of a humorous selection by the speaker. Cuttings may be taken from published plays or prose. Contestants should bring two (2) copies of the script they will be using including reference. Language other than English must be translated.
15. Speakers in the Interpretation Classes (Dramatic, Poetry and Humorous) can speak or interpret in language of their choice. If using a language other than English, the participant must inform the Extension Office before the event so that judges may be acquired.

4-H Pledge

16. **4-H Pledge class** is a non-competitive recitation of the 4-H Pledge. Participants will be evaluated as described on the score sheet. Judges may ask questions regarding the meaning of the Pledge and its significance to the participant.

Additional General Rules

17. Judges may ask questions of contestants in the Pledge, Prepared Speech, and Extemporaneous Speech, Dramatic Interpretation, Poetry Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation categories related to the presentation's topic. Due to time constraints, questioning should be limited to two or three minutes per speaker. Questions will not be asked in the Radio-Spot category.
18. At the State Contests, a contestant may only compete in one category. If a contestant wins more than one category at the County Contest, they must choose which category in which to compete at the State Contest. Only one Champion from the 3 Interpretive Presentations will go on to compete at the State Contest. Clover and Pledge classes will compete in Carroll County only.
19. The names of two ranked champions and two ranked alternates in each age group of each category will be selected to form a pool for possible representation at the State Contest. The highest ranked individual will represent Carroll County at the State Contest.
20. State Champions may not enter the same category and age group a second time. Previous year's local champion speeches may not be repeated.
21. Coaching during speech by family, friends, or others is not permitted.

22. All participants will be evaluated on the Danish System. Recognition and awards will occur at the conclusion of the contest. Premiums will be included with the premiums from the Carroll County 4-H/FFA Fair. The following premiums are offered for Junior, Intermediate and Senior participants: Champion Award - \$4; Blue Award - \$3.50; Red Award - \$3; White Award - \$2.50; Clover and 1st Year Junior participants will receive \$1.

23. **The Contest will start at 9:00 a.m. There will be no assigned times for speeches. Report to the registration desk in Burns Hall no later than 10:30 a.m. to sign up for your room. You will need to pre-register. Registration forms will be available on the Carroll County Fair website. There will be a link to direct you to the form. You will need to create a different login from the one you used for the fair.** Remember to allow preparation time for your extemporaneous speech (15 minutes for seniors, 30 minutes for juniors and intermediates).

CLASSES – Clover (ages 5 – 7)

- 101 Prepared Speech
- 102 4-H Pledge
- 105 Dramatic Interpretation
- 106 Poetry Interpretation
- 107 Humorous Interpretation

CLASSES – 1st Year Juniors (ages 8 – 10) [No previous participation in County Demonstration or Public Speaking Contests.]

- 202 4-H Pledge
- 205 Dramatic Interpretation
- 206 Poetry Interpretation
- 207 Humorous Interpretation

CLASSES – Junior (ages 8 – 10)

- 1001 Prepared Speech
- 1003 Extemporaneous Speech
- 1004 Radio Spot
- 1005 Dramatic Interpretation
- 1006 Poetry Interpretation
- 1007 Humorous Interpretation

CLASSES – Intermediate (ages 11 – 13)

- 2001 Prepared Speech
- 2003 Extemporaneous Speech
- 2004 Radio Spot
- 2005 Dramatic Interpretation
- 2006 Poetry Interpretation
- 2007 Humorous Interpretation

CLASSES – Senior (ages 14 – 18)

- 3001 Prepared Speech
- 3003 Extemporaneous Speech
- 3004 Radio Spot
- 3005 Dramatic Interpretation
- 3006 Poetry Interpretation
- 3007 Humorous Interpretation

University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class.

If you need assistance to participate in this program, please contact the Carroll County Extension Office (telephone: 410-386-2760; FAX: 410-876-0132) at least two weeks prior to the program.