

## PREPARED SPEECH INFORMATION AND CONTEST RULES

A variety of speech opportunities are offered to encourage speaking experiences by 4-H youth. Props can only be used in the Presentation category. The youth can choose from the following categories:

### CATEGORIES

4-H members may enter into as many categories as they wish. The public speaking contest is divided into the following categories:

- ✓ **Prepared Speech** – The Prepared Speech category should relate to some aspect of 4-H club work (projects, activities, benefits, citizenship, leadership, etc.). The focus on the score card includes delivery, voice, pronunciation, articulation, fluency, appearance, gestures, eye control, effectiveness, composition, speech structures, choice of words, material and speech value. Time limits are as follows: **Junior**: 3-4 minutes; **Intermediate**: 3-6 minutes; **Senior**: 4-6 minutes.
- ✓ **Interpretative Reading** – The reading **should not exceed 10 minutes**. It can be one or several articles including poetry, humor or anything appropriate for 4-H. The selection should be introduced and explained before it is presented. This is a great category for younger 4-H members and for anyone who would like to do a reading instead of making up a speech.
- ✓ **Impromptu** – The contestant will be given a subject or a word. After a 10 minute preparation period, the contestant will give a presentation on that subject. The presentation **should not exceed 5 minutes** in length. This speech should include an introduction to gain the audience's attention, reasons, an explanation of the subject and a conclusion to summarize.
- ✓ **Presentations** – Demonstrations or illustrated talks are a part of this category. A presentation is **limited to 10 minutes** in length. You will be allowed time to set up and take down your presentation. You will be expected to provide your own equipment. General equipment and supplies, such as tables, easel and chairs will be furnished upon request.

Each category is divided into the following divisions:

- Cloverbuds: 5-7 years old
- Junior: 8-10 years old
- Intermediate: 11-13 years old
- Senior: 14 years and older

Contestants will receive 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place ribbons. Participant ribbons will be awarded to 5<sup>th</sup> place and below. Cloverbuds will receive a participation ribbon only. A Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion will be named in each age group if merited. The following will be eligible to represent Custer County at the State 4-H Conference:

- Top two (2) presentations from the Senior Prepared Speech Category
- Top two (2) presentations from the Senior Impromptu Category