

## Russell Co. 4-H Speech Contest 2025

The 4-H Speech Contest is an opportunity to prepare and present a speech in front of judges. The 4-H members are permitted to use note cards during the speech but cannot use any other visual aids.

### General Guidelines for 4-H Speeches and Demonstrations

- Awards (ribbons) will be based on the criteria established on the 4-H score sheets for speeches and demonstrations. The champion will be the youth that receives the highest points (average among the judges); the reserve champion will be the youth that receives the second highest points average. Only the champion will advance to the area competition.
- 4-H participants will be introduced by their name and title of their speech or demonstration. There will not be a penalty if the 4-H member repeats this information during the presentation.
- If the presenter does not fall within the established time guidelines, he/she will receive a point penalty, but if he/she still has the highest overall score, he/she will still be awarded the champion honor.
- If there is a tie for champion or reserve champion, the tie will be broken by a coin toss or other equitable method.
- The reserve champion will be invited to attend the area competition ONLY IF the champion cannot attend.
- Costumes are not permitted in speeches. If a 4-Her would not wear the item on a daily basis, then the item is considered a costume item and is not allowed.
- Judges' decisions are FINAL.
- 4-H age is determined by the youth's age by December 31, 2024. Junior age speeches and demonstrations are for ages 9-13. Senior age speeches and demonstrations are for ages 14-18.

### Speech Contest Guidelines

- Speech Contest categories are based on the following 4-H ages: 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17-18. Since speech categories are based on age, the 4-H youth may be competing against someone in a different grade.
- Junior age speeches (ages 9-13) should be 3-5 minutes in length.  
Senior age speeches (ages 14-18) should be 5-7 minutes in length.  
(It is suggested that youth prepare a speech that is about 30-60 seconds longer than the minimum time limit.)
- Youth are permitted to use note cards but CANNOT use other visual aids such as posters, charts, photographs, or power-point presentations. An electronic device may be used in place of note cards.
- Readings of dramatic monologues and poems are not permitted.
- Excessive or distracting body or hand gestures will be counted against the participant in the scoring section.

How many participants can you send to the County Contest?

#### Speeches

RSES 4<sup>th</sup> – 8  
RSES 5<sup>th</sup> – 8  
SES 4<sup>th</sup> – 4  
SES 5<sup>th</sup> – 6  
JES 4<sup>th</sup> – 6  
JES 5<sup>th</sup> – 6

RCMS – 2 per classroom  
RCHS – 2 per classroom  
Project Clubs – 2 per club  
Home School -- 2 per academy/school



Timeline

Jan-early March	Write/Prepare/Practice speech/4-H club contests at schools or in project clubs
March 11, 2025	<u>Registration deadline for speech contest</u> to 4-H agent Please register youth on official entry form.
Late March	County Speech Contest (tentative – weather pending)
TBA	E1/E2 Area 4-H Communications Competition
Early July	Kentucky 4-H Communications Day (Lexington area)

If you have any questions, please contact:

Christy A. Martin  
Russell Co. Extension Agent for 4-H Youth Development  
2688 S. Highway 127  
Russell Springs, KY 42642  
(270) 866-4477  
(270) 866-8645 FAX  
christy.martin@uky.edu



**Russell County**  
**4-H Speech Contest**  
**Registration Form**

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ School/Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name	4-H Age	Date of Birth	Title of Speech

Please fax this form to (270) 866-8645 or e-mail to [christy.martin@uky.edu](mailto:christy.martin@uky.edu) by March 11, 2025 by 3:30pm.



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Lexington, KY 40506



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