



2026
JUNEAU COUNTY 4-H
SPEAKING and DEMONSTRATION CONTEST

The purpose of the 4-H Speaking and Demonstration Contest is to provide an opportunity for 4-H members to communicate their thoughts and ideas to others, gain poise and self-confidence when speaking before an audience, and gain a sense of accomplishment. It is sponsored by the Juneau County 4-H Leaders Association and hosted by Orange Mill 4-H Club.

January 18, 2026 (Sun.)

12:30 p.m.

Camp Douglas Village Hall

(304 Center St., Camp Douglas)

We will alternate between speaking pieces and demonstrations.

Be in place and ready to go at 12:30 p.m.

---New---

Each Family bring a snack to share

Entries Due: January 12, 2026 *(Monday)* **at 4:00 p.m.**

- Enter online at: <https://forms.gle/phRb7ZMJovcyPzwT6>

Online Entry Portal:



If you have questions or need assistance with your entry, please call the Extension Office (April Martell), 608-847-9329 or email april.martell@wisc.edu

2026 SPEAKING CONTEST GUIDELINES

Cloverbuds: May enter a Poetry/Prose (5 minute time limit, no minimum)

Grades 3-5: May enter a 2-3 minute Poetry/Prose and a 2-3 minute Speech

Grades 6-8: May enter a 3-8 minute Poetry/Prose and a 3-8 minute Speech

Grades 9-13: May enter a 6-12 minute Poetry/Prose and a 6-12 minute Speech

Poetry/Prose Reading

- May be self-authored or written by another author.

Speeches

- ✓ Must be your original idea.
- ✓ Any topic is acceptable but should be one that you enjoy & family friendly.
- ✓ Quotes may only be used to supplement a point in speech.

4-H Focused Testimony (NEW in 2023)

- Memorization required
- Written by participant focused on why someone should join 4-H, a story about a 4-H ah ha moment, or a 4-H educational moment
- May be used for Juneau County 4-H promotional purposes

Interpretive Speeches

- Memorization required.
- No props, costumes, or audiovisual aids.
- 10 minute maximum for all grades.

Dramatic Interpretation

- Member chooses a piece of literature written by another person to act out (interpret).
- Genre: Plays, prose, or poetry.
- Dramatic interpretation materials are dramatic in nature.

Humorous Interpretation

- Member chooses a piece of literature written by another person to act out (interpret).
- Genre: Play, prose, or poetry.
- Humorous interpretation materials are humorous in nature.

Open Interpretation

- Choice of genre is unrestricted. (May include original work, unpublished work by others, or published material.)
- Genre unlimited- includes plays, poetry, storytelling, historical speeches, & thematic selections.
- Single member only.

NEW LAST YEAR:

All Poetry/Prose and Speeches are **timed**. List at the top of this page as times vary by grade level. You must meet the minimum time required and not go over the maximum time. Failure to meet the minimum time, will drop you one placing. If you go over the maximum time, you will dropped one placing for each minute you go over.

Practice timing yourself!

++++Keep in mind that age appropriate material and performance are expected. (an older youth reading word for word from a note card, a book etc. will get lower scores) ++++

2026 DEMONSTRATION CONTEST GUIDELINES

Cloverbuds: May enter an Individual Formal Demonstration or a Team Formal Demonstration with other Cloverbuds or Formal Demonstration with mixed grade team. *Time limit for all entries in this grade category: 10 minutes*

Grades 3-5: May enter an Individual Formal Demonstration, Team Formal Demonstration with other 3-5th graders, or Formal Demonstration with mixed grade team. *Time limit for all entries in this grade category: 10 minutes*

Grades 6-8: May enter an Individual Formal Demonstration, Team Formal Demonstration with other 6-8th graders, or Formal Demonstration with mixed grade team. *Time limit for all entries in this grade category: 10 minutes*

Grades 9-13: May enter an Individual Formal Demonstration, Team Formal Demonstration with other 9-13th graders, or Formal Demonstration with mixed grade team. *Time limit for all entries in this grade category: 10 minutes*

What is a Formal demonstration?

- Given in front of an audience.
- **Time limit: 10 minutes.**
- Should be done in a speech format: Opening – Body – Closing—Time for Questions at end.
- Poster(s) summarizing your demonstration are strongly encouraged.

***Note:** Grades 3-13 contestants must do their Demonstration at the Juneau County Fair, usually in the 4-H Food Stand. A sign-up sheet is available at the 4-H Food Stand. Members must enter their demonstration in Department 31J with a poster summarizing the formal and perform their demonstration at the Juneau County Fair to receive a fair premium.

++++NO LIVE ANIMALS ALLOWED IN THE BUILDING++++

New Last Year:

All demonstrations will be timed. If you go over the maximum time, you will be dropped one placing for each minute over. PRACTICE AT HOME!

Formal Demonstration Resources to check out:

- *The University of Maine has an outstanding page on their website that will help you create a fabulous demonstration:*
<https://extension.umaine.edu/cumberland/4h/activities/presentation-day/giving-a-presentationdemo/>
- *Check out this great video of how to do a great demonstration!*
“It’s Showtime! How to Demonstrate the 4-H Way”
<http://youtu.be/WTytHTCkv8c>

TIPS FOR BOTH CONTESTS

- May use notes for speaking or demonstration. If using a book for speaking contest, may read from it. The older the youth, the more is expected of them in knowing the words and using voice inflections etc.
- There will be no lectern for the speaking contest so plan accordingly.
- Visual aids (pictures, charts, props)
 - Speaking Contest: May **NOT** be used
 - Demonstration Contest: Highly encouraged
- Timing of speeches and formal demonstrations will begin when contestants begin to speak. **New in 2025:** all pieces will be timed. Pay close attention to time limits listed on previous pages as they are specific in some instances to age and category.
- Practice at home. Practice at home some more. Practice at home one more time!
- You will be in front of an audience.

HOW ARE YOUTH EVALUATED?

- The Judge's decision is final; no changes will be made in the placings.
- Evaluation forms are publicly available. They were emailed to 4-H families and live on the Juneau County 4-H website under Forms/Applications.
- Each speech and demonstration will be judged on its own merits and BLUE, RED, or WHITE ribbons will be used to represent placings. Cloverbuds will receive participation ribbons and not placing ribbons. All ribbons will be distributed at event.
- Speaking Contest premiums will be paid the day of the event.
- Grades 3-13th Demonstration participants will be paid through entering their demonstration at the Juneau County Fair. Refer to "note" on demonstration guideline page.
- Cloverbud Demonstration participants will receive premiums the day of the event.

Audience Guidelines

- Contest participants are expected to be in the audience to observe speeches/demonstrations that others are presenting.
- Parent/adults need to let youth answer audience and judge's questions.
- Stay seated once speech or demonstration has begun and stay seated for duration.
- Do not talk while speeches or demonstrations are happening.
- Please silence your electronic devices and phones.
- Noise disturbances must be kept to a minimum. This will enable the judge to hear more effectively.
- Be an attentive listener.