

Communications Division

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Rules (Note: All General Rules and Regulations apply)

Purpose—The Communication Department is designed to provide opportunities for youth to select a method by which they might develop their personal communication skills in sharing talents, knowledge or information with others. The classes are designed to provide a series of developmental experiences for various age levels. The ability to communicate will be the major criteria for evaluating this department.

1. Educational presentations and working exhibits may be given by one or more 4-H'ers of any combination of juniors, intermediates or seniors. A team consisting of mixed ages must be entered in the age division of the oldest team member.
2. A 4-H'er may give both a working exhibit and presentation, but the topic must be different.
3. Educational presentations and working exhibits are **entered by 4-H members** using 4-H Communications Contest entry forms, available from organizational leaders or the Extension Office. These must be submitted to the Linn County Extension Office **by June 30, 2008**. The Communications Division schedule will then be mailed to participants.
4. Dress or attire should be that which is most appropriate for the presentation or working exhibit. Participants themselves should decide what attire is best. Whenever possible, members are encouraged to wear 4-H apparel.
5. Communication Premiums are as follows: Excellence \$7.50, Merit \$5.00, Participation \$2.50. Premium money will go to the club for distribution.
6. Educational presentations and working exhibits will receive one of the following awards:
 - **PARTICIPATION AWARD**—The award recognizes efforts made to achieve the goal of sharing ideas in an effective and interesting way.
 - **MERIT AWARD**—4-H'ers that have shown poise and good delivery methods will receive this award.
 - **EXCELLENCE AWARD**—4-H'ers that have done an excellent job in preparation and delivery will receive this outstanding recognition.
 - **STATE FAIR AWARD**—4-H'ers 5th grade and above as of September 15, 2007, who have received an excellence award will be considered for advancement to State Fair. Six presentations and four working exhibits may be chosen and will be announced on the respective judging days. A 4-H member may participate in only one educational presentation per year at the Iowa State Fair.
7. Presenters are expected to comply with all copyright/trademark regulations. Copyrighted material may not be distributed without permission.

Educational Presentations

Judging—Monday July 14, 2008

Rules

Purpose—This is an opportunity for 4-H'ers to personally demonstrate their communications skills by presenting knowledge, information or a process to gain a desired response from an audience. The 4-H'ers subject should be an outgrowth of his/her 4-H experience.

1. The topic of the presentation should determine its length. Junior presentations must not exceed 15 minutes, intermediate and senior presentations must not exceed 20 minutes.
2. 4-H'ers are expected to participate in the member evaluation phase of the presentation program.
3. Participants are expected to be present during the entire group session in which they participated. Groups generally consist of four presentations. The adult evaluator will give comments at the end of each group.
4. 4-H'ers giving presentations involving food must demonstrate safe handling of the food they are using. 4-H'ers should use sanitary and safe procedures and methods at all times.

Classes

811D—Junior Presentation

For county fair, youth must have completed 4th-6th grade in 2008. To be selected for State Fair, youth must have completed 5th or 6th grade in 2008.

811E—Intermediate/ Senior Presentation

For youth who have completed 7th-12th grade in 2008.

Working Exhibits

Judging—Tuesday July 15, 2008

Rules

Purpose—Working exhibits provide an opportunity for members to communicate and interact with an audience in an informal way. Many stages of the exhibit or product should be ready so that any step can be discussed. No set format need be used.

1. The best subjects involve action by members or involve the audience in some doing, feeling, tasting, smelling, or judging. The member's subject should be an outgrowth of his/her experience. It is important that the subject used in the working exhibit be of interest to county fair audiences. **Sanitary and safe food handling procedures must be used. Safe food handling is especially important if food samples are available to the public.**
2. Junior 4-H'ers will be scheduled for 25 minutes. Intermediates and Seniors will be scheduled for 45 minute periods.
3. Participants will visit with the adult evaluator in a conference at the end of their scheduled time.

Classes

811H—Junior Working Exhibit

For county fair, youth must have completed 4th-6th grade in 2008. To be selected for State Fair, youth must have completed 5th or 6th grade in 2008.

811I—Intermediate/Senior Working Exhibit

For youth who have completed 7th-12th grade in 2008.

4-H Poster Communications Contest

"Communicating Through Posters"

Purpose—To provide the opportunity for 4-H'ers to tell a story to the general public using the non-verbal form of posters. The themes for 2008 are:

- a) 4-H is... (open to 4-H'er's interpretation)
- b) Join 4-H
- c) "Ignite the Flame" (the 2008 Iowa 4-H Youth conference Theme)
- d) "U Gotta Love It" (the 2008 State Fair Theme)

Rules

1. Any 4-H'er may have **one** exhibit. They are not required to be enrolled in the communications project.
2. Entries should be brought at scheduled club judging times.
3. Entries will be on display at the fair.
4. Up to two exhibits **may** be submitted in the State Fair Contest. Entries prepared by 4-H'ers 5th grade or older by September 15, 2007 are eligible for State Fair.
5. Participation ribbons will be given to all but no premium money is awarded in this class.
6. All exhibits become the property of the Linn County Extension Service and may be displayed later in the year.
7. The 4-H Clover is a protected emblem. 4-H'ers can include the clover, but do not copy/print other material over the clover.
8. Each poster **MUST** have a completed 2008 Poster Exhibit Entry Form attached to the back.
9. All posters must be designed on, or affixed to, standard poster board or foam core board – size minimum of 14" x 20" or maximum of 15" x 22". They may be vertical or horizontal, and in any medium -- watercolor, ink, crayon, acrylic, charcoal, oil, collage. They cannot be three dimensional. Materials used to make the poster may not extend more than 1/8" above the poster or foam core board. Posters cannot incorporate copyright material or exact copies of other promotional designs such as the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference Theme logo.

Class 811J—Communicating Through 4-H Posters

Extemporaneous Speaking

Show date—July 15, 2008

Purpose—Extemporaneous speaking is designed to encourage the development of the life skill of communicating with others through enhancing the ability to think, to organize, to speak, and to answer questions readily before an audience.

Rules

1. Each contestant will draw three topics thirty minutes before speaking. They will select one of the three available topics. The general nature of the topics will relate to 4-H.
2. Speeches will be evaluated using the following criteria: content related to topic, knowledge of the subject, organization of material, power of expression, voice, stage presence, general effect and response to questions.
3. Linn County may send two entries to the State Contest to be announced.
4. Participants must be senior 4-H'ers, completed 9th-12th grade or equivalent in 2008.
5. Individuals wishing to apply should enter using the 4-H Communications Contest entry form. These are due to the Linn County Extension Office by June 30, 2008.
6. Speeches cannot be less than 4 or more than 6 minutes in length. Five additional minutes are allowed for questions from the judge.
7. Further information will be mailed to contestants upon receiving entry.

Share The Fun

Show date—Sunday July 13, 2008

Purpose—To provide an opportunity for 4-H'ers to perform before an audience, purely for the sake of enjoyment, sharing the fun and fellowship of other 4-H'ers.

Rules

1. A Share the Fun act may be an individual or group who shares their talents with an audience. Skits, songs, stunts, short plays, dances, magic, instrumental, comedy, mime, square dancing and other forms of entertainment may be used.
2. An individual may enter a maximum of three acts (1 individual and 2 groups).
3. Three groups and/or individuals may be selected to participate in the State Fair Share the Fun program. Members must have completed at least 5th grade through 12th grade or that equivalent and not have graduated from high school prior to 2008, to be selected for State Fair. They must be active member of an Extension sponsored youth group in the current year. Only members participating in the county contest may participate in the State Fair. If the Share the Fun involves a **whole club**, at least 80% of the performing group must have completed at least 5th grade by 2008, to be eligible for State Fair consideration. The maximum time limit is eight minutes. Acts over this time limit will not be eligible for State Fair consideration.
4. Third grade associate members may participate in their club's group entry but may not have an individual entry.
5. Each entry will be required to stay and watch all of the acts. Ribbons will be awarded to all participants at the end of the program. State Fair contestants will be announced at this time. We encourage all groups to stay and receive their recognition.
6. Acts must be in good taste, sensitive to diversity and culture/ethnic traditions of Iowans and/or U.S. citizens.
7. Premiums are not given for Share the Fun.

2008 Linn County Iowa State Fair Communications Dates:

Educational Presentations	August 8, 9, 13
Working Exhibits	August 8, 9
Share the Fun	August 8, 9
Extemporaneous	August 17