Communications Event Division Rules

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General Communication Event rules:

1. 4-H'ers who have completed 5th grade through 12th grade (or that equivalent) in 2020 are eligible to participate at the Iowa State Fair. Exceptions: Share-The-Fun and Extemporaneous speaking.
2. Communication Event entry participants and presentation descriptions must be entered into FairEntry by July 9 and checked in on Monday, July 13. (Ed Pres, STF, Ext. Speaking and WE)
3. Educational Presentations and Working Exhibits may be given by one or more 4-H'ers. Teams consisting of youth of mixed grades will be subject to the time limits based on the grade of the member in the highest grade level (i.e. a team with a 5th grader and an 8th grader will use the times for the intermediate/senior class).
4. Topics selected by the 4-H’er(s) should be an outgrowth of his/her 4-H experience(s). Topics should be appropriate for presentation to a general audience.
5. All participants are expected to comply with all copyright/trademark regulations. Copyrighted material may not be distributed without permission.

Class 11100 Jr. Educational Presentations
Class 11102 Int./Sr. Educational Presentations

Purpose: Provide an opportunity for 4-H’ers to demonstrate communication skills by presenting knowledge, information, or a process to an audience in order to gain a desired response.

Educational Presentation Special Rules

1. Presentations may be on any topic. The topic should determine the length, but Intermediate and Senior presentations should not exceed twenty minutes. Junior presentations should not exceed fifteen minutes.
2. Point of Emphasis: Introduction, Body, Summary/Conclusion. Educational presentation participants are expected to include all three of these in their presentation.
3. Ask Extension staff for 4-H Communications resources, including the new “Express Yourself” 4-H CCS units. Also available are the Communication Hot Sheets and Tip Sheets.

Comments from a communication judge are: remember the importance of an Introduction (use a catch phrase or ask a question), Body, and Summary/Conclusion (repeat important information, or state, “this is what I want you to know/remember, the most important thing…) in speeches, demonstrations, and presentations. Following your presentation, ask, “Are there any questions?” If someone does ask a question, repeat the question so the audience (judge) can hear it. Then answer the question the best you can. If you can’t answer it, or don’t know the answer, just say that. Don’t try to make something up. It is helpful to include an information poster to help reinforce your main points.

4. Presentation content must be the original work of the presenter(s). Extensive paraphrasing from other sources is prohibited. Use of brief quotations or excerpts of from other work(s) is permitted provided the source is identified. You MUST site your source.
5. Use of sanitary and safe procedures and methods is always important, particularly if food samples are available to the audience.
6. The composition of your educational presenters can be individual or any combination of junior, intermediate and senior 4-H'ers. A team consisting of youth that are of mixed ages must be entered in the class of the oldest team member.
7. Educational presentations prepared for school activities or competitions are eligible. Be sure to revise them, if necessary, to be appropriate for a fair setting.
8. Speeches will be evaluated using the following criteria:
   (1) Content related to topic
   (2) Knowledge of the subject
   (3) Organization of material
   (4) Power of expression
   (5) Voice
   (6) Stage presence
   (7) General effect
   (8) Response to questions
A maximum of six presentations may be chosen to advance to competition at the Iowa State Fair. Junior participants in this department must be in the 5th or 6th grade to participate at the State Fair.

One Junior and/or Intermediate presentations may be chosen to compete at the Clay County Fair.

Junior Presentations: 4th, 5th or 6th grade by Sept. 15 previous to the fair
Intermediate Presentations: 7th, 8th or 9th grade by Sept. 15 previous to the fair
Senior Presentations: 10th grade or older by Sept. 15 previous to the fair

Premiums: Blue $15.00  Red $12.00  White $10.00

Class 11400  Extemporaneous Speaking

Purpose: This contest is designed to encourage the development of the communication life-skill through enhancing the ability to think, to organize, to speak, and to answer questions readily by participating 4-H'ers before an audience.

Extemporaneous Speaking Specific Rules

Advanced Extemporaneous Speaking:
1. Participants must be 4-H'ers who have completed 9th through 12th grade (or that equivalent) in 2020.
2. Each county may enter a maximum of two entries; individuals may participate once per year at the Iowa State Fair.
3. Program format:
   a. Thirty minutes before the program, each participant will draw three of the available topics, selecting one to speak on.
      i. The selected topic will not be available to the other participants in the speaker’s assigned room. The general nature of the topics will relate to 4-H. The other two topics drawn but not chosen will be returned to the available topics for the other participants.
   b. A preparation room is to be used with one participant per speaking site admitted initially and one additional participant per speaking site admitted each 15 minutes as the program progresses. A participant may not leave the preparation room until it is time to speak, nor may a participant receive help from a parent, leader, other adult or any other youth. A program official will assist participants with the time requirements.
   c. All reference material will be screened by a program official on the following basis:
      i. Participant may bring his/her own books, magazines or newspaper clippings for reference during the thirty minutes of preparation.
      ii. Reference material must be printed material such as books or magazines (cannot be notes, outlines or speeches prepared by the participant or by another person for use in this program).
      iii. Some relevant reference material will be available in the preparation room. This material will consist of historical material related to the 4-H program.
      iv. Cell phones or other electronic devices, such as computers, iPads, etc., will not be allowed in the preparation room.
   d. Each speech shall be the result of the 4-H'ers own efforts using approved reference material that a participant may bring to the preparation room. No other assistance may be provided. Plain note cards will be provided for each participant in the preparation room. If notes are used, the note cards provided must be used in delivering the speech.
   e. Only notes made during the preparation period may be used.
   f. Each speech shall be not less than four but no more than six minutes with five minutes additional time allowed for related questions, which shall be asked by the judge. The participant will be shown time cards in an ascending order (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) by the timekeeper. “Stop” will be said at six minutes.
   g. The program timekeeper will introduce each participant by name and the county he/she represents. The participant will be expected to introduce his/her speech by title only.
   h. Participants are not permitted to use any props, gadgets, posters or audiovisuals of any sort. A podium will not be available.
4. Speeches will be evaluated using the following criteria:
   a. Content related to topic.
   b. Knowledge of the subject.
   c. Organization of material.
   d. Power of expression.
   e. Voice.
Class 11401  Beginning Extemporaneous Speaking

1. Participants in 4th-10th grade have the option to participate in this level of Extemporaneous Speaking for two years to gain experience. After two years they are encouraged to participate in the Advanced level.
2. Beginning Extemporaneous Speaking participants are not eligible to advance to the Iowa State Fair.
3. Program format:
   • 15 minutes before the program, each participant will draw three of the available topics, selecting one to speak on.
     o The selected topic will not be available to the other participants in the speaker’s assigned room. The general nature of the topics will relate to 4-H. The other two topics drawn but not chosen will be returned to the available topics for the other participants.
     
   A preparation room is to be used with one participant per speaking site admitted initially and one additional participant per speaking site admitted each 15 minutes as the program progresses. A participant may not leave the preparation room until it is time to speak, nor may a participant receive help from a parent, leader, other adult or any other youth. A program official will assist participants with the time requirements.
   • All reference material will be screened by a program official on the following basis:
     o Participant may bring his/her own books, magazines or newspaper clippings for reference during the thirty minutes of preparation.
     o Reference material must be printed material such as books or magazines (cannot be notes, outlines or speeches prepared by the participant or by another person for use in this program).
     o Some relevant reference material will be available in the preparation room. This material will consist of historical material related to the 4-H program.
     o Cell phones or other electronic devices, such as computers, iPads, etc., will not be allowed in the preparation room.
   • Each speech shall be the result of the 4-H’ers own efforts using approved reference material that a participant may bring to the preparation room. No other assistance may be provided. Plain note cards will be provided for each participant in the preparation room. If notes are used, the note cards provided must be used in delivering the speech.
   • Only notes made during the preparation period may be used.
   • Each speech shall be not less than two but no more than four minutes with five minutes additional time allowed for related questions, which shall be asked by the judge. The participant will be shown time cards in an ascending order (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) by the timekeeper. “Stop” will be said at four minutes.
   • The program timekeeper will introduce each participant by name and the county he/she represents. The participant will be expected to introduce his/her speech by title only.
   • Participants are not permitted to use any props, gadgets, posters or audiovisuals of any sort. A podium not will be available.
4. 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.
   • Response to questions.
5. A judge’s critique/conference with each participant will be included as a part of the program.

Premiums:  
Blue $15.00  Red $12.00  White $10.00
Class 11300  Share the Fun!
Purpose: Provide an opportunity for 4-H’ers to share their skills and talents before an audience purely for the sake of enjoyment.

Share the Fun Special Rules
1. Skits, songs, stunts, short one-act plays, dances (folk, square, modern, tap) plus other entertainment will be acceptable. Skits/Acts must be in appropriate to present to a general audience.
2. Clubs may have as many entries as they wish for county competition.
3. The presentation must not exceed eight minutes in length. Acts will be stopped after this time has elapsed.
4. A maximum of three acts may be chosen to advance to competition at the Iowa State Fair. There is no limit on the number of times a 4-H’er can participate in Share the Fun programs.
5. State fair Participants in Share-The-Fun must have completed 5th through 12 grade, or equivalent, and be an active member of an Extension sponsored 4-H group in the current year. All members of a select group must meet the grade eligibility requirements.
6. If a total club is selected to participate, at least 80% of the club members must meet the grade eligibility requirements.

A maximum of three presentations may be chosen to advance to competition at the Iowa State Fair. Junior participants in this department must be in the 5th or 6th grade to participate at the State Fair.

Two Junior and/or Intermediate presentations may be chosen to compete at the Clay County Fair.

Class 11200  Jr. Working Exhibit
Class 11202  Int/Sr. Working Exhibit
Purpose: Provide an opportunity for 4-H’ers to communicate, interact with, and teach an audience in an informal and experiential way.

Working Exhibits Special Rules
1. Working exhibits provide an opportunity to communicate with an audience in an informal way. It should teach the observers a specific skill.
2. Working Exhibits may be given by one or more 4-H’ers.
3. Many stages of the exhibit or product should be ready so that any step can be discussed. No set format should be used. Questions that might be asked as opening conversation include:
   - Have you seen___?
   - Would you like to know how to?
   - May I show you how?
4. Subject of the working exhibit should be an outgrowth of the 4-H’ers experience, and should be appropriate and of interest to the general public.
5. Working exhibits entered at the Sioux County Fair will be scheduled to run for 45 minutes beginning at 11:30 am, Wednesday of the fair.
6. 4-H’ers participating in this division must provide their own equipment, such as tables, extension cords, and supplies.
7. Use of sanitary and safe procedures and methods is always important, particularly if food samples are available to the audience. All methods used should be safe for involvement by audiences of all ages.
8. Copyright materials should not be duplicated and distributed without permission from the source. (check with the Extension Office prior to the fair if you have questions.)
9. Working Exhibits may be selected for State Fair competition. Teams may consist of mixed ages and must be entered in the class of the oldest team member.

A maximum of four presentations may be chosen to advance to competition at the Iowa State Fair. Junior participants in this department must be in the 5th or 6th grade to participate at the State Fair.

One Junior and/or Intermediate presentations may be chosen to compete at the Clay County Fair.
Junior Presentations: 4th, 5th or 6th grade by Sept. 15 previous to the fair
Intermediate Presentations: 7th, 8th or 9th grade by Sept. 15 previous to the fair
Senior Presentations: 10th grade or older by Sept. 15 previous to the fair

Sioux County Premiums:
- Blue $15.00
- Red $12.00
- White $10.00

For the Iowa State Fair each county may bring up to 6 Educational Presentations, 4 Working Exhibits, 3 Share-The-Fun, and 2 Extemporaneous Speakers. No more than two (2) performances from any county will be scheduled during a Noon Share The Fun show. Limit of two (2) Communications Posters per county.