

GRAFTON COUNTY

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To: All 4-H Families

From: Kathleen E. Jablonski, Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development

Re: **Public Speaking Contest in conjunction with the Food Show, February 11, 2012**
Snowdate: February 18, 2012

Public Speaking Contest

Rules and entry information are enclosed. Please review carefully and **return entries to our office by Friday, January 27, 2012.**

The Public Speaking Contest will take place at the food show. If your 4-H'er is also entering the foods show, please check the appropriate box on the registration form. We will schedule the member to accommodate participating in both events.

We will select two Intermediates (12 -13 as of 1/1/12) and two Seniors (age 14 and up as of 1/1/12) to represent our County at State Activities Day on June 2nd.

Attention Horse Project Members

For State Activities Day, Grafton County may send **two** Senior horse public speakers to compete at State Activities Day for selection for the National Horse Round-Up. Speeches need to be on a horse related topic. Participants must be 14 years of age as of January 1, 2012. Those selected will compete and qualify at this event for State Activities Day.

For any special arrangements including dietary, physical access, or other accommodation requests, including the ability to pay, please contact Kathleen Jablonski, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development at 787-6944 or 3855 DCH, Box 5, North Haverhill, NH 03774. Ten working days are needed to facilitate special needs requests.

-UNH Cooperative Extension programs and policies are consistent with pertinent Federal and State laws and regulations on non-discrimination regarding age, color, handicap, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran's status. College of Life Sciences and Agriculture, county Governments, NH Division of forests and lands, Department of Resources and Economic Development, NH fish and Game Department, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service cooperating.



PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

Held in conjunction with Food Show
Saturday, February 11, 2012
Haverhill Cooperative Middle School
Event begins at 9:30am



✓ WHAT IS THIS EVENT?

4-H public speaking gives youth a jump-start on talking in front of other people. It is an opportunity for members to learn skills needed for effective communication both verbal and written.

✓ SELECTING A TOPIC

Speeches must be original and must have not been used in other speaking contests. Members may choose the topic of their choice, which can be their favorite project or a very formal talk on a specific project, or area of interest.

✓ WHAT IS THE RECOMMENDED LENGTH OF TIME FOR SPEECH?

The general rule of thumb is:

Cloverbuds, 1-2 minutes

Junior members, 8 - 11 years old, should talk for 1-3 minutes.

Intermediate members, 12 - 13 years old, plan on 3-8 minutes.

Seniors, ages 14 & over should plan for 5-10 minutes.

Topics may be on any subject. Issues of timely concern are encouraged.

✓ DRESS

This is a public presentation and dressing appropriately is very important. This is taken into consideration when judging overall speech presentation. First impressions and the overall appearance of a speaker are important. An audience often forms an impression of a speaker before any words are spoken. A number of things contribute to the appearance of a speaker including grooming, style and fit of clothing, posture, facial expression, and appearance of confidence. Another aspect of appearance is the appropriateness of the speaker's clothing for the topic, the audience, and the situation where the talk is being given.

It is expected that youth will wear appropriate attire. Corporate sponsorship is unacceptable at 4-H events. No garments advertising any alcohol or drug products.

- No blue jeans
- No midriffs showing
- No garments considered underwear worn as outer wear
- No straps less than one inch thick
- No shorts allowed

USE OF NOTE CARDS & VISUALS

Members may use notes, note cards are recommended. Be sure to number your cards. A podium will be available. No props or visuals should be used when presenting a formal speech.

✓ SCORE SHEETS

Judges will evaluate participants based on the appropriate score sheets. All youth will be scored on the "NH State Communication Event Form".

✓ RECOGNITION

All participants will be recognized for their efforts. Ribbons will be awarded based on the Danish award system. The highest scoring Senior, Intermediate and Junior speakers will receive a special award. Cloverbuds receive a participation ribbon.

We will select two Intermediates (12 - 13 as of 1/1/12) and two Seniors (14 & up as of 1/1/12) to represent our County at State Activities Day in June. In addition, two Senior horse public speakers will be selected for the State 4-H Horse Communications Contest, which is part of State Activities Day.



✓ JUST GETTING STARTED IN PUBLIC SPEAKING? TRY A RECITATION!

We want our 4-H'ers to feel comfortable with public speaking. If your members are just getting started suggest they try reciting a prose or verse from a favorite reading for the contest. The enclosed interpretive reading evaluation will be used. **PLEASE NOTE: Members, 12 and up, choosing this route will not be eligible for State Activities Day.**