What is it?
It has been said that public speaking is the number one fear of most Americans. 4-H gives youth a jump start on this skill by offering an opportunity for members to learn skills needed in public speaking and to have the opportunity to present their skill for feedback from a panel of judges. This opportunity is provided at the 4-H Public Speaking event. Members are evaluated based on their age and number of years in the Public Speaking program. Parents and youth both report this program teaches self-confidence.

Who Can Take Part?
Any 4-H Member between the ages of 5 – 18 as of January 1st of the current year. Cloverbuds are eligible to participate in Public Speaking!

Is There a Set Topic?
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. Some suggested general topic areas to consider are: Home/Family, School, Current Issues, Trips/Vacation, Humorous Topics, Historical Events and Favorite Pet.

Suggested Length of Time for Speech
Cloverbud (5-7 years old): 1-3 minutes
Juniors (8-10 years old): 2-4 minutes
Intermediates (11-13 years old): 3-8 minutes
Seniors (14 and older): 5-10 minutes

How is the Judging Done?
Depending on the number of registrations, age groups are generally divided out into 8-10 year olds, 11-13 year olds and seniors, 14 and older. Sometimes this is adjusted and more than two age groups may be arranged together in order to accommodate a better organized program. Cloverbuds will be in their own non-competitive room.

Cloverbuds Show & Tell
5-7 year old Cloverbud members can present a “Show & Tell”. This is a non-competitive and fun way to share what you like and learn from others, too. Show & tell presentations should be 1 to 3 minutes.
**This event is not a Qualifying event for State Activities Day.

Interpretive Reading
4-Hers read a favorite poem, story, famous speech, or part of a book. Reading out loud with expression is a skill that bring alive the message to the audience. It’s okay to bring props to complement your reading. Time limit for all ages is 3 – 5 minutes.
**This event is not a Qualifying event for State Activities Day.
***This event is NOT open to Cloverbuds.

Horse Public Speaking
State Representation – Each county can send 2 Intermediate Members (11-13) and 2 Senior Members, (14-18) to State to compete for National Horse Roundup. Let’s see our horse members take advantage of this opportunity.

Speech Titles
Please encourage members to have a title at the time they sign up. We must have speech titles and information prior to the event. Members are not to repeat a speech from a previous year. A topic must be changed or presented on another aspect of a subject. All presentations needs to be new work completed since June 1, 2017.

Resources & Scoresheets
Public Speaking Resources available at: https://extension.unh.edu/events/merrimack-county-4-h-presentation-day

Volunteers
We need adults and youth (12 & Older) to help as volunteers. Suggest volunteers that are available by filling out the Volunteer Registration Sheet.