

Safety Speaking Contest Guidelines

1. Junior division contestants shall be 4-H members who are nine years old (or in the third grade) to 13 years old on January 1st of this year. Senior division contestants shall be 4-H members who are 14 years of age or over on January 1st of this year.
2. Each contestant must bring to the event a legibly written or typed copy of their talk (to be written by contestant), and a completed single page biographical form (provided by mail along with state fair admission ticket).
3. Contestants are to select a topic of health or safety that affects family living, whether it is in the home, on the farm, on the highway, or in public places. Speeches should be written/prepared by the 4-H member giving the speech. Contestants shall not include music, singing, or dancing as part of their speech. Contestants who do so will be penalized 5 points.
4. Senior division contestants' speeches are to be 4.0 to 5.5 minutes in length. Senior division speeches under 4.0 or over 5.5 minutes will be penalized 10 points. Junior division contestants' speeches are to be 2.5 to 3.5 minutes with a 10 point deduction if under 2.5 minutes or over 3.5 minutes. There will be no time allotted or credit given for questions from the audience.
5. Prompters (scripts, note cards, verbal cues, signaling) and props may not be used when the contestant is speaking. No visual aids or props are permitted. Gestures should be used carefully and minimally.
6. Appropriate dress is required for all 4-H Public Speaking participants. The use of costumes is not permitted.
7. All contestants will be required to use a neck microphone when giving their speeches.
8. Verbal profanity or inappropriate to represent 4-H words written on clothing or visual aids/props is forbidden.
9. Contestants will be introduced by name, county and title of talk. Re-introduction is not encouraged.

Safety Skit G

1. Teams shall consist of 4-H members who are eight years old and enrolled in the third grade or older on January 1 of the current year. Each team must consist of two to five current 4-H members. Subbing is not recommended.
2. Each team member must bring to the state event a legibly written or typed copy of their talk (to be written by the contestant) and the state participation sheet (sent to the team coach by mail along with state fair admission tickets). Printed scripts are not required at area contests.
3. Teams are to select a topic of Health or Safety that affects family living, whether it is in the home, on the farm, on the highway or in a public place. Team talks/skits should be created/prepared by the 4-H members participating in the team talk/skit. A local example and supporting statistics (with sources cited) are required.
4. The time limit for each team shall be five to eight minutes. Each member of the team must participate with at least one minute of speaking time. Teams going over eight minutes or under five minutes OR those not meeting the one minute speaking time requirement for each team member will be penalized 10 points. There will be no time allotted or credit given for questions from the audience.
5. Prompters (scripts, note cards, verbal cues, signaling) may not be used during the skit. Teams using prompters will be penalized 10 points.
6. Props may be used for the team talks/skits, but no posters or printed materials that are used to prompt participants will be allowed. Trademarked or "brand names" of products should not be used on props, costumes, or mentioned in the skit.
7. Live animals are not considered props and are not permitted to be used in team talks/skits.
8. Appropriate dress is required for all 4-H team talks/skits participants. The use of costumes will be allowed as long as all participants are fully clothed and wearing shoes.
9. Verbal profanity or inappropriate to represent 4-H words written on clothing is forbidden.
10. Cordless microphones may be available for use at the state contest. If stand microphones are used, team coaches should work with contest staff to place microphones at their best location. Microphones will not be used at the area level.
11. Contestants will be introduced by number and title of talk. Re-introduction is not encouraged.
12. Judges will evaluate all teams based on the following criteria: 30% Content; 30% Organization; 20% Visual Delivery; and 20% Vocal Delivery. NOTE: Refer to score sheet for more specific information.