

4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING—JUDGES' ORIENTATION

*This orientation handout is to be photocopied and given to all judges at each level of 4-H Public Speaking Competitions, and accompanied by a copy of the **Saskatchewan 4-H Public Speaking Guidelines & Score Sheet** and the **4-H Public Speaking Rubric**. Each group of judges will also receive one **Judge's Final Results** form to fill in and submit to the committee.*

1. The Purpose of 4-H Public Speaking is for members to develop confidence and communication skills. Those who are participating in the competition are young people who are relatively inexperienced. While this event is competitive, comments should be constructive and positive. The emphasis of judge's comments should be to motivate members to continue their participation in public speaking.
2. Speeches alternate from Cloverbud to Junior to Intermediate to Senior, so judges will have plenty of time to write notes and determine scoring after each speaker is completed.
3. Review Agenda for afternoon. There is an intermission halfway through the competition.
4. As per 4-H guidelines, there are three judges per age category. Each group of judges will be sitting at a specific table, as identified by your 4-H committee.
5. **Competitor Age Categories: Cloverbud: 6—8; Junior: 9—12; Intermediate: 13—15; Senior: 16—21**
6. **Time limits are: Cloverbud: 1—3 min; Junior: 2—4 min; Intermediate: 3—5 min; Senior: 4—8 min.**
7. Review the 4-H "*Public Speaking Guidelines*".
8. Review the "*4-H Public Speaking Score Sheet*" and accompanying explanation and definitions of score card terms
9. Review the "*4-H Public Speaking Rubric*" from the How to Host Appendix. **This is a scoring guide for judges and should not be shared with members.**
10. As an option to break ties, prior to the start of competition, judges can choose either the highest score from the material section on the score card, or the highest score from the presentation section as the tie-breaking score.
11. Judges should work independently in scoring speeches, with one score sheet per member, per judge.
12. Members will **not** be docked marks for saying thank you or for introducing themselves.
13. Timekeepers will notify judges of any timing penalties. Speakers have a 30-second leeway over and under the expected speech length. After that, they are deducted 5 points per minute.
14. After speeches, judges should have a private place to deliberate and tally scores. Deliberation usually takes 30—45 minutes. Committee should review where deliberation rooms are for competition.
15. The speakers will receive the 'comments' portion of the score sheet, so judges are reminded to please be constructive and positive with written comments as it is a learning opportunity for 4-H members. **Members do not receive the "raw scores"**.

16. Judges at all levels must fill in the ***Final Placings Form***. Committee helpers will collect the *Final Placings Forms* and all score sheets after judging is complete.

For District and Regional 4-H Public Speaking, please only rank all speakers in each age group.
For Provincial 4-H Public Speaking, please rank only the top three speakers in each age group.
17. One judge from each group may be asked to provide general comments at the Awards portion of the event. These verbal comments will be about the age group judged, and will be given prior to announcing the final placings. Comments should be generalized and should not single out an individual competitor.
18. At **Club, District and Regional levels**, judge's comments should be designed to provide encouragement, constructive feedback, and/or techniques or points that will assist the member at the next level of competition.
18. The committee may ask one judge per group to present participation certificates. Call up each speaker in your age group, one at a time, so they can receive their certificate.
19. Your committee will also let you know if you are supposed to announce the top two or three winners. If you are, always announce the First Place winner last!
20. If you have any questions, please contact the 4-H committee chairperson or a 4-H staff member.