The Versatile 4-H Presentation

The 4-H Public Presentation program is frequently referred to as "the most beneficial and rewarding experience of all 4-H experiences." Public Presentations give 4-H members an excellent opportunity to research a subject, organize ideas in logical order, develop visual aids and learn to speak effectively before groups. With each public presentation, there is an increase in self-confidence, poise, self-esteem, stage presence and knowledge. Public presentations can teach a 4-H'er lifetime skills that will be useful in his or her future social, educational and career pursuits.

It is important for 4-H'ers to begin doing Public Presentations at an early age and continue throughout their 4-H career. Public speaking skills develop over time, with experience and repetition.

Presentations at Club Meetings

A presentation or demonstration is an act of showing, telling or "selling" an idea. As your club prepares for the coming year, why not volunteer to give a presentation at a club meeting. This would be one way to teach the 4-H club members a new skill or share information about a project. Older 4-H members could give a presentation as a teaching tool for new members preparing for their first presentation.

County Competition

Why not plan to give your presentation in a contest to develop your public speaking skills even more. You will also have the opportunity to win ribbons and awards.

Most counties have a Presentations Contest that is divided into 2 or more age divisions by age: Junior (ages 8-11); Intermediate (ages 12-13) and Senior (ages 14-19). Check the County Fair Book for classes and contest rules. You will be able to choose to participate in several contest divisions or classes. Such as:

- Multimedia Presentation-
  This is a fully automated presentation 6-10 minutes in length using the power point software program, a computer and LCD projector.
- Individual or Team (2-3 people)
  - Presentation using LCD, video or overhead projector
  - Presentation using posters

State Competition

If you are 10 years old and will turn 11 during the current year you are eligible to compete in the State 4-H Presentations contest held in Lincoln, Nebraska during the Nebraska State Fair. However, you will have to compete at the county level to qualify for state competition.

Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Nebraska State Fair Presentations Contest Classes

- Multimedia Presentation
- Individual or Team (2-3 people)
    - Presentation using LCD, video or overhead projector
    - Presentation using posters
      Be sure to check the State Fair Book for contest rules.

State 4-H Horse Show Contests

The following contests are held during the Nebraska 4-H Horse Stampede held in Lincoln in February.

- Horse Public Speaking Contest
    - Rules available on animal science web site (http://animalscience.unl.edu/horse/publicspeak.htm)
- Horse Demonstration Contest
    - Rules available on animal science web site (http://animalscience.unl.edu/horse/democontest.htm)

School

Once you have experience preparing and giving a presentation you will be able to use those skills in school for class projects, speech classes and school organizations.

Community

There are many organizations in your community who have a commitment to supporting youth programs. They are usually very interested in hearing about what you have learned in 4-H. You could inquire with the organization President or program coordinator to make arrangements to give your presentation to their group.

Following are examples of presentation topics that would be of interest to community organizations:

- Preparing Beef
  Nebraska Cattlewomen
- Gun Safety
  Pheasants Forever
- Grooming a Horse
  Local horse club
- How to Take Good Pictures
  Local library

Community Service Ideas

- Help another 4-H'er write and practice his or her presentation.
- Volunteer to read books onto tape for the blind or elderly.
- Visit a local nursing home and deliver your presentation.
- Teach a presentations workshop for other 4-H'ers.

Additional 4-H Communications resources include:

- The Versatile 4-H Presentation
- The Four P's of Planning A Presentation
- Getting Ready to Give a 4-H Presentation
- Presentation Visuals
- Using PowerPoint® in 4-H Presentations
- Evaluating a 4-H Presentation
- How to Prepare a Multimedia Presentation
- How to Prepare a 4-H Radio Public Service Announcement

Visit the Nebraska 4-H Web site for additional resources (http:4h.unl.edu).

Written by:
Sandra Stockall
4-H Youth Development Specialist
University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension