

**District 11 4-H Consumer Decision Making Contest**  
**Lillie Appelt Johnson Youth Center**  
**109 East Park**  
**Hallettsville, TX**  
**April 17, 2014**

**INFORMATION & GUIDELINES**

**EVENT INFORMATION**

The Consumer Decision Making Contest is a competitive event that enables 4-H members to practice making decisions based on information about a situation and four available marketplace options. This contest is an opportunity to practice marketplace skills and compare decisions with a panel of judges who are knowledgeable about today's marketplace and the goods and services available.

**CONTEST OBJECTIVES**

As a result of participating in the Consumer Decision making Contest, 4-H members will:

- Demonstrate skill in making decisions based on facts;
- Apply knowledge and experience in consumer education by analyzing consumer situations;
- Experience making choices among selected marketplace options;
- Develop and strengthen their reasoning ability in consumer skills;
- Demonstrate their ability to organize thoughts and express them orally in a clear, confident manner.

**AGE CLASSIFICATIONS**

Please make sure all participants are entered in the correct division. Descriptions of age divisions are:

Senior Division - Contestants must have passed their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday but not have had their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday as of August 31, 2013.

Intermediate Division - Contestants must have passed their 11<sup>th</sup> birthday, but not have had their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday as of August 31, 2013.

Junior Division - Contestants must have had their 9<sup>th</sup> birthday (or be 8 and in the third grade) and not have had their 11<sup>th</sup> birthday as of August 31, 2013.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

Individuals who require an auxiliary service or accommodation in order to participate need to contact the District 11 Office at 361/265-9203 no later than April 1, 2014, in order for proper arrangements to be made.

## ELIGIBILITY

No limit is set for team entries per age division from each county participating in the District Consumer Decision Making (CDM) Contest. If a county does not have a team entering the CDM contest, the county may send one or two individual contestants for that age division. Three individuals in the same age division must be declared as a team.

According to the Texas Education Code, a 4-H member must be deemed “eligible” to compete in an event that takes place on a Saturday.

All 4-H youth, including youth in public, private, and/or home school must adhere to the following guidelines regarding extracurricular activities and academic eligibility:

Complete a “Declaration of Eligibility Form”

or

Name of 4-H'er must appear on a list of eligible students to participate in a specific extracurricular activity signed by the school principal or designee.

If a 4-H member is ineligible for a 4-H competitive event, the agent must notify the 4-H member, his/her parents, and the district office, by letter, of this situation. If the parent has any questions, he/she should be referred to the school administrator.

## CONTEST REGISTRATION

Participants will be **REQUIRED** to register for the District 11 4-H Consumer Decision Making Contest on 4-H CONNECT (online registration system). **The registration will be open from 12:00 a.m. on March 1 through 12:00 Midnight on April 3, 2014.** 4-H members may submit an entry at any time during this registration period. All entries on 4-H CONNECT must be certified by the respective county Extension agent. It is important to be aware that registration will close at Midnight on April 3. Late registration will be allowed from April 4 through April 11.

All entries on 4-H CONNECT must be certified by the respective county Extension agent within two business days following the registration deadline. **Failure to do so will result in the entry being rejected.**

## ENTRY FEE

An entry fee of \$10.00 per INDIVIDUAL will be charged for the Consumer Decision Making Contest for registration during the regular registration period. Late registration will result in an additional fee of \$25.00. **No refunds will be given for any reason!**

## TEAM COMPOSITE

A Consumer Decision Making Team is made up of three (3) to four (4) members. All team members must be enrolled in 4-H and actively participating as a 4-H member. Team designations will be made upon arrival at the contest.

## **SUBSTITUTIONS**

Only the 4-H members and the number of 4-H members who qualify at district, qualify for state. Substitutions should be used only as a means of keeping a team active when members have been forced to drop out for unexpected reasons (i.e. major illness, death). Substituting for the purpose of having one or more team members compete in another contest is not an unexpected reason and is unacceptable. Any substitutions have to be approved through the District Office. Substitutions may be made as follows:

Team of 2 or 3 members: 1 member may be substituted

Team of 4 or 5 members: 2 members may be substituted

## **STATE QUALIFIERS (SENIORS ONLY)**

Senior 4-H members are the only age division eligible to qualify for Texas 4-H Roundup. To be eligible for state participation, 4-H'ers must participate at the district competition. The teams and individuals that place first, second and third at district will be eligible to compete at Texas 4-H Roundup in June.

## **PRIOR COMPETITION**

SENIORS ONLY – Seniors are now allowed to participate in contests that they have won first place in at Texas 4-H Roundup. A list of contests considered to be the “Recognized National Contests” for each of Texas’ State winning teams in the related contest fields can be found on page 10 of the Texas 4-H Roundup Guide. Individuals who participate in Texas 4-H Roundup and then go on to compete at the national contest are **ineligible** to compete at both State 4-H Roundup and any National 4-H Contest associated with that specific contest.

## **TEAM AND HIGH POINT INDIVIDUALS**

The three high scoring individuals in the district contest may participate in the state contest, as individuals, if (and only if) their team does not advance to Texas 4-H Roundup. To further clarify, if the three high point individuals at the district contest are members of the first, second or third place teams, no individual entries will be accepted from the district. A 4-H member can only advance as an individual if the team does not!

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Volunteers are needed to assist with the contest. County Extension Agents are encouraged to submit names of volunteers. Additionally, county Extension agents need to let adult leaders know that volunteers will be recruited during the participant orientation and should be prepared to serve as a volunteer in the capacity needed (i.e. table monitor, timer). **Counties with a team should prepare to have at least one volunteer willing to assist with the contest.**

## **GENERAL RULES**

No cell phones, PDAs, game boys, etc. are allowed to be in the possession of any participant throughout the entire contest. Participants should give all such items to a parent or leader prior to the contest.

Each contestant is allowed to have pencils and a clipboard with two or three sheets of clean paper in the contest room.

## CONTEST CATEGORIES

In order to prepare for the contest, 4-H members should refer to the 2013-2014 4-H Consumer Decision Making Guides. These study guides and additional resources are available on the web at:

[http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/project\\_consumer/cdm](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/project_consumer/cdm)

Juniors will judge the following classes:

- Fast Food Meals
- Outdoor equipment (sleeping bags)
- Televisions
- Nutritious Snacks
- Cookware
- Mystery Class

Intermediates and Seniors will judge the following classes:

- Fast Food Meals
- Outdoor equipment (sleeping bags)
- Televisions
- Nutritious Snacks
- Cookware
- Mystery Class

Juniors will not give oral reasons.

**Intermediates** are required to give oral reasons on one class: **Fast Food Meals**

**Seniors** are required to give oral reasons on two classes: **Fast Food Meals & Televisions**

## CONTEST PROCEDURE

### Pre-Contest:

- Participant orientation will be conducted. Following participant orientation, contestants will be divided into judging groups according to contestant numbers. Contestants will remain in these groups throughout the judging of classes, rotating through six classes and two rest periods. Contestants must remain with assigned group throughout the entire contest, including the study period prior to oral reasons presentation.
- Non-participants will be asked to leave the contest area following orientation.

### Judging of Classes:

- As contestants gather around the class table to be judged, each must face away from the table keeping his/her back to the table until instructed by the timer to start judging.
- Each group will get seven (7) minutes to judge each class. A two minute warning will be given prior to time. At the end of the seven minutes, participants should face away from the table.
- One minute is allowed for each group to rotate to the next class.
- To indicate the ranking of items in each class, contestants should very carefully fill in the appropriate bubble which appears next to the appropriate placing on the Scranton. No Scantrons will be returned for corrections to be made and/or if the Scranton is completed incorrectly.
- Contestants may handle products in each judging class unless announced otherwise. However, the products must be handled carefully so that the quality will not be changed or the labels removed.
- No talking is permitted, and contestants may not leave the room while the contest is in progress. Contestants will be given one warning for talking. Thereafter, points will be deducted from the placing score, two (2) points for each reprimand.

### Reasons:

- Juniors will NOT give oral reasons.
- Intermediates are required to give oral reasons on one class.
- Seniors are required to give oral reasons on two classes.
- Reasons will be given in the scheduled order approximately 15 minutes after all classes have been judged.
- Two minutes are allowed for each set of reasons. Because some contestants may not take all of the allocated time for giving reasons, the next scheduled contestant should be ready as soon as the room monitor signals that the judges are ready.
- During the two rest periods of class judging, participants may begin preparing for oral reasons.
- Intermediate contestants may use a reason note card while giving oral reasons to judges but should only refer to the card when necessary.
- Seniors may not use a reason note card while giving oral reasons to judges. If so, scoring for oral reasons will begin at 30 points (instead of 50).
- Contestants who are waiting to give oral reasons must remain in the assigned study room/area. No talking is permitted, and quiet is required so that all contestants can concentrate.
- Upon completion of judging and giving all required oral reasons, contestants may be excused from the site.
- Contestants who leave the contest site before give all oral reasons will receive a score of zero (0) for reasons.

## **AWARDS**

Awards will be presented upon completion of tabulation.

All members of 1<sup>st</sup> place teams in each age division will receive a plaque or similar award.

All members of teams placing 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> in each age division will receive a rosette. Additional placings may receive rosettes if they are available.

High point individuals in each age division will receive a plaque or similar award.

Individuals placing 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> in each age division will receive a rosette. Additional placings may receive rosettes if they are available.

## **CONTEST SCHEDULE**

9:30 a.m.	Committee Set-up
1:30 - 2:00 p.m.	Registration
2:00 p.m.	Contest Begins
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Judging
3:45 p.m.	Reason Judges Orientation
4:00 - 4:15 p.m.	Oral Reasons Preparation
4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Oral Reasons
5:30 p.m.	Wrap-up contest/Tabulation
5:30 p.m.	Announcement of class official placings
5:30 - 6:00 p.m.	Public allowed to view classes
6:00 p.m.	Awards Presentation