

D-11 Talent Show Case

(Formerly Share-The-Fun)

Information & Guidelines

OBJECTIVES

- To provide an opportunity for 4-H youth to develop a spirit of cooperation through working together.
- To develop self-confidence through public appearance.
- To stimulate interest and encourage a broad-based recreation program in Texas 4-H at the club and county level.
- To encourage 4-H members to discover and develop their talents.
- To provide for social, cultural, and leadership development of 4-H youth.

RULES

There are seven (7) categories, each with a separate description and score card. Category descriptions are listed below, and also included in the Texas 4-H Roundup Guide. Participants may enter one group one competition and one group two competition. The groups are aligned with the Wednesday and Thursday competition days of State 4-H Round-Up for senior members who advance. It is very important that when registering on 4-H online that you select the correct category. The 7 categories are:

Group One

- Choreographed Routines
- Variety Show
- Musical - Instrumental (playing instrument(s) only; **no vocals**)
- Vocal

Group Two

- 4-H Skit
- Poetry/Prose
- Solo/Band Performance (**instrument AND vocals/singing**)

Participants are encouraged to refer to the State Guidelines for category and rule clarification. Additionally, accessing the state guidelines will provide participants with a copy of the scorecard, which can be very beneficial in preparation of the contest. Please remember that the state guidelines are written with the senior competition at State 4-H Round-Up in mind and that that contest details for District are included in this document. <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/events/roundup/>.

To determine the correct category for entry, please refer to the category descriptions. County Extension Agents are strongly encouraged to review entries for proper category and appropriateness of material and ensure that all other rules and regulations are followed. Judges will determine if an entry is in the correct category. Entering the wrong category may result in disqualification. If you have questions about the vocal, musical/instrumental and solo/band performance categories contact Michelle Wright at michelle.wright@ag.tamu.edu or 979-865-2078. Questions about Choreographed Routines, Variety show, 4-H Skit, and Poetry Prose should be directed to Natalie Knesek at natalie.knesek@ag.tamu.edu or 361-798-2221.

PROPS

Regulations for props should be followed. Props utilized must be able to go through doors that are 6 feet wide and 7 feet tall. Space at the district and state contest is limited. Each entry will be allowed to bring props that will be able to be stored in a space that is 3 foot x 8 foot.

Equipment

One Bluetooth compatible speaker and one microphone with a stand will be provided in each Talent Showcase contest room. Participants planning to use the provided Bluetooth speaker **MUST submit their music by March 22nd**. Please upload your music in the form of an mp3, mp4 or wav file no later than March 22nd. Please name your file with your name, county, and category, for example Jane Doe__Lavaca__Choreographed Routine. Upload the music to https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Bde-hLrcGH7NJDrCsqRmle-0FD2wiDWf?usp=drive_link in the google drive folder labeled 2024 D-11 Talent Showcase. Your music will be added to the playlist in your contest room, enabling smoother transitions between performances. **Those who do not submit music by the March 22nd deadline will be responsible for bringing their own speaker and device to play his or her own music.** Questions about music uploads may be sent to natalie.knesek@ag.tamu.edu.

Additionally, a piano will be available for use in the Instrumental contest room. All other props and equipment needed, such as music stands and stools, must be brought with the participants. Participants should plan to compete in an open ball room with a carpeted floor. Choreographed routine and skit participants should prepare to compete in a space that is less than 20 x 30 feet.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

The following materials may not be used in any category: talcum powder, flour, pies, water, oil, loose feathers, flower petals, hay, straw, helium balloons, glitter, sand, confetti, open flames or other substances which are hard to clean up, may cause damage, or be dangerous to participants. No roller skates, shoes with spikes, cleats, motorized vehicles, live animals or real firearms are allowed. Any prop resembling a firearm must receive prior approval from the contest directors – Natalie Knesek or Michelle Wright.

TIME LIMITS

Time limits for all categories will be strictly enforced. All categories will have a time limit of six (6) minutes for presentation and four (4) minutes for set-up and break-down. A penalty of five (5) points per minute, or partial minute, over the time limit will be deducted from the total score.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions are not necessary. If you chose to introduce yourself, the time will be counted as part of your performance time.

ADULT ASSISTANCE

Only adult coaches and/or agents will be allowed backstage, in the vicinity of the storage area for props, and to assist with set-up and break-down of props and equipment. *4-H members or other youth who are not a part of the team will not be allowed to assist with set-up and break-down.*

No accompanist will be permitted for any category. If music is required, it must be on a CD, cassette tape or performed by the contestant. See specific rules for each category for information related to this topic.

During a performance, adult coaches may give cues for music backstage or help with costume/prop

changes backstage. They are NOT allowed to participate in any other form while the act is going on. Any voices heard during the performance from back stage must be either a participant OR a taped voice.

CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS: Note: You may only enter one group one and one group two competition. Please make sure you are entering the correct category or you may be disqualified.

1. **4-H SKIT (Group Two) – 1 to 9 participants.** May be a 4-H based story line, promoting 4-H, community service, a project or activity. **This category may also address a specific youth issue and present ways in which this issue can be addressed through 4-H efforts.** May incorporate music, vocal selections, and/or choreographed routines (not the primary focal point) through character dialogue, interaction, and storytelling, but these aspects cannot be more than half of the performance. Skits can be humorous, creative and make fun of but not degrade Extension employees or the 4-H program. All 4-H members entered in the category must be a part of the act. Judged on material chosen, talent, creativity, showmanship, costumes and props. Four (4) minutes for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.
2. **CHOREOGRAPHED ROUTINES (Group One) – 1 to 9 participants.** No speaking to form a skit or story line. The act requires choreography and can be demonstrated through twirling, pom pom squad routines, jump rope teams, basketball dribbling exhibitions, or dance (jazz, tap, country & western, ballroom, etc.). Sign language presentations to music have been added to choreographed routines. However, if a participant is SINGING and SIGNING, this entry should be entered in the Vocal Category. All 4-H members entered in the category must be a part of the act. **Acts may use recorded music on a CD or digital music player but may not use an accompanist.** Judged on material chosen, talent, uniformity, creativity, showmanship, costuming. Four (4) minutes for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.
3. **Variety Show (Group One).** An entry may consist of one (1) to nine (9) participants. This is an acting category. Variety show, also known as variety arts or variety entertainment, is entertainment made up of a variety of acts including sketch comedy, magic, acrobatics, juggling, and ventriloquism and other acts that do not fit into the other six categories. **Acts cannot incorporate 4-H related material or theme.** (Otherwise, it would be categorized as 4-H Skit.) Creativity is encouraged, but the degradation of any individual or organization is not permitted. May incorporate music, vocal selections, and/or choreographed routines, but these aspects cannot be more than half of the performance. Judged on material chosen, talent, creativity, showmanship, costumes and props. Four (4) minutes for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.
4. **MUSICAL – INSTRUMENTAL (Group One) – 1 to 9 participants.** Musical presentation may be musical instruments accompanied by background tape or an instrumental performance only. **No accompanist will be allowed. Participants may not sing or incorporate a skit, poetry, prose, or choreography with their act.** Judged on talent, showmanship, musical presentation, and material chosen. Four (4) minutes for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.
5. **POETRY/PROSE (Group Two)– 1 to 9 participants.** Acts which showcase poetry or prose are required. The act may **NOT** incorporate vocal, musical, and/or choreographed routine. This category does not require 4-H related material, however, if an original poem or prose piece showcasing 4-H is written, this would be acceptable. Every 4-H member entered in the category must be a part of the performance on stage. **All material must be memorized. No script may be used during the performance.** Judged on material chosen, message, talent,

presentation, style, props/costuming. Four (4) minutes total for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total often (10) minutes per act.

Defining Poetry and Prose: Poetry is generally characterized by structured meter and rhyme that tells a story or provides a message to the reader. Prose is distinguished from poetry by its greater variety of rhythm and its closer resemblance to the patterns of everyday speech. Another description might be an excerpt from a larger piece such as a play or book.

6. **VOCAL (Group One)– 1 to 9 participants.** Vocal presentation may be done a cappella or with an accompaniment CD/tape. **No accompanist will be allowed for this category and the vocalist(s) may not play an instrument.** All members in the act must be singing. No lip sync will be allowed. **Contestants may not present skits, poetry or other speaking during the act. They may, however, move around the stage and incorporate choreography with their presentation for the purpose of enhancing their showmanship.** Sign language may be added to enhance the performance, but entries that strictly showcase sign language without vocal presentation are not permitted in this category. They must be entered in choreographed routines. Judged on talent, showmanship, vocal presentation, and material chosen. Four (4) minutes for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.
7. **SOLO/BAND PERFORMANCE (Group Two) – 1 to 9 participants.** All 4-H members entered in the category must be a part of the act by playing a musical instrument, singing or both (solo performance must play an instrument and sing). Participants **MUST** incorporate singing in the acts, but cannot incorporate skits, poetry, or prose. They may, however, move around the stage and incorporate choreography with their presentation for the purpose of enhancing their showmanship. Judged on talent, showmanship, musical presentation, vocal presentation when applicable and material chosen. Four (4) minutes for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

Audience

An audience including other participants, parents, and guest will be allowed in the contest room to the point that the room capacity allows. Audience is an important aspect of the talent showcase experience as it is important to have audience appeal. Audience members may only come and go from the contest room between performances. Audience members should come prepared to give their full attention and respect to the acts that they watch.

NOTE: PARTICIPANTS MUST COMPETE WITH THE SAME MATERIAL AT ALL LEVELS OF COMPETITION - COUNTY, DISTRICT, STATE. FOR EXAMPLE, YOU CANNOT CHOOSE ONE SONG FOR YOUR ACT AND THEN CHANGE SONGS BETWEEN DISTRICT AND STATE. ACTS MAY FINE TUNE PERFORMANCES BASED ON CRITIQUES FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT JUDGING, BUT CHANGING MATERIAL COMPLETELY IS PROHIBITED.

Participants may compete in group one and one group two competition. This aligns with the State Round-Up Contest Dates.

- **Groups 1 CONTESTS: Choreographed Routines, Variety Show, Musical/Instrumental, Vocal**
- **Group 2 CONTESTS: 4-H Skit, Poetry /Prose, Solo/Band Performance**

The **first, second, and third place winners** from each category at the county contest will qualify for the district contest.