

NEW MEXICO 4-H TALENT CONTEST

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 New Mexico 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.

I. Eligibility

- A. Read General Rules
- B. 4-H Members may be enrolled in any 4-H Project
- C. Each county may send one or two entries in each category
- D. There are seven (7) categories, each with a separate description and scorecard. Category descriptions are listed in the enclosed Contest and Category descriptions. The seven (7) categories are:
 - a. Comedian (individual or group up to five)
 - b. Poet (individual or group up to five)
 - c. Vocal (individual or group up to five)
 - d. Musical (individual or group up to nine)
 - e. Choreographed Routines (individual or group up to nine)
 - f. Drama (individual or group up to nine)
 - g. Celebrate 4-H (individual or group up to nine)
- E. To determine category for entry, refer to the descriptions on the enclosed Contest and 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.
- F. Acts are to be for teenagers, by teenagers. Entries deemed inappropriate by the contest superintendent or judges will not be considered for awards, and may be interrupted and/or cancelled during the contest.
- G. Participants may participate in any given category only once (not as an individual and a group), however, they may enter multiple categories as time allows.

II. Procedures

- A. All participants are to report to the assigned contest location at the time stated in the 4-H State Conference Schedule.
- B. Judges will determine:
 1. If an entry is in the correct category.
 2. The order of performance for the contest.
 3. All decisions by the judges will be final.
- C. If at all possible, a sound system will be provided, complete with microphone and CD/tape players. Some categories may be required to perform without a microphone.
- D. Regulations for props should be followed. Props utilized must be able to go through doors that are 6 ft. wide and 7 feet tall. The following materials may not be used in any category: talcum powder, flour, pies, water, oil, feathers 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 fire arms will be allowed.

- E. Time limits for all categories will be strictly enforced. **All categories** 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 part of a minute over the time limit allowed will be deducted from the total score.
- F. Only **adult coaches** will be allowed back stage, in the vicinity of the storage area of 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 or take down.*
- G. **During a performance adult coaches may give cues for music back stage or help with costume/prop changes back stage. 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.**
- H. Music must be turned by close of check-in opening day of State Conference.
- I. If requested, a piano will be provided. All other musical instruments must be furnished by the participant.

III. Reference Materials

New Mexico 4-H Contest and Categories Descriptions
New Mexico 4-H Talent Contest Score Sheet- Celebrate 4-H
New Mexico 4-H Talent Contest Score Sheet- Comedy
New Mexico 4-H Talent Contest Score Sheet- Poetry
New Mexico 4-H Talent Contest Score Sheet- Drama
New Mexico 4-H Talent Contest Score Sheet- Choreographed Routine
New Mexico 4-H Talent Contest Score Sheet- Musical
New Mexico 4-H Talent Contest Score Sheet- Vocal

IV. Awards

- A. First through fifth place ribbons will be awarded and a plaque will be awarded to the 1st place individual or team.
- B. The top five winners in each category as determined by the judges will be recognized at the Awards Assembly for that day's events. First place in each category will have the opportunity to perform at the next appropriate general assembly.
- C. Winning acts may be asked to perform at the Annual 4-H Foundation Gala.

**NEW MEXICO 4-H TALENT CONTEST
CONTEST AND CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS**

ENTRY:

INDIVIDUAL OR GROUPS (Maximum of five participants) – Comedian and Poet Categories
INDIVIDUAL OR GROUPS (Maximum of nine participants) – Vocal, Musical, Choreographed
Routines, Drama, Celebrate 4-H Categories

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CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS: (NOTE: Information printed in *italics* below is information added to help clarify the category descriptions)

COMEDIAN – Individual or Group Entry – maximum of five (5) participants. Acts which showcase comedy are required. The act may incorporate vocal, musical, and/or dance but these aspects cannot be more than half of the performance time. These performances **CANNOT** include 4-H related material. Otherwise, it should be categorized as “Celebrate 4-H”. Examples of comedy entries might include “Who’s On First?”, The Three Stooges, or something original. Stand-Up Comedy is also acceptable, as long as the material is appropriate for a youth audience. Consider selecting a prose piece as is used in UIL competition that is humorous. 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 of ten (10) minutes per act.

POET – Individual or Group Entry – maximum of five (5) participants. Acts which showcase poetry are required. The act may incorporate vocal, musical, and/or dance but these aspects cannot be more than half of the performance time. This category does not require 4-H related material, however, if an original poem showcasing 4-H is written, this would be acceptable. 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 of ten (10) minutes per act.

VOCAL – Individual or Group Entry – maximum of nine (9) participants. Vocal presentation may be done a cappella, with an accompaniment tape, or musical instruments. No lip sync will be allowed. No skit or story line will be permitted. This category will be judged on vocal talent, not accompanying music. **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.

MUSICAL – Individual or Group Entry – maximum of nine (9) participants. Musical presentation may be musical instruments accompanied by background tape, a band, piano solo, etc. No vocal presentation or lip sync will be permitted. No skit or story line will be permitted. 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.

CHOREOGRAPHED ROUTINES – Individual or Group Entry – maximum of nine (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.** Judged on material chosen, talent, uniformity, creativity, showmanship, costuming, 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.

DRAMA – Individual or Group Entry – maximum of nine (9) participants. Has a story line or theme that relates to a youth issue, current event, or world affair. The drama skit may be simply increasing awareness of the issue and/or a recommended solution to the issue being addressed. It is not a requirement to include 4-H in the skit. May incorporate music, vocal, and/or dance but these aspects cannot be more than half of the performance. Judged on creativity, material chosen, showmanship, costume, talent, props, message, addressing of current issues. 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.

CELEBRATE 4-H – Individual or Group Entry – maximum of nine (9) participants. Must be 4-H based story line, promoting 4-H, community service, a project or activity. May incorporate music, vocal selections, and/or dance 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. 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.