

TO: Teachers/Parents/Admin/4-H Leaders
FROM: Heather Wynn, Rachael Davis and Lisa Dodson

McCracken County Extension Agents, 4-H Youth Development

RE: **McCracken County 4-H Communication Day**
Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Cooperative Extension Service
McCracken County
2025 New Holt Road
Paducah, KY 42001
(270) 554-9520
Fax: (270) 554-8283
<http://mccracken.ca.uky.edu>

Attached you will find the guide for the 2024 4-H Communications Day Contest. We have included several things we hope will be useful in preparing for the contest.

The McCracken County 4-H Communications Day will be held at the Murray State University Paducah Campus. Contestant check-in will begin at 5:30 pm with a quick orientation at 6:00 pm before the competition begins.

Speeches:

Age Categories for youth ages 9 – 19 as of January 1, 2024. **Each classroom or club may enter one student in each age category per classroom or club.**

Demonstrations:

Thirteen different categories in both Junior and Senior Demonstrations. Juniors are 9 - 13 years old and Seniors are 14 - 19 years old as of January 1, 2024. **Each classroom or 4-H Club may enter one student in each category.**


Mock Interviews:

The Mock Job Interview Competition is a Public Speaking contest that gives youth an opportunity to practice the real life skill of applying for a job. The contest involves a set of fictitious job descriptions where youth ages 14 -18 can go through the process of applying for a job.

Fully completed registration forms for contestants are due by Friday, March 8, 2024. These can be turned in via email to haley martin@uky.edu or in person at 2025 New Holt Road, Paducah, KY.

Contact your 4-H agent for in-school assistance with the 4-H Communications Project if needed. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (270) 554-9520 or email Heather at hnhu234@uky.edu.

The 4-H Communications Project is an excellent opportunity to meet many of the Kentucky Learning Goals. We sincerely hope you will participate and look forward to the competition!



SPEECH CATEGORIES:

9-Year-Old	10-Year-Old
11-Year-Old	12-Year-Old
13-Year-Old	14-Year-Old
15-Year-Old	16-Year-Old
	17–18-Year-Old

DEMONSTRATION CATEGORIES:

Junior (9-13) and Senior (14-18) -Category selection should be based on the primary purpose of the demonstration. It is suggested that demonstrations that do not clearly fit into one category be modified to include information and material relative to the selected category.

CORE: AGRICULTURE

Agriculture – to include information on agriculture business and economics, aquaculture, permaculture, horticulture, and plant and soil sciences (e.g. crops, agronomy, gardening).

Animal Science – to include information on selection, care and feeding of animals, financial records, operations, and animal products for small or large animals. This also includes companion animals. (Demonstrations on horses or horse related topics can be included in this category, however, it does not qualify the participant for the State Horse Contests; this is a different event).

CORE: EXPRESSIVE ARTS

Visual Arts - to include drawing, painting, mixed media, decoupage, candle making, macramé, scrap booking, embroidery, quilting, silk screen, batik, block print, corn-shuck flowers, ceramics, jewelry making and similar topics. This category also includes demonstrations related to photography such as picture taking, composition, framing or scrapbooking.

Performing Arts - all demonstrations related to the performing arts including theatre, dance, musical instruments, and musical performance.

CORE: FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

Clothing & Textiles – to include construction, techniques, wardrobe selection and planning (color, design accessories, appropriate dress for various occasions) selection, use or care of clothing related equipment, care of clothing, posture as it relates to fit, fibers, fabrics, and textile related topics.

Family & Consumer Sciences – to include information on childcare, consumer and financial education, family life, and home environment. THIS CATEGORY EXCLUDES CLOTHING & TEXTILES AND FOODS. THESE ARE SEPARATE CATEGORIES.

Foods – to include preparation skills and creativity in using foods for meals and snacks (including breads). Please submit a copy of the recipe on the day of the event.

CORE: HEALTH

Health – to include information on physical activity, bullying, substance abuse, personal development, and safety.

CORE: LEADERSHIP

Team Demonstrations – any demonstration (regardless of topic) conducted by two (2) 4-H members of the same age category (i.e. either juniors or both seniors). Each participant must have a significant speaking AND presentation role in the demonstration. Youth may participate in either the individual demonstrations OR the team demonstration category. They may NOT do both.

CORE: NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural Resources– includes Entomology, Environment, Geology, Forestry, Soils, Water and Wildlife. This category can include science-fair type experiments related to these topics.

Shooting Sports – includes proper care and cleaning of equipment, safety, sighting alignment and shooting techniques, selecting equipment and ammunition. Weapons of any sort cannot be brought into the building or on the grounds of school or university property. This includes firearms, bullets, bows and arrows. Mockups, models, and charts must be used instead. Models cannot look like an actual gun, bow or other firearm.

CORE: SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

Science, Engineering and Technology – to include information on ATV safety, aerospace/rocketry, biotechnology, bicycle, energy, GPS/GIS, robotics, general science, and computer sciences [may NOT use computer projection equipment in place of posters]. This category can include science-fair type experiments related to these topics.

Digital Media Presentation – to include demonstrations using presentation software (i.e. PowerPoint, Prezi) regardless of topic. Slides are used in lieu of poster boards. Please bring the presentation on media that can be transferred to another computer (i.e. portable drive).



NAME: _____ COUNTY: _____ AGE: _____

CATEGORY: _____ TITLE: _____

Instructions: Write the appropriate rating in the "Score" column. Make comments to help participants identify their strengths and areas for improvement. Use the back of the sheet if necessary. Scores below a three must include a comment.

EVALUATION CRITERIA	EXCELLENT	VERY GOOD	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	SCORE	COMMENTS
DEMONSTRATOR:							
1. Neat, well-groomed, dressed appropriately.	5	4	3	2	1		
2. Posture (erect but not stiff).	5	4	3	2	1		
3. Gestures natural (contribute to talk).	5	4	3	2	1		
4. Eye contact with audience.	5	4	3	2	1		
PRESENTATION:							
1. Introduction interesting and gives purpose.	5	4	3	2	1		
2. Visual aids appealing, organized and visible.	5	4	3	2	1		
3. Steps well organized.	5	4	3	2	1		
4. Demonstrator skilled in working with equipment.	5	4	3	2	1		
5. Suitable equipment and proper techniques used.	5	4	3	2	1		
6. Procedures easy to view by audience.	5	4	3	2	1		
7. Effective use of notes (if used; displays confidence & composure).	5	4	3	2	1		
8. Display finished product, offer sample to judges or show that the exhibit works.	5	4	3	2	1		
9. Conclusion (short, interesting and reviews main points, asks for questions).	5	4	3	2	1		
AUDIBILITY:							
1. Clearly heard and easy to understand.	5	4	3	2	1		
2. Voice expressive.	5	4	3	2	1		
3. Talking while working (no dead silent moments, unless equipment is running)	5	4	3	2	1		
GENERAL:							
1. Originality.	5	4	3	2	1		
2. Use of correct grammar and vocabulary.	5	4	3	2	1		
3. Information age appropriate.	5	4	3	2	1		
4. Subject matter accurate and up to date.	5	4	3	2	1		

TIME: _____ **TIME PENALTY: YES/NO** _____ **TOTAL SCORE:** _____

TIME: 5-15 minutes. Participants going over/under time will be assessed a one-time penalty of 3 points from the average score and WILL BE ELIGIBLE for a 1st, 2nd or 3rd placing

SCORING: _____ **RIBBON:** _____ **PLACE:** _____
BLUE 100 - 80 _____ **BLUE** _____ **CHAMPION**
RED 60-79 _____ **RED** _____ **2ND**
WHITE 59 AND BELOW _____ **WHITE** _____ **3RD**

SCORE 1	
SCORE 2	
AVERAGE	
TIME PENALTY	
FINAL SCORE	

JUDGE'S SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____



NAME: _____ **COUNTY:** _____ **AGE:** _____

CATEGORY: _____ **TITLE:** _____

Instructions: Write the appropriate rating in the "Score" column. Make comments to help participants identify their strengths and areas for improvement. Use the back of the sheet if necessary. Scores below a three must include a comment.

EVALUATION CRITERIA	EXCELLENT	VERY GOOD	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	SCORE	COMMENTS
APPEARANCE: 1. Neat, well-groomed, dressed appropriately.	5	4	3	2	1		
AUDIBILITY: 1. Pitch, volume, speed, tone, rhythm.	5	4	3	2	1		
2. Clear pronunciation.	5	4	3	2	1		
3. Clearly heard and easy to understand.	5	4	3	2	1		
4. Enthusiastic, personality shows through.	5	4	3	2	1		
5. Speaker captures and retains audience attention.	5	4	3	2	1		
EYE CONTACT AND POISE: 1. Eye contact with audience.	5	4	3	2	1		
2. Gestures natural (contribute to talk).	5	4	3	2	1		
3. Posture (erect but not stiff).	5	4	3	2	1		
4. Body language exhibited by contestant desirable.	5	4	3	2	1		
5. Effective use of notes (if used; displays confidence & composure).	5	4	3	2	1		
ORGANIZATION OF MATERIAL: 1. Introduction gets audience attention & introduces subject.	5	4	3	2	1		
2. Main points organized.	5	4	3	2	1		
3. Flow of speech (smooth with no unnecessary pauses).	5	4	3	2	1		
4. Conclusion (short, interesting, and final).	5	4	3	2	1		
GENERAL: 1. Originality.	5	4	3	2	1		
2. Use of correct grammar and vocabulary.	5	4	3	2	1		
3. Information age appropriate.	5	4	3	2	1		
4. Speaker understands the content of the speech.	5	4	3	2	1		
5. Subject matter accurate and up to date.	5	4	3	2	1		

TIME: _____ **TIME PENALTY: YES/NO** _____ **TOTAL SCORE:** _____

TIME: SENIOR: 5-7 min; JUNIOR: 3-5 min. Participants going over/under time will be assessed a one-time penalty of 3 points from the final, averaged score and WILL BE ELIGIBLE for a 1st, 2nd or 3rd placing.

SCORING: **BLUE 100 - 80** **RIBBON:** **BLUE** **PLACE**
RED 60-79 **RED** **CHAMPION**
WHITE 59 AND BELOW **WHITE** **2ND**
3RD

SCORE 1	
SCORE 2	
AVERAGE	
TIME PENALTY	
FINAL SCORE	

JUDGE SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____



General Rules

- 1) This event includes Speeches, Demonstrations (Team and Individual) and Illustrated talks.
- 2) Each Area Grouping can send one participant per category.
- 3) The state standard is that state communication day event participants earn a blue ribbon at the Area level to qualify for the state communications day event.
- 4) Participants can participate in one speech and one demonstration category per year.
- 5) State Champions may participate only in categories in which they have NOT previously won.
- 6) It is suggested that the speech or demonstration given by the 4-H'er be a new topic from previous years.
- 7) The contestant will be introduced by name and title by the room host. There will be no penalty if name and subject or title is used during the presentation.
- 8) A penalty of three points will be subtracted from the participant's **total overall score** for time errors (under/over time). The time requirement penalty will apply to the state contest, but not necessarily to county or area events. Participants will be eligible for champion placement.
- 9) The decisions of the judges are FINAL.

Speech Specific Rules

- 10) Any youth age 9-19 (must have passed their 9th birthday but have not passed their 19th birthday as of January 1 of the current program year) may participate in the 4-H Public Speaking (Talk Program) on a county basis. SENIORS must have passed their 14th birthday but not their 19th birthday as of January 1 of the current year.
- 11) **NOTE: AGE REQUIREMENTS:** We understand that programming areas may host their event in the Fall which falls before January 1st of the current year for the State Communication's event. Please keep this in mind when certifying age on the registration form for the State Event. (i.e. youth may be age 15 in November, however, state event is not until Spring of next year, youth has a birthday Dec. 1, and is now age 16 for the state event, he/she cannot be the area representative for the 15 age category).
- 12) Speeches by Senior youth (14-19 age youth) must be between 5 to 7 minutes long. Speeches by Junior youth (9-13 age youth) must be between 3 to 5 minutes.
- 13) **Senior Level:** Because this is an educational learning experience, the Senior 4-H'er is expected to choose a topic, research and write their own speech. A participant may have help with practicing the speech. **Junior Level:** The 4-H'er may have assistance in writing and preparation based on age level.
- 14) No visual aids will be used in speech competitions. **Costumes (special outfits)** and/or electronic equipment are considered visual aids. Speakers using visual aids will receive a ribbon but will not be considered for champion placement.
- 15) The use of note cards/electronic notes is optional. Points will not be added or subtracted for the use of notes unless the speaker uses them in a distracting manner.



- 16) Dramatic readings, dramatic monologues and recitation of poems (as the entire speech) including web-based information will not be accepted. Excessive or distracting body or hand gestures will be counted against participants in the scoring section.

Demonstration Specific Rules

- 17) Junior Demonstrations: Any member age 9-13 may compete in Junior Demonstrations as per their age determined on January 1st of the year in which the state contest is held.
Senior Demonstrations: Any member age 14-19 may participate in Senior Demonstration (must have passed their 14th birthday but have not passed their 19th birthday as of January 1st of the year in which the state contest is held). Age is determined by the date of the State event, not when the district or multi-county group hosts their event.
- 18) A participant may have help with practicing the demonstration. Preparation may include practicing in front of peers, club leaders, etc. **At the SENIOR LEVEL, the 4-H'er is expected to demonstrate original work – choosing a topic, researching it and writing their own speech or demonstration. The internet may be used as a reference source but NOT as a source for a non-original speech or demonstration.**
- 19) A participant may have help setting up their demonstration but may not have another person helping during the demonstration. Only team demonstrations may have more than one person participating. There shall be no assistance from the audience.
- 20) Team demonstrations ARE permitted at the state level. They will follow the same rules and regulations of the single participant demonstrations. Two (2) 4-H members will comprise a team. Each person must have a significant speaking and presentation portion. Team demonstrations will be placed in a Junior Category or a Senior Category regardless of topic. All team members must be in the same age category.
- 21) Weapons of any sort cannot be brought into the building or on the grounds of school or university property. This includes firearms, bullets, bows and arrows. Mockups, models, and charts must be used instead. Models cannot look like an actual gun, bow, or other firearm.
- 22) The use of computers and presentation equipment is allowed in the presentation software category only. It is not allowed in any other category. *Electronic devices may be used in place of notecards.
- 23) Demonstrations must have a posterboard or tri-fold poster as aids during their demonstration.
- 24) Videos may not be used during presentations in any category.
- 25) NO LIVE ANIMALS of any size are permitted.
- 26) Youth may participate in the individual demonstrations or choose to participate in the team demonstration category. They may NOT do both.



McCracken County 4-H 2024 Communications Day Registration

County: McCracken **4-H Agents:** Heather Wynn, Lisa Dodson, Rachael Davis

Please indicate the event you are registering for:

<p>Speech (mark only one)</p> <p>9 yr old 10 yr old 11 yr old</p> <p>12 yr old 13 yr old 14 yr old</p> <p>15 yr old 16 yr old 17 – 18 yr old</p>	<p>Mock Job Interview (mark only one)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">14-15 year old 16-18 year old</p> <p>Demonstration</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Junior Senior</p> <p>Demonstration Category:</p> <p>_____</p>
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Speech Title			
Demonstration Title			
First Name		Last Name	
Birthdate (m/d/y)		Age (as of 1.1.24)	
Street Address		City and Zip	
Primary Phone		Email (Required)	
School		Grade 2023-2024	
Gender	Male Female	Race	
Ethnicity	Hispanic Non-Hispanic		

Publicity Release

I, hereby grant the 4-H program, University of Kentucky and their agents, the right to use, reproduce, assign and/or distribute still pictures, video and sound recordings of myself or my minor child without compensation for use in promotion, advertising, educational publications or online content.

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____
 Date: _____

PLEASE READ AND SIGN BACK OF FORM

4-H Youth Development CODE OF CONDUCT FORM (NOT FOR RESIDENTIAL CAMPS)

All 4-H members and family/friends associated with 4-H members must respect the individual rights, safety and property of others and adhere to this Code of Conduct. A 4-H member may be prohibited from participating in a specific event/program if the participation by the individual poses a danger to the 4-H member and/or others. The following guidelines are designed to make all 4-H events safe, meaningful, and satisfying to youth and others attending.

WHILE ATTENDING ALL 4-H MEETINGS, PROJECTS, PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS:

- Each 4-H participant is expected to attend all planned sessions, workshops, field trips, and meetings of the event, and to be in appropriate dress. Dress codes will be specific to individual events. Delegation chaperones and/or volunteers are responsible for ensuring that members participate in all aspects of the planned program activities.
- The possession and use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, and/or drugs (except for medications prescribed to the participant by a licensed physician) are strictly prohibited. Delegation chaperones and/or volunteers shall limit use of tobacco products to designated areas.
- Setting off fire alarms, tampering with fire extinguishing and other emergency equipment are strictly prohibited.
- Gambling of any type is strictly prohibited.
- Obscene, discriminatory and/or inappropriate language, roughhousing, and insubordination are prohibited at all times.
- Respect toward others and facilities shall be demonstrated. Bullying, harassment of others or destruction of property shall not be tolerated. Bullying and harassment can include the use of social media.
- Display of overly affectionate or inappropriate attention between participants is strictly prohibited.
- Technological equipment (including but not limited to cell phones, laptops or mp3 players) shall not interfere with the program and may not be allowed in certain situations.
- Each county may adopt additional Code of Conduct guidelines.

WHILE ATTENDING OVERNIGHT CONFERENCES, CAMPS, AND EVENTS, THE FOLLOWING WILL ALSO APPLY:

- All participants are to be in their assigned area at curfew and comply with quiet hours, lights out, and other rules of the event.
- No member or volunteer may leave the grounds without the permission of the conference director or adult in charge. An adult shall accompany a 4-H member any time he/she leave the grounds. Adults shall notify another adult in the delegation before leaving the grounds.
- At overnight events, only Conference participants may be in sleeping areas. Lounges or common areas may be used only for working committees and social activities.
- Room service such as phone calls, food, laundry, or others shall not be permitted without chaperone permission.

Any violations of this Code of Conduct shall be reported promptly to the adult in charge of the delegation/program and to the person in charge of the event. The person in charge of the event shall have the final responsibility for disciplinary action. **Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct by 4-H'ers and family/friends associated with the 4-H participant may result in penalty, including, but not limited to, the following:**

- Sent home from the activity or event at his/her own expense
- Released to nearest law enforcement authority
- Barred from participation from future 4-H events
- Termination of 4-H membership
- Assessed the cost of damages for destruction of property

I, _____, have read the Code of Conduct and agree to abide by its rules.
(Print Name)

I understand that infraction of this Code of Conduct will result in any or all of the penalties listed above.

In the event I received a scholarship or financial assistance to an event and can no longer attend, I am responsible for notifying my 4-H Agent one week prior to the event and/or finding my own replacement. Failure to communicate with my 4-H Agent may result in becoming ineligible for future scholarships and any money paid by participant may be forfeited.

Member/Volunteer _____ County _____
Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

