PUBLIC SPEAKING GUIDELINES

Purpose/Objectives:

- Develop speaking skills and expand vocabulary.
- Learn to collect information and research topics.
- Learn to write and organize a speech.
- Develop an appropriate speaking presence and appearance.
- Develop good judgment, speech and actions before an audience.

Eligibility:
Individuals may compete. There is no team category. Age is determined as of January 1 of the current year. Age categories are: 5-8, 9-10, 11-13 and 14-18.

Rules/Regulations:

- Speeches must be a minimum of 5 minutes and a maximum of 7 minutes.
- Speeches may pertain to any topic.
- Notes may be used as a guide but are not encouraged.
- Participants are not to use props, visuals, or costumes.
- Questions do not follow a 4-H competitive speech.

Judging:

- Judges will review each speech and complete a 4-H Public Speaking Evaluation Rubric.
- Judges will not ask questions at the end of the speech.
- A point system will be used to determine winners.
- Speeches will be judged based on the following:
  
  I. Topic – is appropriate for speaker’s age and skill level
  II. Subject Knowledge and Coverage – in-depth knowledge of subject is demonstrated
  III. Organization – presentation shows skill and creativity
  IV. Voice – tone and language are skillful and effective
  V. Manner and Appearance – presented with businesslike conduct and style
  VI. Opening and Closing – well organized, creative and effective and contribute to a unified an cohesive presentation
  VII. Effectiveness – techniques are used to artfully and successfully create audience interest and involvement

4-H Scholarships: 4-H’ers who register and compete in the public speaking contest will be given a 4-H Scholarship in the following amount:

- **Cloverbuds** - $5.00 for participation
- **9 – 19 Year Olds** - $5.00 for participation