



4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Program

Policy for Madison County Program

The following policy is recommended to provide consistency between the school program and the county finals.

ORGANIZING YOUR SCHOOL PROGRAM

Classroom contests are to be held for all sections of 4th, 5th, and 6th grades (usually held in Language Arts classes). Teachers are encouraged to require this activity for all students; it may or may not be a graded requirement. Follow the Teacher Lesson Plans provided in your packet. Select a day for classroom competition; invite another teacher or community resource person to come and judge speeches. The top three winners receive ribbons: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. **All three winners from each classroom contest advance to the school competition.**

At the school competition, judges should select the top three winners in each division. Winners receive the medallions provided by Tropicana. **The top two winners in each division will advance to the County Competition. School competitions should be completed by April 3, 2006 to provide time to register each school winner for the County Competition.** Please announce the date of the county contest in advance so students will be prepared if they win the school contest. **Please record school winners on the form provided to the curriculum coordinator for your school and return to the Extension Office as soon as possible.**

The county 4-H office will coordinate a county competition at the completion of the school competitions.

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

A number of printed materials are available to you.

Teacher Lesson Plans - this curriculum guide provides step-by-step suggestions for teachers to implement the week-long program in their class.

Lucky Clover Brochure - One (1) for each student.

Certificate of Participation - Each teacher gives a certificate of participation to every student.

Lucky Clover Video - This four minute video gives students some helpful tips about making a speech. The video is available on a loan basis from the 4-H Office. Call 973-4138 to reserve.

SPEAKING CONTEST RULES

Speeches must be the original work of the student and must be the same topic that was used for classroom, school, and county competitions. It is permissible to make changes to the speech to improve it, based on learning and experience at the different levels of competition. Of course, offensive material or language is not permitted.

Speeches should last between two and three minutes. Speeches that are less than two minutes are penalized one (1) point for every five seconds they are under the time limit allowed. Speeches that are over three minutes are penalized five (5) points for every second they are over the time limit allowed.

The maximum penalty for timing is 10 points. (See "Judging" for additional information.)

Students may not use visual aids, props, pictures, or costumes.

Students may work from note cards, an outline, or memory. No points are awarded or subtracted based on this format.

Each speaker should be introduced by an emcee who will indicate the student's name, classroom or school, and the title of the speech. It is not necessary for speakers to begin their speech with this information.

All students will speak from a podium with a microphone at the County Competition. We encourage the use of a podium and microphone at the school competition. We suggest having a box available for students to stand on if they are unable to see over the podium and speak into the microphone.

It is recommended that students dress in attire that is comfortable such as pants for boys and slacks or a skirt for girls. Suits and dresses are not necessary. Parents are encouraged to help their child select an outfit that makes them feel comfortable and confident. Judges will not add or subtract points for attire.

It is recommended during the school competitions that the use of video equipment or cameras during speeches be allowed, however this decision will be left up to the school competition coordinator. Video equipment and camera use will be allowed during the County Competition.

It is suggested that the order of speeches be predetermined by a random drawing of names. This is the procedure used for the county competition.

JUDGING

Judging is based on two areas - composition and presentation. Each of these areas has 6 subjects for which the judges may award a total of 10 points each for a maximum of 120 points. The decisions of the judges at all levels are final.

Composition of Speech:

Choice of material - student uses original material, subject is unique

Effective introduction - interesting, captures attention and indicates the topic

Effective body or main portion of speech - a logical and smooth flow of material

Use of language - effective selection, combination and use of words

Effective conclusion - summarizes material and concludes speech effectively; not too abrupt

Time length - automatically receive 10 points if within time limit; any penalties will be marked by staff tabulating the results.

Presentation of Speech:

Audience bond - establishes and maintains eye contact with members of the audience

Delivery - fluent and smooth and appears relaxed

Pronunciation - correct

Articulation - clear, easy to understand

Volume - appropriate volume level; effective changes to volume level throughout speech

Speed - speaks at a speed that can be understood, varies speed and uses pauses effectively

We recommend using a minimum of three impartial judges representing different areas of expertise (such as teaching, business, and civic organizations). It is also valuable to have a diverse panel of judges including males, females, and minorities.

The winner is the contestant with the highest score. In the event of a tie, the judges must determine the winner by voting.

The judges have a very difficult job and we recommend announcing that the decision of the judges is final. We strongly recommend that individual scores not be released. The judges may want to make a comment card for each child that would help him/her improve their presentation. However, we recommend that actual scores and rankings not be released.

AWARDS

Tropicana Products, Inc. provides awards for two divisions - a 5th grade division and a 6th grade division. Our local 4-H Foundation provides awards for the 4th grade.

Classroom Contest

Ribbons should be presented to the first, second, and third place winners in each classroom. The top three winners in each classroom will advance to the School Contest.

School Contest

Medallions should be presented to the first, second, and third place winners in each division at each school. **The top two winners in each division will advance to the County Contest.**

County Contest

Plaques will be presented to the first, second, and third place winners and one honorable mention for each division. 4-H Camp Scholarships will be offered to each first place division winner.