

4-H Showcase Guidelines

4-H Showcase is an opportunity for 4-H members to share what they have learned in a project by giving a project talk, demonstrating a skill or illustrating how something works. 4-Hers can demonstrate music skills on the piano or other instruments, showcase dance skills, drama, offer a public speaking presentation or present a skit. 4-H Showcase offers options for individual, group and club entries. All of the categories will be evaluated upon a standard. A Danish ribbon placing of Purple, Blue, Red or White will be awarded by adult judges.

The following are guidelines for participation. Please read through them carefully. These guidelines will be used by the judges. Age divisions are **Juniors 7-13** and **Seniors 14 & Older**, as of January 1, 2026. **Cloverbuds can only do the Pickle Talk.**

4-H Showcase will be held at Riley County Grade School on **February 14**. **Pre-entries are due January 30, 2026.** A link to sign up for a judging time will be sent to everyone who pre-entered on February 2. You will have until **February 6** to sign up for a judging time.

PRESENTATIONS

Project Talks – Junior (no laptop/LCD)

- **For 4-Hers 7-13 years old.**
- Time: recommend 4-5 minutes, 7 minutes max.
- Visuals are encouraged, but not required. **We will not have a laptop/projector in this room.**
- Topic may be on a 4-H project or aspect of a project 4-Her is currently enrolled in.
- Questions asked by the judge.

Demonstration – Illustrated Talks – Junior

- A demonstration is a show and tell type of presentation. An illustrated talk tells how rather than shows how.
- **For 4-Hers 7-13 years old.**
- Time: recommend 4-7 minutes, 10 minutes max.
- Can be individual or team presentations. Limit of 3 for a team.
- All necessary equipment provided by 4-Her.
- Topic may or may not be related to 4-H project currently enrolled in.
- Questions asked by the judge.

Demonstration – Illustrated Talk - Senior

- A demonstration is a show and tell type of presentation. An illustrated talk tells how rather than shows how.
- **For 4-Hers 14 years and older.**
- Time: recommend 5-10 minutes, 15 minutes maximum.
- Can be individual or team presentations. Limit of 2 for a team.
- All necessary equipment provided by 4-Her.
- Topic may or may not be related to 4-H project currently enrolled.
- Questions asked by the judge.

Note: PowerPoint visuals are permitted for demonstrations and illustrated talks. **One laptop computer and one LCD projector will be provided per age division.**

Public Speaking – Senior

- **For 4-Hers 14 years and older.**
- Must submit outline to judge before beginning
- Time: recommend 7-12 minutes, 7 minutes minimum, 15 minutes maximum.
- Visuals are optional.
- Topics are unlimited.

Impromptu Speech – Senior

- **For 4-Hers 14 and older.**
- Time: recommend 3-5 minutes
- 4-Her will draw a topic and have 15 minutes to prepare a 3-5 minute speech.
- Topics will be related to 4-H.
- One notecard is permitted, and will be provided when the 4-Her draws a topic.
- 4-Hers may only participate in this category as an individual. Team presentations are not permitted.
- Each 4-H impromptu participant should report to the classroom 15 minutes before scheduled to present, to select his or her topic.
- Speeches will be judged on introduction, language, logical and clear ideas, and delivery.

4-H Showcase Guidelines

MUSIC

If you need to play recorded music, you must bring your own CD player/IPod and speakers!

Chorus

- 16 or more members, or 12 or more members if club has less than 16 members.
- 2 numbers are required.
- **Original copy of selections will be given to judges before performance; measures must be numbered.**
- Singing may or may not have accompaniment. There will not be a piano available.
- Director/Accompanist need not be 4-Hers.
- Selections should be memorized.

Vocal Ensemble

- Group may be composed of 2-15 4-Hers, not including Accompanist. There will not be a piano available.
- 2 numbers are required.
- **Original copy of selections will be given to judges before performance; measures must be numbered.**
- Accompanist need not be a 4-Her.
- Selections should be memorized.

Vocal Solo

- Participant will sing 1 selection.
- **Original copy of selection will be given to judge before performance; measures will be numbered.**
- Accompanist need not be a 4-Her. There will not be a piano available.
- Selections should be memorized.

Orchestra - Band

- Groups may be composed of 16 or more 4-Hers from 1 or more clubs.
- Each group will play 2 numbers of their choice.
- **Copy of Conductor's score is to be given to the judge before performance; measures will be numbered.**

Instrumental Ensemble

- Group may be composed of 2-15 4-Hers, not including the Accompanist, from one or more clubs. A piano will not be available for accompaniment. Recorded accompaniment would be acceptable. Bring your own laptop/speakers/CD player.
- 2 numbers are required.
- **Original copies of selections will be given to judges before performance: measures will be numbered.**

Instrumental Solo

- Participant will play a composed solo number.
- **Original copy of selection will be given to judges before performance; measures will be numbered.**
- Accompanist need not be a 4-Her. Due to limited availability, a piano will not be available for accompaniment. Recorded accompaniment would be acceptable. Bring your own laptop/speakers/CD player.
- **There will be a separate room with a piano for Piano solos.** If you wish to have accompaniment, it must be recorded. Bring your own laptop/speakers/CD player.
- Selections do NOT need to be memorized.



4-H Showcase Guidelines

DANCE

If you need to play recorded music, you must bring your own CD player/IPod and speakers!

Country Dance

- May be a country swing or country line dance.

Folk or Square Dance

- Folk may include circle, polka, schottische, waltz, etc.
- If live caller is used, caller must be a member of the group.
- Junior and Senior categories are available.
- 5 minutes maximum.

Choreographed Dance

- This may be a drill team, letter, or flags routine. (This is the type of dance seen at half-time during games.)

Other Dance

- Tap, ballet, jazz, break/street, interpretive, pop, or acrobatic dance. (Not an acrobatic routine.)
- 5 minutes maximum.

PERFORMING ARTS

Skits

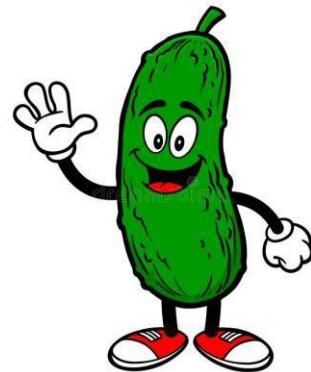
- Designed as original plays or skits.
- No number limitations.
- Maximum time of 15 minutes.
- **Script must be turned into judge before performance.**

Reading

- Musical, interpretive, humorous, etc.
- Maximum time of 5 minutes.
- Individual.
- **Script must be turned into judge before performance.**

Picke Talk (Cloverbuds and 4-Hers)

- Open to 4-Hers of any age (including Cloverbuds)
- Draw your topic from a hat
- You have up to 3 minutes to talk on your topic
- Each participant gets a giant pickle



4-H Showcase Pre-Entry is Due by January 30, 2026.

(Visit www.riley.ksu.edu and click on “4-H Showcase” in the center under the “Events” column to register.).

A sign up will then be sent to all participants. You must sign up for a judging time by February 6. Based on previous years’ participation, we predict we will be done before noon. Some areas (i.e. vocal, skits and dance) will run shorter due to fewer participants.

Also join us for **Horticulture, Photography, Poultry and FACs judging and Livestock Skillathon activities from 9 am –noon**. Sharpen your skills and learn more. Check out the STEM activities.



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