

BRADFORD COUNTY 4-H COUNTY EVENTS GUIDELINES 2025



Saturday, February 15, 2025

Location TBD

Check-In - 8:30 AM

Opening Ceremonies - 9:00 AM

Awards Ceremonies - At conclusion of events

Registration deadline is Sunday, February 9 at 11:59pm.

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**Bradford County** Florida
EVERYTHING IS BETTER IN BRADFORD

What is 4-H County Events?

Demonstrations and speeches held in a contest setting for Juniors, Intermediates, and Senior members in various categories. Placings are awarded based on achievement of standards and peer competition; judges give scores and evaluative comments. Qualifiers for the District level events are selected at the County level.

Age Divisions for 4-H are determined by the age of the youth as of September 1, 2024.

Juniors: Ages 8 – 10

Intermediate: Ages 11 – 13

Senior: Ages 14 – 18

Florida 4-H Competitive Event Rules

Youth must be a 4-H member:

- Who is enrolled in a 4-H project at least 30 days before the event.
- Who has completed at least one year of 4-H work including the current year, as established by the County 4-H Agent.
- Who has met all other specified requirements for the specific event entered.

Additionally:

- Members are highly encouraged, but not required, to compete beyond County Events if they qualify.
- Seniors placing 1st in an individual or a team contest at the designated State 4-H event who qualified and/or participated at the designated National event cannot come back in the same state event. State level winning Senior teams should encourage alternates to practice with the team in the event that one of the team members is unable to compete at the National competition. Should a substitution be required for a team, the specialist for the contest should direct how the substitution is made.
- Junior and Intermediate members will be allowed to return and continue to compete in state events even if they have won first place in their division.
- Specialists reserve the option to cancel an event if participation is too low to justify the resources needed to conduct the event.

District Events is the opportunity for youth to compete with 4-Hers from surrounding counties within our 4-H District. Youth can participate in Public Speaking, Demonstrations/Illustrated Talks, and Share the Fun at district level if they qualify at county level.

Tentative District Events Date: May 17, 2025 in Alachua County.

State Events is the opportunity for youth to compete with 4-Hers across the state of Florida. State Events are typically only open to Senior 4-H members who have qualified at the county and district levels (certain competition exclusions apply).

Tentative State Events Date(s): July 28-31, 2025 in Gainesville, FL

Contents

Public Speaking Contest.....	4
Public Speaking Contest Score Sheet.....	5
Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks.....	6
Demonstration/Illustrated Talk Score Sheet	8
Share-the-Fun	9
Share-the-Fun Score Sheet	10
Graphic Design Contest.....	11
Photography Contest.....	12

Public Speaking Contest

This program is designed to give 4-H'ers experience in the preparation and delivery of a 4-H related speech. This contest requires 4-H'ers to recognize, organize, and present information on a given topic. The timed speech must be orderly and thorough. 4-H'ers must acquire the ability to speak convincingly in public, expressing ideas effectively with poise and confidence.

Participation Criteria

- Junior 4-H'ers must be 8-10 years old by September 1 of the current program year.
- Intermediate 4-H'ers must be 11-13 years old by September 1 of the current program year.
- Senior 4-H'ers must be 14-18 years old by September 1 of the current program year.

General Regulations

- Speech must be original and specifically related to 4-H in a demonstrable way. **The entire speech does not necessarily have to feature 4-H, but every contestant must, at some point in his/her speech, mention 4-H and its relationship to the material being presented.**
- Public speaking times must be between 3-7 minutes for Juniors and Intermediates, and 5-7 minutes for Seniors.
- Contestants whose speeches ignore the outlined time specifications and reference to 4-H will be subject to penalization as outlined on the score sheet.
- Previous first place 4-H public speaking contest winners at state competition are not eligible to compete in this event.
- Participants may refine their speeches between district and state competition, but the content should not change dramatically.
- Individual participation only, no team speeches will be allowed.
- Only the top two winners in each age division may advance from county to district and the top two senior district winners who won blue ribbons may advance to state. State entries must have competed at the county and district levels.
- All requirements set forth in general regulations for participation in the Florida 4-H University must be satisfied for senior participants at the state level.
- Blue, Red, and White awards will be awarded based on quality of performance. First, second, and third place will be awarded to the highest scoring individuals. The top three senior age winners at state competition may have the opportunity to participate in the Western National 4-H Roundup Public Speaking contest in Denver, Colorado at their own expense.

Horse Public Speaking Regulations

- Same as above except times: 3-7 minutes for Juniors and Intermediates, and 8-10 minutes for Seniors.
- Qualifying horse speeches can advance directly to the state contest in June. More information [HERE](#).

Public Speaking Contest Score Sheet



Florida 4-H Score Sheet Public Speaking

Name: _____
 County: _____
 Title: _____

Age Division: JR _____ INT _____ SR _____
 Category: _____

Time Limits – (General) Juniors & Intermediates 3-7 minutes | Seniors 5-7 minutes
 (Horse) Juniors & Intermediates 3-7 minutes | Seniors 8-10 minutes
 Deduct 5 points if speech does not fall into allotted time

Points Earned	Possible Points	Criteria	Remarks
Section I. COMPOSITION (55 Points)			
	10	Choice of Material: Topic appropriate for age/skill of youth.	
	5	Related to 4-H: Entire speech does not need to feature 4-H, but each contestant must, at some point, mention 4-H & its relationship to the material being presented.	
	10	Comprehension & Accuracy: Knowledge & understanding of topic; reliable sources cited.	
	15	Organization of Material: Introduction gets attention; main points organized; transitions used correctly; main points restated in conclusion.	
	15	Use of Language: Good grammar; Topic understandable as described.	
Section II. PRESENTATION (45 points)			
	20	Projection to Audience & Voice Control: Delivery relaxed, smooth & flowing; spoke clearly. Effective regulation of volume & rate of words.	
	15	Eye Contact & Poise: Eye contact with their audience. Effective use of notes, if used; displays confidence & composure.	
	10	Appearance: Neat, well groomed, good posture, nice blouse/skirt or slacks for girls; collared shirt/slacks for boys. Tie and/or 4-H clover optional.	
	100	Total Score	

****NOTE: No questions are permitted by judges or the audience at the conclusion of speeches****

Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks

A demonstration or illustrated talk is a “show and tell” type of presentation. This presentation uses posters, multimedia, or other visual aids to share information of ideas with others.

Demonstrations/Illustrated Talks should be placed in the category that most closely relates to the related project. Otherwise, demonstrations or illustrated talks may not be suitable for competition at the district and state levels.

Demonstration Categories:

- Animal Sciences
- Citizenship and Leadership
- Communication and Expressive Arts
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Healthy Living
- Nature and Outdoors
- Plants and Gardening
- Science and Technology

General Regulations:

- No living specimens may be used for a demonstration. This includes all vertebrates and invertebrates (i.e. insects, crustaceans, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, or mammals).
- Demonstrations/illustrated talks must be between 3-12 minutes for juniors and intermediates, and 5-12 minutes for seniors.
- A team demonstration is one in which two team members participate both in speaking and presentation. No more than two members per team. Team members must be in the same age division.
- State entries must have competed at the county/district levels. Participation guidelines for county/district level activities that do not culminate at the state level are at the discretion of planning committees at the county/district.
- Each presentation (i.e. demonstration, illustrated talk, share-the-fun activity, speech, etc.) will be the same from district level to state level. A 4-H'er should improve on his/her presentation, but it must remain basically the same. If a 4-H'er is participating at the state level with a similar illustrated talk or demonstration to the previous year, the demonstration or illustrated talk must be changed to include more depth and growth. Participants must provide all equipment and supplies for their presentations. (Efforts may be made at competitive events to provide technical equipment; however, youth should bring connectors/adaptors/laptops/jump drives as a backup.) Competitors are responsible for all aspects of their preparations and set-up of their competitions. Only competitors are allowed in the set-up/dressing room at State Competitions.
- Youth participants must meet the standards/criteria set forth for the event based on the score sheet before being considered for the “best” or “top three placings” among their peers. Therefore, placings and trophies are not awarded merely for participation in the event. This judgement of quality of performance against the standards are made by the panel of judges and an average of the scores will determine the color of the ribbon awarded. All judges' decisions are final.

- In the event of a tie the highest score in “Subject Matter” (Section 3 on the scoresheet) will prevail. Should a tie remain, the score for “Organization and Presentation” (Section 2 on the scoresheet) would break the tie, and then, if needed, the score for “Member” (section 1 on the scoresheet).

Blue, Red, and White levels are used to determine the standard of excellence met. Participants will then be recognized through peer competition for earning 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place within their category. Only Blue standard participants at district events should progress to state level competitions. Only Blue standard participants at state level events may compete at the corresponding National Event. All judges’ decisions are final.

Participation Procedures and Quotas:

- **District:** Each county may enter all blue qualifying junior, intermediate, and senior individuals and all blue qualifying junior, intermediate, and senior teams. Counties reserve the option of working with red placing entries, to improve the entry to a blue quality standard and qualify the entry for district competition.
- **State:** Each district may enter all blue qualifying senior individuals and all blue qualifying senior teams in state level competition in demonstrations and illustrated talks. Participants must meet a blue standard in district competition to qualify for state.
- **Regional/National:** Selected project areas give 4-H’ers the opportunity to compete beyond the state level.

Demonstration/Illustrated Talk Score Sheet



Florida 4-H Score Sheet Demonstrations & Illustrated Talks

Name: _____ Age Division: JR _____ INT _____ SR _____
 County: _____ Category: _____
 Title: _____

Time Limits – Juniors & Intermediates 3-12 minutes | Seniors 5-12 minutes
 Deduct 5 points if demonstration does not fall into allotted time

Points Earned	Possible Points	Criteria	Remarks
Section I. THE 4-H MEMBER (20 Points)			
	10	Appearance & Poise: Neat, well groomed, good posture, appropriately dressed for task being performed. Calm, pleasant, confident; keeps composure when something appears to go wrong or does go wrong. Self-assured, yet pleasant manner. 4-H clover optional.	
	10	Voice & Grammar: Distinct, forceful, yet natural. Clear voice with distinct enunciation & reasonably strong. Enthusiastic. Correct, well-chosen words. Not memorized. Use correct grammar with clear meaning.	
Section II. ORGANIZATION & PRESENTATION (30 Points)			
	5	Introduction: Effective, interesting. Brief explanation of the presentation, with introduction of the 4-H'er. Introduces main points of presentation. Gets the attention of the audience.	
	5	Arrangement & Use of Equipment: Right equipment for the job. Uses it correctly. Audience can see what he/she is doing.	
	5	Visual Aids: Equipment, models, charts, and supplies effective and well arranged. Chose the teaching aid to best tell the story. Charts and models neat, concise, large enough, & appropriate. Visual aids utilized in presentation.	
	5	Logical Sequence: Well organized, clear, logical steps. Evidence shows the 4-H'er has planned presentation.	
	5	Ability to Work Easily & Efficiently: Steps, illustrative material, and explanation coordinated. Talks about what he/she is showing and explains the procedure. Information given fills time during the process or is related to what is being shown.	
	5	Summary: Key points summarized. Reliable sources used and cited.	
	(5) Teams Only	Ability to Work as a Team (Team Demos Only): Spoken parts are divided evenly. Team members work together smoothly.	
Section III. SUBJECT MATTER (50 Points)			
	10	Selection of Subject – Reason for & practical value of demonstration Subject related to their 4-H experiences (projects, activities, etc.) Information presented put to good use.	
	5	One Basic Theme: Presentation confined to one theme. Covered in the allotted time.	
	10	Accurate, Up-To-Date & Complete: Information is correct & current All the steps in the process shown.	
	5	Degree of Difficulty: Material sufficiently challenges the 4-H'er – age and/or skill level.	
	10	Knowledge of Subject & Related Skills: Understands principles and practices presented. Questions adequately answered.	
	10	Results: Finished product good or purpose accomplished.	
	100	Total Score (Individual) – Max 100	
	105	Total Score (Team) – Max 105	

Individuals (out of 100) – Blue 90-100% | Red 80-89% | White 79% and below
 Teams (out of 105) – Blue 95-105% | Red 84-94% | White 83% and below

Judge Initials: _____

Share-the-Fun

The 4-H share-the-fun program is designed to help 4-H'ers discover their talents, develop them, and have opportunities to share those gifts with others. It is part of the 4-H leisure and performing arts project and is conducted at County, District, and State levels. The objective of share-the-fun is to enhance the following areas: appreciation of talent, leadership, confidence, interest in special training, and the ability to discover opportunities for wholesome recreation.

Act Classification

- Instrumental: Musical instruments of all descriptions
- Vocal: Singing numbers
- Dance: All dance, baton, and acrobatic routines
- Dramatic and Novelty: Skits, stunts, pantomimes, monologues, puppetry, ventriloquism, impersonations, etc.
- General: Acts which include two or more of the above classifications

Acts and Competition

- Acts may be presented by an individual or a group.
- Group acts should be limited to a maximum of five participants from the same age division.
- Entertainment groups with more than five members are discouraged because of the difficulty in facilitating a group that size. However, this does not rule out participation by such a group if their talent is of exceptional quality and they meet all other requirements. Such an act must be cleared through the State 4-H Headquarters prior to District Events (contact State 4-H Events Coordinator). Acts with more than five participants who are not cleared through the State 4-H Office in advance will not be allowed to perform at Florida 4-H University.
- The time for each act can range from 3-5 minutes. Participants will have a one-minute warning and then the act will be called at 5 minutes.
- No live animals (i.e. mammals, amphibians, reptiles, etc.) allowed.
- An acoustic piano and basic sound equipment may be supplied. All other props, instruments, amps, equipment, or other items necessary for the performance are the responsibility of the participant. Please contact the office if you have any questions or concerns.
- We will not be responsible for the acquisition of gymnastic equipment such as parallel bars, balance beams, floor mats, etc. to be used by participants in the show.

Share-the-Fun Score Sheet



Florida 4-H Score Sheet
Share-the-Fun

Name: _____ Age Division: JR INT _____ SR _____
 County: _____ Act Classification: _____ Time: _____
 Title: _____

Time Limits – Acts should be 3-5 minutes
 Deduct 5 points if demonstration does not fall into allotted time

Points Earned	Possible Points	Criteria	Remarks
	30	Talent Ability, expertise, skill, proficiency, timing	
	35	Showmanship Poise, confidence, projection, adaptability, rapport, well-rehearsed, stage presence	
	35	Stage Appearance Clever, creative wardrobe and prop placement, as appropriate, continuity, special effects (no special consideration should be given to expensive effects, including sound systems.)	
	100	Total Score	

Additional Comments:

Graphic Design Contest

Submitted Electronically by February 21, 2025 at 4:00 PM to bradford4h@ifas.ufl.edu

The Graphic Design Program gives 4-H members an opportunity to use their creativity and artistic ability to promote their project areas or 4-H program. 4-H'ers are encouraged to develop their visual communication skills by also identifying locations to display their created materials as a means to communicate with external audiences about the 4-H program.

Participation Criteria:

This contest is open to every age division of 4-H members. Cloverbuds are encouraged to participate, but their materials will not be sent on to the state for competitive review.

Contest Rules:

1. This is an individual event. Entries must be completed by exhibitor, and only one entry per youth participant.
2. The entry must be saved as a pdf file, with the exemption of the PowerPoint entries.
3. Graphics become the property of Florida 4-H upon entry and may be used for promotional purposes by Florida 4-H.
4. No hand drawn entries will be accepted.
5. The entries will be judged on: Font style and graphics, flow of design, color, educational components, and clear delivery of message.
6. Use of copyrighted or protected characters or logos is prohibited. Use of the 4-H Emblem: Use of the 4-H Emblem must be in accordance to the graphic standards set by the USDA.
7. County 4-H agents can submit all blue ribbon entries to the state graphic design contest.

Awards:

Junior, Intermediate, and Senior entries are judged separately. Blue, red, and white award is given to each entry. A top overall junior entry, intermediate entry, and senior entry will be selected (3 total). These three entries can advance to state competition.

Description of Categories:

Youth are allowed one entry in the Graphic Design competition. Entry should either focus on promotion of 4-H or a 4-H project.

CLASSES	DESCRIPTION
Brochure	This is a tri-fold brochure that should contain information on both the front and back. It should be easily read and printed with 8.5"x11"
Flyer	This is an 8.5"x11" sheet of paper, that will promote your topic of choice
Other	Any other promotional material. Ex: bookmarks, postcards, etc.
PowerPoint Presentation	5-10 slides and a script to accompany the presentation. For best presentation, include the script for each slide in the "notes" section of the PowerPoint.

Photography Contest

Submitted Electronically by February 21, 2025 at 4:00 PM to bradford4h@ifas.ufl.edu

Participation Criteria:

This contest is open to every age division of 4-H members. Cloverbuds are encouraged to participate, but their materials will not be sent on to the state for competitive review.

Categories:

Each youth may submit no more than 1 entry per category (total 5 per youth) at the county level.

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
People	Any photo where the main subject(s) is a person or people. Still shots or active.
Flora and Fauna	Plants, animals; living items found in nature.
Scenic	Cityscapes, rural landscapes, natural settings that do not fit into the Flora and Fauna category.
Still Life	An arrangement or display of inanimate objects.
Black and White	Any subject presented in black and white.

Rules:

- All photos exhibited must have been taken by 4-H members within one year of the date of the state photo contest deadline (June 1 of the previous year)
- **Pixel size:** Photos should be at least 800 pixels by 1000 pixels and saved as a JPEG. The ideal 8×10 quality is 2400 pixels by 3000 pixels, which is the same as an 8×10 photo at 300 dpi (resolution). Any higher variations of the 8×10 ratio are allowed. If photos have a different pixel ratio you may still submit. However, the photos will be judged using the 8×10 pixel dimensions which may cause your photo to appear stretched, compressed, or distorted. If you view a photo's properties on your computer, it will tell you the width and height in pixels.
- **Alterations of photo:** Although slight computer enhanced photos are allowed, such as crop, trimming, adjusting lighting, and red eye reduction; substantially altered photography, such as changing colors or applying design styles, using computer graphics will disqualify an entry.
- **Model Release Statement:** Recognizable pictures of any adult or youth under the age of 18 must include a "Model release" signature. If a minor is in the photo, the signature MUST come from their parent or guardian.
- **Refusal Rights:** The Florida 4-H Youth Development Program reserves the right to refuse inappropriate or unsuitable entries. Photograph must NOT be offensive, degrading, racist, or contain pornography of any form.

Scoring and Awards:

Junior, Intermediate, and Senior entries are judged separately. Blue, red, and white award is given to each entry. A top overall junior entry, intermediate entry, and senior entry will be selected (3 total). These three entries can advance to state competition.