



2026 Door County 4-H Communications Contest

Presenting or speaking before a group or audience is an important life skill and something that takes practice to learn. The goal of the Door County 4-H Communications Contest is to give youth an opportunity to learn and practice their communications skills in a positive and encouraging environment. Participants will be evaluated on their presentation and will receive feedback from a judge.

2026 Door County 4-H Communications Contest

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

5:45 p.m. Check-in

6:00 p.m. Event Begins

LOCATION: Peninsula Room, Door County Government Center,
421 Nebraska Street, Sturgeon Bay
(enter through doors on 4th Avenue facing the Sturgeon Bay Library)

AGE: Open to all Door County 4-H youth in grades K – 13

ENTRY DEADLINE: January 23rd, 2026

Entries accepted by completing the Google Form at this link: <https://go.wisc.edu/gm6kk2>. You may also call the Extension Office at (920)746-2260, or email Candis Dart at candis.dart@wisc.edu with your entry details.

Other Notes:

- Before the Contest: Watch your email for more information regarding the Door County 4-H Communications Contest.
- Each participant will be judged face-to-face.
- No live animals may be used during the Communications Contest.
- All participants will receive a participation award. Additional awards may also be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place entries in each age division in each category.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Candis Dart, Door County 4-H Program Educator at candis.dart@wisc.edu or (920)746-2260.

ORIGINAL SPEECH

DESCRIPTION: Pick a topic of your choice and write an original, factual speech about it. Your speech could inform, persuade, or motivate your audience.

TIME REQUIREMENT: Judges have the option to lower placings if you do not stay within the established time limit.

Cloverbud - Grades K-2 - (2-4 minutes)
Beginner - Grades 3-5 – (2-4 minutes)

Intermediate - Grades 6-8 – (5-7 minutes)
Senior - Grades 9 & up – (5-7 minutes)

HELPFUL GUIDELINES:

- It could be about a 4-H project you like, a historical topic, your favorite animal, an issue you're concerned about or more.
- Your entire speech or an outline of your speech can be put on notecards for use during your presentation, or it may be memorized.
- You may also use visuals (posters, charts, diagrams, PowerPoint) to help you deliver your speech, but NOT props or costumes. (Keep in mind, this is a speech, not a demonstration.)
- Projector will be provided if needed – please let us know ahead of time if you need access to technology.

INTERPRETIVE SPEECH

DESCRIPTION: The Interpretive Speech cannot be an original piece written by the participant. The Speech must have been written and/or delivered by others. Interpretive Speech includes dedications, talks, inaugural speeches, talks given to mark important events in world, national, state, or local history, or other speeches of interest. These speeches may have been presented originally by a U.S. President or some other governmental leader, sports figure, a teacher, a relative, a friend, etc. A partial work of a larger speech can be chosen.

TIME REQUIREMENT: Judges have the option to lower placings if you do not stay within the established time limit.

Cloverbud - Grades K-2 (2-4 minutes)
Beginner - Grades 3-5 – (2-4 minutes)

Intermediate - Grades 6-8 – (5-7 minutes)
Senior - Grades 9 & up – (5-7 minutes)

HELPFUL GUIDELINES:

- You may edit your selection to meet the time requirement.
- An introduction should be made to credit the original author.
- Memorization of work is encouraged, although the use of notes is allowed.
- Props or costumes cannot be used.

STORYTELLING

DESCRIPTION: Storytelling can be read or memorized and should include interaction between the audience and the storyteller. The Storytelling piece cannot be an original work of the participant.

TIME REQUIREMENT: Judges have the option to lower placings if you do not stay within the established time limit.

Cloverbud - Grades K-2 - (2-4 minutes)
Beginner - Grades 3-5 – (2-4 minutes)

Intermediate - Grades 6-8 – (5-7 minutes)
Senior - Grades 9 & up – (5-7 minutes)

HELPFUL GUIDELINES:

- A partial work of a larger story can be chosen.
- Storytelling can be done as an individual or team (2 youth) performance. For team presentations, the time limits of the oldest participant will be used.
- Facial expressions, gestures, and body movements are encouraged. Costumes and props cannot be used.
- Ideas – a short story like “The Three Billy Goats Gruff” or “Chicken Little” or “Three Little Pigs” or a favorite book that has a lot of emotions

DEMONSTRATION

DESCRIPTION: Members demonstrate, either individually or as a team (2 youth), by doing a talk showing and describing how to do or make something. Demonstrations can be on any topic, 4-H or otherwise. For example, you could do a demonstration on how you prepare your chicken for a show, how to pack for camp, or how to decorate a cake. No live animals will be allowed as part of the demonstration.

TIME REQUIREMENT: Judges have the option to lower placings if you do not stay within the established time limit.

Cloverbud - Grades K-2 - (2-6 minutes)
Beginner - Grades 3-5 – (2-7 minutes)

Intermediate - Grades 6-8 – (4-8 minutes)
Senior - Grades 9 & up – (5-10 minutes)

HELPFUL GUIDELINES:

- Subject ideas include 4-H project work, general interest items, hobbies, etc. Any subject that can be both described and shown can be a demonstration topic.
- It is important to remember that the demonstration is to show “how to make or do” something. It should not just describe and show what was made or how something works. For example, you should be actually showing how ingredients are mixed, fabric or other material is cut, boards are glued or nailed, etc. This will allow the audience to see how something is made.
- Some portions of the demonstrated item can be pre-made to maintain audience interest and to stay within the allotted time limit.
- Props and visual aids are required – which can be posters, handouts, displays, or computer presentations (please let us know ahead of time if you need a projector).
- A table and easel will be available.
- At the conclusion of their demonstration, the participant(s) should be prepared to answer questions from the judges about the item demonstrated and its use.
- Demonstrations can be done as an individual or team (2 youth) performance. For team demonstrations, the time limits of the oldest participant will be used.