



May, 2021

Dear 4-H Health and Safety Speaking Participant:

Congratulations on being selected as one of your county's representatives to this year's area 4-H Health and Safety Speaking Contest. We invite you to participate in either of the area contests based on your availability. Both contests will be conducted in person. Participants may choose the location that best suits their schedule and location:

June 29, 2021 Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center, 2201 Fred Taylor Drive, Columbus

July 12, 2021 Buckeye Agricultural Museum, 877 West Old Lincoln Way, Wooster

Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the contest orientation beginning at 10:00 a.m. The Senior, Junior and Team/Skit Divisions are anticipated to run simultaneously thereafter. In respect of participants' health and safety, the number of participants and guests in the speaking room at the same time will be limited. Others will need to wait outside of the building or in other parts of the facility. An approximate time will be announced by the time of the last speaker in each division for when awards will be announced. Area contest awards will only be available to those participants meeting the minimum score of 70.

The state level contest will be held on Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center, 2201 Fred Taylor Drive, Columbus, Ohio. While date is during the time of the Ohio State Fair, the state contests will NOT be held on the Ohio State Fairgrounds.

As a participant you need to be aware of the rules regarding this speaking activity. Both health and safety topics are permitted in all contest categories as long as they are "human related". If you do not already have a copy of the health and safety speaking contest rules, you should visit the Ohio 4-H website <www.ohio4h.org> for a complete listing of contest rules and score sheets under the *Families >>>Ohio State Fair>>>Non-Livestock 4-H Guide Book* section.

Rules to review prior to the area contests:

- Select a topic of health or safety that affects you personally, or your friends, family, community or the general public. A local example and supporting statistics (with sources cited in the speech) are required. Speeches should be written/prepared by the 4-H member(s) giving the presentation.
- Review individual or team/skit score sheets for time limitations and specific speaking time requirements for team/skit presenters. Score sheets also give specific scoring guidelines for content, organization, delivery (individuals) and overall performance (skits only). Pay particular attention to the local

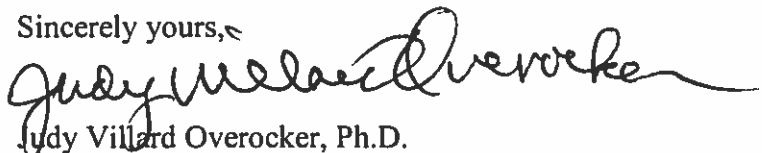
example and statistics (with references cited) areas as these sections are where participants are commonly marked down in evaluation scores.

- Prompting (i.e., scripts, verbal coaching, signaling and note cards) may not be used in any speaking category at area and state contests. Individuals or teams using prompting will be penalized 10 points. If a participant stumbles in their thoughts, no specific points will be deducted, but if a participant(s) sits down and then re-starts, the ten point deduction will be taken.
- Dress appropriately for the speech being given, including shoes for all participants. No costumes will be permitted for individual talks. Teams/skits may use costumes, but must be fully clothed and wearing shoes at all times.
- **NO** visual aids are permitted for the individual speeches. Props **are** permitted in the team/skit category, but should not include trademarked or “brand names” of products and illegal items. Live animals may not be used as props. No posters or printed materials that could be used as prompts will be allowed. Individuals other than the team/skit participants may assist in bringing props to the presentation area, but shall have no further physical contact with props after that point. Coaching for placement of props **prior** to the presentation start time is permitted for teams/skits.
- Participants will be introduced by number and title of talk. Please refrain from re-introducing yourself as this may deter from getting the attention of the audience at the start of your presentation.
- Topics should be appropriate for youth and adult audiences.
- Avoid the use of brand names (both divisions) and products (skits).
- Microphones will NOT be used at the area or state level in 2021.
- A member who has been a winner in the county or area contest prior to the current year is eligible to participate as long as he/she did not win the Ohio State Fair Health and Safety Speaking Contest the previous year in the same division. All area winners in 2019 and 2020 and past state winners in 2019 will be permitted to participate in all levels of the 2021 contests.
- Winners of previous and current trips to National 4-H Congress are eligible to participate.

If you have any questions, please contact your county Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development or the state coordinator, Dr. Judy Villard Overocker, at the Richland County Extension Office (419-747-8755 or villard.1@osu.edu).

Congratulations on representing your county at the area Health and Safety Speaking Contest. Good luck with your presentation at the area contest on June 29 or July 12.

Sincerely yours,



Judy Villard Overocker, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Extension Educator
State Health & Safety Speaking Coordinator