



# 2026 Manitowoc County 4-H Creative Arts Festival - Demonstrations, Public Speaking, Talent Show

Youth Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name of 4-H club or other youth group \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check one: \_\_ Beginner(Grades K-2) \_\_ Elementary(Grades 3-5) \_\_ Junior(Grades 6-8) \_\_ Senior(Grades 9 & up)

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## Demonstration Category (Check the category you want to participate in. You may enter one or both categories)

- Individual Demonstration - Title \_\_\_\_\_
- Team Demonstration – Title \_\_\_\_\_
  - Partner’s Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Equipment Needed for Demonstration: \_\_\_Table \_\_\_Easel \_\_\_Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Public Speaking Event (Check the category you want to participate in. You may enter up to 3 categories)

- 4-H Pledge (open for grades K-5)
  - Interpretive Presentation – Title \_\_\_\_\_
  - Original Speech - Title \_\_\_\_\_
  - Readers Theater & Storytelling – Title \_\_\_\_\_
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## Talent Show (Check the category you want to participate in. You may enter up to 3 categories)

- Vocal – Title \_\_\_\_\_
- Instrumental – Title \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument Type \_\_\_\_\_
- Dance – Title \_\_\_\_\_
- Skit/Drama – Title \_\_\_\_\_
- Musical Ensemble – Title \_\_\_\_\_
- Musical Theater – Title \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (Explain) – Title \_\_\_\_\_

Equipment Needed: Keyboard \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Participants (list Participant’s Names on separate sheet) \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Performance in minutes \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Please list any accommodations or strategies that would help the youth be successful in the Creative Arts Festival.

Send this form to: Extension - Manitowoc County, 705 Viebahn St., Manitowoc, WI 54220

Or complete Google Form <https://forms.gle/ivVLNX9fZfM8DDUK7>



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## General Guidelines

**DATE/TIME:** Sunday, February 22 @ 3:00 PM

2:45 p.m. Check-In

3:00 p.m. Event Begins

**PLACE:** UWGB-Manitowoc Campus – 705 Viebahn Street, Manitowoc

**ENTRY DEADLINE:** February 8, 2026

**AGE:** Open to all Manitowoc County youth in grades K – 13 who are members of an organized youth group under adult leadership.

### GENERAL GUIDELINES:

- The Creative Arts Festival is a family event. Family and friends of all ages are welcome to attend.
- Before the Festival: Watch your email for more information regarding the Creative Arts Festival!
- All entries must have a title, except the 4-H Pledge
- For duet/group entries – only one person needs to complete the form and list the other participants

**QUESTIONS:** Contact Katrina Pionek, [kmpionek@wisc.edu](mailto:kmpionek@wisc.edu), 920-683-4172

**Send the registration form to:**

Extension - Manitowoc County  
705 Viebahn Street  
Manitowoc, WI 54220

**Or complete registration on Google Form**

<https://forms.gle/ivVLNX9fZfM8DDUK7>

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## DEMONSTRATION GUIDELINES

**DESCRIPTION:** A talk showing and describing how to do or make something.

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

**Beginner** - Grades K-2 (2-6 minutes)

**Elementary** - Grades 3-5 – (2-7 minutes)

**Intermediate** - Grades 6-8 – (4-8 minutes)

**Senior** - Grades 9 & up – (5-10 minutes)

**AWARDS:** Each demonstrator will be judged on the merits of their own presentation and all participants will receive a ribbon. Cash prizes will be determined by a point system and will be awarded to the top three demonstrators. First \$15, second \$10 and third \$5. All 4-H participants will receive a disc for their plaque which will be distributed to 4-H clubs in the fall.

### HELPFUL GUIDELINES:

- Demonstrations from previous years will not be accepted.
- 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.
- All demonstrations should include the general steps to make the item written on a poster. A drawing board easel will be available to display the poster(s). These steps should be used to help explain the materials and information needed, and the steps taken to make the demonstrated item. These general steps can be used to review your demonstration at the conclusion of your talk.
- 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 duet performance. For duet demonstrations, the time limits of the upper grade participant will be used.

### Ideas:

- 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.

### Resources:

- [https://ohio4h.org/sites/ohio4h/files/imce/books\\_resources/Curriculum/Demonstations%20for%204-H%20Members%202016%20%28fillable%29.pdf](https://ohio4h.org/sites/ohio4h/files/imce/books_resources/Curriculum/Demonstations%20for%204-H%20Members%202016%20%28fillable%29.pdf)
- <https://www.lsuagcenter.com/~/media/system/7/7/1/2/77123edcd3338b1c2286f8010fa53c7b/4-h%20demonstrationpdf.pdf>

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## **PUBLIC SPEAKING GUIDELINES**

### DESCRIPTIONS:

- **4-H Pledge (Grades K-5)** –Members must memorize and recite the 4-H pledge, using the proper hand motions. Youth in grades 3-5 will be asked two questions about the 4-H Pledge after reciting the pledge. The youth will be provided with a bank of questions prior to the contest. The purpose of this contest is to give the youth an opportunity to enhance their public speaking skills. There is no time limit for this contest.
- **Original** - Pick a topic of your choice and write an original, factual speech about it. This could be about a 4-H project you love or a current issue you are concerned about. Your speech could inform, persuade, or motivate your audience. 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, power point) to help you deliver your speech. (Keep in mind, this is a speech, not a demonstration.)
  - Ideas - Inform your audience about 4-H, i.e., favorite project, why join 4-H, what has 4-H taught me, etc. Think about a 4-H activity, project, or group you are involved with or knowledgeable about and try to educate people about it.
- **Interpretive** - A memorized introduction should be included to credit the author. The options include: prose reading, poetry reading, a memorized piece, storytelling (where the story is told and not read), or an interpretive speech (a speech that had originally been written and presented by someone else). You may edit your selection to meet the time requirement. Original poetry or stories can also be used. You should write an introduction and any transitions that are needed if you have more than one piece. Cloverbuds are permitted to read, and not memorize. Props or costumes are encouraged.
  - Ideas - A short reading, story or memorization. For example, the pledge of allegiance, nursery rhyme, short poem, song lyrics (not to be sung) or children's story.
- **Readers Theater & Storytelling** - Storytelling can be read or memorized and should include interaction between the audience and the storyteller. Facial expressions, gestures, and body movements are encouraged.
  - Ideas – a short story like “The Three Billy Goats Gruff” or “Chicken Little” or “Three Little Pigs.”

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

**Beginner** - Grades K-2 (2-4 minutes)

**Intermediate** - Grades 6-8 – (5-7 minutes)

**Elementary** - Grades 3-5 – (2-4 minutes)

**Senior** - Grades 9 & up – (5-7 minutes)

**AWARDS:** All participants will receive a ribbon. Cash prizes will be determined by a point system and will be awarded to the top three. First \$15, second \$10 and third \$5. All 4-H participants will receive a disc for their plaque which will be distributed to 4-H clubs in the fall.

### HELPFUL GUIDELINES:

- Presentations from previous years will not be accepted.
- Readers Theater and Storytelling can be done as an individual or duet performance. For duets, the time limits of the upper grade participant will be used.
- Projector will be provided if needed.

### Resources:

- <https://4h.unl.edu/nebraska-4-h-communications-resources/guide-speeches/>

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## TALENT SHOW GUIDELINES

### DESCRIPTIONS:

- **Vocal** - A vocal performance is singing with or without accompaniment, and with or without costuming. Participants may perform as a solo, duet or small group ensembles. Performances are limited to 3 minutes and 30 seconds.
- **Instrumental** - Instrumental performance is an instrumentalist(s) playing standard musical instruments, with or without costuming or staging. Participants may perform as a solo, duet, or small group ensemble. Performances are limited to 3 minutes and 30 seconds.
- **Dance** - A dance performance is a dancer(s) doing body movements set to music. Participants may perform as a solo, duet or small group. Performances are limited to 3 minutes and 30 seconds.
- **Skit/Drama** - Play or entries that are primarily spoken word. This could include scenes from published drama plays, original material, drama or comedy, or from your favorite book. Performances are limited to 10 minutes.
- **Musical Ensemble** - Entries are primarily singing, music, or dance. This could include songs from Broadway musicals or songs on a particular theme with recorded or live music. Performances are limited to 10 minutes.
- **Musical Theater** - Entries would include songs with character acting. This could include scenes from Broadway musicals or original scripts with songs woven into the action. Performances are limited to 10 minutes.

**TIME REQUIREMENT:** Listed above for each musical area.

**AWARDS:** Each performer will be judged on the merits of their own presentation and all participants will receive a ribbon. Cash prizes will be determined by a point system and will be awarded to the top three performers. First \$15, second \$10 and third \$5. Teams will divide the cash prize. All 4-H participants will receive a disc for their plaque which will be distributed to 4-H clubs in the fall.

### HELPFUL GUIDELINES:

- Any 4-H members, leaders, or family is encouraged to participate. At least half of the participants need to be 4-H members.
- Limit set-up, performance, and clean-up to no more than 15 minutes.

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