

**Texas 4-H Talent Showcase
District 4
Contest Memo**



Date: April 5, 2024

Location: Texas A&M University Commerce
2200 Campbell St, Commerce, TX 75428
Rayburn Student Center

Check-In: 1 pm (ALL CATEGORIES)
Solo/Band, 4-H Skit, Musical, Choreographed Routine,
Poetry/Prose, Vocal, Variety Show

Orientation: 1:30 pm

Contest: Begins following orientation

Schedule: Below is a *tentative schedule* for the contest. Times are subject to change.

Registration. Each participating member is required to register on 4-H Online (<https://texas.4honline.com>) and pay the \$12.00 registration fee. Registration will open on **March 6, 2024 and close at midnight March 20, 2024.**

Participation. Contestants must be active 4-H members enrolled in a Texas 4-H and Youth Development county program in District IV. Contestants must also be academically eligible (according to UIL rules) to compete on the day of the contest. A contestant may compete as an individual or as a member on a team. Only contestants may be part of any said performance.

Age. Age divisions are determined by a participant's grade as of September 1 of the current 4-H year. Age divisions for this contest are:



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Junior	Grades 3, 4, 5
Intermediate	Grades 6, 7, 8
Senior	Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Entries per County. Each county may enter unlimited teams/individuals per age division listed above.

Categories. There are seven (7) categories, each with a separate description and score card. Category descriptions are listed in the Texas 4-H Roundup Guide and in the enclosed Contest and Category Descriptions. **At the District competition 4-H'ers can choose one category from the state day one competitions AND one category from the state day two competitions.** Note all district categories will happen the same day because of facilities and scheduling. Competitors can choose one category from each column below.

Column 1 = State Day 1	Column 2 = State Day 2
Variety Show	4-H Skit
Musical/Instrumental	Poetry/Prose
Choreographed Routines	Solo/Band
Vocal	

To determine category for entry, refer to the descriptions on the enclosed Contest and Category Descriptions. County Extension Agents are strongly encouraged to review entries for proper category, appropriateness of material, and ensure that all other rules and regulations are followed.

1. Advancement to Texas 4-H Roundup. The first and second place winners from each category at District will qualify for Texas 4-H Roundup. If a county has an entry in each category at District and each wins first, then they can all advance to Texas 4-H Roundup. 4-H members **MAY** enter the same category in which they have previously been part of a first place entry at Texas 4-H Roundup.

2. Presentation Material. PARTICIPANTS MUST COMPETE WITH THE SAME MATERIAL AT ALL LEVELS OF COMPETITION – COUNTY, DISTRICT, AND STATE. For example, you cannot choose one song for your act and then change songs between District and State. Acts may fine-tune performances based on critiques from county and district judging, but changing material completely is prohibited.

- 3. Judges. Judges/Superintendent will determine:**
- a. If an entry is in the correct category.
 - b. Placings of all acts/performances.
 - c. Judges' decisions will be final.

4. **Props.** Regulations for props should be followed. Props utilized must be able to go through doors that are 6 ft. wide and 7 ft. tall. Each entry will be allowed to bring props that will be able to be stored in a space that is 3 ft. X 8 ft. Space at the state contest is LIMITED!
5. **Prohibited Materials.** The following materials may not be used in any category: talcum powder/baby powder, flour, pies, food, water, oil, loose feathers, flower petals, hay, straw, helium balloons, glitter, sand, confetti, open flames or other substances which are hard to clean up, may cause damage, or be dangerous to participants. No roller skates, shoes with spikes, cleats, motorized vehicles, or live animals will be allowed. Any prop resembling a firearm must receive prior approval.
6. **Time Limits.** Time limits for all categories will be strictly enforced. All categories have a time limit of six (6) minutes for presentation and four (4) minutes for set-up, soundcheck, and break down, for a total of ten (10) minutes per act. A penalty of five (5) points per minute or part of a minute over the time limits allowed will be deducted from the total score.



7. **Introduction of the Act. Contestants do not need to introduce themselves. Families will need to complete the online information that will be sent to them after registration in confirmed at District level.** Anything that needs to be said should be included in the introduction from the online submittal form to be read by the announcers; however, if you choose to add information, it will count against your performance time. (See Act Description Attachment) District description should not be more than 100 words in length.)

8. **Storage of Props.** Props will be unloaded and set in assigned location by team members. Please be courteous of others' props and minimize the space that you use. Please note this may not be behind the stage.
9. **Adult Assistance – Set-up.** Only adult coaches and/or agents will be allowed backstage, in the vicinity of the storage area of props, and to assist the 4-H members with set-up and break down of props and equipment. *4-H members or other youth who are not a part of the team will not be allowed to assist with set-up or take down.* One person should be designated by the group to work with the stage manager when it is your turn to set up for your performance. This person should know exact locations for all equipment, props, etc. on stage and be able to give clear instructions.
10. **Adult Assistance - Performance.** During a performance adult coaches may give cues for music backstage and help with costume/prop changes backstage. They are NOT allowed to participate in any other form in the act while the act is going on. Any voices heard during the performance from backstage must be either a participant OR a recorded voice.



11. Music - NO live accompanist will be permitted for any category. **If music is required, it must be performed by the contestant or MUST be uploaded on the Required Information Form online at least one week in advance of the competition.** The music should be in mp3 format or mp4 format. **No music will be allowed to play from smart phones, boom boxes, etc. All recorded music to be played during performance must be uploaded in required format and time frame required.** Once entries for the competition have been confirmed at the district level, entrants will receive an email with a link to upload accompanist music and complete required information. See Category Descriptions for specific rules for each category.



12. NO Stage Practice/Warm Up. Because scheduling at District Roundup is tight, there will be **NO practice walk through or warm up on the stage.** 4-H members should rehearse and come prepared to present a top-notch performance.

There will be time for sound check during your two minute set up directly before your performance. After you have registered, go to the sound technician and make sure your music is available. If your music was not uploaded in the time frame required, you will be performing without background music. There will not be enough time to listen the song in its entirety. This is a sound check only. The schedule does not allow time for practice.

13. Recording & Photos. No photography or videotaping will be permitted in any contest category. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** This includes photography and video recording of your own county entry. This is to protect copyright infringement issues as well as Texas 4-H from potential lawsuits. If you are caught videotaping or taking pictures you risk having all your county's performances disqualified.

14. Members per Team.

- Junior Teams** Juniors only.
- Intermediate Teams** Intermediates only.
- Senior Only Teams** Top 2 teams in each category will qualify for state competition.

15. Audience Participation. Acts do not allow a member of the audience to come up on stage or participate in a performance in any way unless they are a registered 4-Her and as a member of the act. (Example: Magic Act – any help or assistance with a trick in the act; that helper must be a registered participant as a team member for that specific category/act.)

Stage Information for Texas A&M University Commerce

Information to come in spring of 2024.

Awards. 1st through 5th place entries will be recognized during the awards ceremony.



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Participants with Disabilities. Any competitor who requires auxiliary aids or special accommodations must contact the District Extension Office or **Denita Young** at djyoung@ag.tamu.edu, or note when registering on 4-H Connect, at least 2 weeks before the competition to request such needs.

Contest Rules. District IV follows the rules set forth in the Texas 4-H Talent Showcase Guide with adaptations described above due to location and time limitations. Additional rules for Texas 4-H Talent Showcase can be found at: <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/events/roundup/>

<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/theater-performance-arts/>

Contest Superintendents. Questions regarding the District IV 4-H Share the Fun Contest should be directed Todd Williams at tk-williams@tamu.edu or Phyllis Griffin at phyllis.griffin@ag.tamu.edu

Contest and Category Descriptions

ENTRY: INDIVIDUAL OR GROUPS (Maximum of nine participants) 4-H Skit, Choreographed Routines, Variety Show, Musical/Instrumental, Poetry/Prose, Solo/Band Performance, and Vocal

OBJECTIVES:

- To provide an opportunity for 4-H youth to develop a spirit of cooperation through working together to develop self-confidence through public appearance.
- To stimulate interest and encourage a broad-based recreation program in Texas 4-H at the club and county level.
- To encourage 4-H members to discover and develop their talents.
- To provide for social, cultural, and leadership development of 4-H youth.

CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS:

1. **4-H SKIT.** An entry may consist of one (1) to nine (9) participants. May be a 4-H based story line, promoting 4-H, community service, a project or activity. This category may also address a specific youth issue and present ways in which this issue can be addressed through 4-H efforts. May incorporate music, vocal selections, and/or choreographed routines but these aspects cannot be more than half of the performance. Skits can be humorous, creative and make fun of but not degrade Extension employees or the 4-H program. All 4-H members entered in the category must be a part of the act. Judged on material chosen, talent, creativity, showmanship, costumes and props. Four (4) minutes for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.
2. **CHOREOGRAPHED ROUTINES.** An entry may consist of one (1) to nine (9) participants. No speaking to form a skit or story line. The act requires choreography and can be demonstrated through twirling, pom pom squad routines, jump rope teams, basketball dribbling exhibitions, or dance (jazz, tap, country & western, ballroom, etc.). Sign language presentations to music have been added to choreographed routines. However, if a participant is SINGING and SIGNING, this entry should be entered in the Vocal Category. All 4-H members entered in the category must be a part of the act. Acts may use recorded music on CD or digital music player but may not use an accompanist. Judged on material chosen, talent, creativity, showmanship, costuming, and material chosen. Four (4) minutes for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

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3. **VARIETY SHOW**. An entry may consist of one (1) to nine (9) participants. This is an acting category. Variety show, also known as **variety arts** or **variety entertainment**, is entertainment made up of a variety of acts including sketch comedy, magic, acrobatics, juggling, and ventriloquism and other acts that do not fit into the other six categories. **Acts cannot incorporate 4-H related material or theme**. (Otherwise, it would be categorized as Celebrate 4-H.) Creativity is encouraged, but the degradation of any individual or organization is not permitted. May incorporate music, vocal selections, and/or choreographed routines, but these aspects cannot be more than half of the performance. Judged on material chosen, talent, creativity, showmanship, costumes and props. Four (4) minutes for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.
4. **MUSICAL/INSTRUMENTAL**. An entry may consist of one (1) to nine (9) participants. Musical presentation may be musical instruments accompanied by background recorded music or an instrumental performance only. No accompanist will be allowed. Participants may not sing or incorporate a skit, poetry, prose, or choreography with their act. Judged on talent, showmanship, musical presentation, and material chosen. Four (4) minutes for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.
5. **POETRY/PROSE**. An entry may consist of one (1) to nine (9) participants. Acts which showcase poetry or prose are required. The act may NOT incorporate vocal, musical, and/or choreographed routine. This category does not require 4-H related material, however, if an original poem or prose piece showcasing 4-H is written, this would be acceptable. Every 4-H member entered in the category must be a part of the performance on stage. All material must be memorized. No script may be used during the performance. Judged on material chosen, message, talent, presentation style, props/costuming. Four (4) minutes total for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

Defining Poetry and Prose: Poetry is generally characterized by structured meter and rhyme that tells a story or provides a message to the reader. Prose is distinguished from poetry by its greater variety of rhythm and its closer resemblance to the patterns of everyday speech. Another description might be an excerpt from a larger piece such as a play or book.
6. **SOLO/BAND PERFORMANCE**. An entry may consist of one (1) to nine (9) participants. This act incorporates a combination of vocal and musical/instrumental talents. Acts that are vocal only or musical/instrumental only are not to be entered in this category. All 4-H members entered in the category must be a part of the act by playing a musical instrument, singing, or both (solo performance must play an instrument and sing). Participants **MUST** incorporate singing in the acts, but cannot incorporate skits, poetry, or prose. They may, however, move around the stage and incorporate choreography with their presentation for the purpose of enhancing their showmanship. Judged on talent, showmanship, musical presentation, vocal presentation when applicable, and material chosen. Four (4) minutes for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.
7. **VOCAL**. An entry may consist of one (1) to nine (9) participants. Vocal presentation may be done a cappella or with an accompaniment CD, iPod, or other mp3 player. No accompanist will be allowed for this category. All members in the act must be singing. No lip sync will be allowed. Contestants may not present skits, poetry or other speaking during the act. They may, however, move around the stage and incorporate choreography with their presentation for the purpose of enhancing their showmanship. Sign language may

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be added to enhance the performance, but entries that strictly showcase sign language without vocal presentation are not permitted in this category. They must be entered in Choreographed routines. Judged on talent, showmanship, vocal presentation, and material chosen. Four (4) minutes for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

Revised: September 2023