

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM



TO: County Extension Agents & Parents and STF Contestants

FROM: JoLynn Reynolds & Matthew Pfeifer
4-H Talent Showcase - Co-Chairs
4-H & Youth Development

SUBJECT: 2023 Big Time in D9 – 4-H Talent Showcase (Share the Fun)



Howdy! I am pleased to provide you with the 2023 Texas 4-H Talent Showcase Contest Rules and information for Big Time in D9. Please provide this information to your children immediately so that they can become familiar with it. Included in this packet are the following pieces:

1. General Rules & Information
2. Contest Category Descriptions
3. Definition of Terms for Score Sheets
4. Seven (7) Individual Score Cards (one for each category)

New for the 2023 Contest

1. Revamped Name – Texas 4-H Talent Showcase
2. Revamped Category name – 4-H Skit (replaced Celebrate 4-H)

SOME CHANGES AND REMINDERS!

1. 4-H Talent Showcase will be split over two days at BTD-9 Roundup!
 - a. **Friday:** Choreographed Routines, Variety Show, Musical/Instrumental and Vocal
 - b. **Saturday:** 4-H Skit, Poetry/Prose, and Solo/Band Performance
2. Entry Deadline: March 29, 2023, on 4-H online. Information sheet must be uploaded on 4-H online.
3. **REMINDER!** 4-H members will be able to participate in one 4-H Talent Showcase category on Friday **AND** one 4-H Talent Showcase category on Saturday!
4. **REMINDER!** Two Performances will be selected by Contest Superintendents and judges to perform during Awards Ceremony each evening.

5. A total of 7 categories will be offered for the 2023 contest.
6. The *first and second place district winners* in each of the seven (7) categories qualify for Texas 4-H Roundup. (Senior Division only)
7. The first and second place entries in each category from District advancing to Texas 4-H Roundup may be from the same county. If a county has an entry in each category at District and each win first or second, then they can all advance to Texas 4-H Roundup.
8. Please note the Texas 4-H Roundup rule that went into effect in 2013: 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.
9. Music can be loaded on any compatible source: Thumb Drive, etc. Please labeled your music with name, category, and county.
10. All contestants will need to check in 15 minutes before their scheduled time. Performance schedules will be posted.
11. **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.**
12. There will be an Awards Assembly on Friday, April 28, 2023, at 6:00 pm which will include Choreographed Routines, Variety Show, Poetry/Prose, and Vocal. There will be an Awards Assembly on Saturday, April 29, 2023, at 6:00 pm which will include 4-H, Musical/Instrumental, and Solo/Band Performance.

If you have any questions concerning Big Time in D-9 4-H Talent Showcase contest, please contact your County Extension Agent or contest Co-Chair, Jo Lynn Reynolds – Program Assistant – Liberty County, 936-334-3230 or email: jlreynolds@ag.tamu.edu.

2023 BTD9 4-H ROUNDUP 4-H TALENT SHOWCASE CONTEST

General Rules & Information

Superintendents: Joe Lynn Reynolds & Matthew Pfeifer
 4-H Program Assistant & County Extension Agent 4-H and Youth

1. **Categories.** There are seven (7) categories, each with a separate description and score card. Category descriptions are listed in Texas 4-H Roundup Guide and in the enclosed Contest and Category Descriptions. The seven (7) categories are:
 - a. 4-H Skit
 - b. Choreographed Routines
 - c. Variety Show
 - d. Musical/Instrumental
 - e. Poetry/Prose
 - f. Solo/Band Performance
 - g. Vocal

2. **Advancement to Texas 4-H Roundup.** The first and second place winners from each category at District will qualify for Texas 4-H Roundup (Seniors only). If a county has an entry in each category at District and each win 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.

3. **REMINDER! Participation on Both Days.** 4-H members will be able to participate in one 4-H Talent Showcase category on Friday (Choreographed Routines, Variety Show, Poetry/Prose, and Vocal) **AND** one 4-H Talent Showcase category on Saturday (4-H Skit, Musical/Instrumental, and Solo/Band Performance).

4. **Event/Registration Deadline: March 23, 2023, on 4-H online.** Complete 4-H Talent Showcase Information Form <https://texas.4honline.com>

5. **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.

5. **Judges.** Judges/Superintendent will determine: If an entry is in the correct category. **Judges' Decisions.** All decisions by the judges will be final.

6. **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 BTD-9 contest is LIMITED! SEE the Registration table for location.

7. **Prohibited Materials**. The following materials may not be used in any category: talcum powder/baby powder, flour, pies, food, water, oil, feathers, flower petals, hay, straw, helium balloons, glitter, sand, confetti, 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, live animals, or real firearms will be allowed.
8. **REMINDER! 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, **sound check**, 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.
9. **REMINDER! Introduction of the Act**. At District 4-H Roundup, each act will be introduced individually immediately prior to their performance by the announcer. The introduction/description will be part of the required Information Form that is due **March 23, 2023**. At the district and state level, contestants should **NOT** introduce themselves during their performance. Anything that needs to be said should be included in the introduction to be read by announcers.
10. **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.*
11. **Adult Assistance - Performance**. During a performance adult coaches may give cues for music at the sound booth or 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.
12. **Accompanist**. NO Accompanist will be permitted for any category. If music is required, it must be on a CD, iPod, or other mp3 player or performed by the contestant. See Category Descriptions for specific rules for each category.
13. **Recording & Photos**. No flash photography or videotaping will be permitted in any contest category. NO EXCEPTIONS. This includes photography and video taping of your own county entry.
14. **Awards**. The top three winners in each category as determined by the judges will receive awards by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. The awards will be announced during the Award Ceremony both days.
15. **Performance at Evening Assembly**. Two performances will have the opportunity to perform on stage during the evening assembly on the day in which they competed.

2023 BTD-9 4-H ROUNDUP 4-H TALENT SHOWCASE CONTEST

Tentative Schedule

Friday, April 28, 2023

8:30 am	Unload props for Choreographed Routines, Variety, Poetry/Prose, and Vocal	TBA
9:00 am	Judging begins	TBA
6:00 pm	Awards Program	TBA

Saturday, April 29, 2023

8:30 am	Unload props for 4-H Skit, Musical/Instrumental, and Solo/Band Performance	TBA
9:00 am	Judging begins	TBA
6:00 pm	Awards Program	TBA

2023 BTD-9 4-H ROUNDUP 4-H TALENT SHOWCASE CONTEST



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, uniformity, 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.
3. **Variety Show:** An entry may consist of one (1) to nine (9) participants. This is an acting category. Variety shows 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 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 setup 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 highlight 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 highlighting 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 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 be added to enhance the performance, but entries that strictly highlight 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 2022

2023 BTD-9 4-H ROUNDUP 4-H TALENT SHOWCASE CONTEST

Definitions of Terms for Score Sheets

The information below is a guide for scoring. Each term used on the score sheets is defined to clarify what is expected in each performance category. There is a score sheet for each of the six (6) categories.

Inappropriateness in any category is not permitted and would change the score of that area dramatically and could lead to disqualification. For example, a brilliantly executed skit that depends upon the use of foul language would not be acceptable. Any inappropriate reference to sex, age, or handicap will lead to disqualification.

MATERIAL CHOSEN – This area refers to the appropriateness of the material selected. A vocalist should select the song that is within his/her voice range; a pianist should pass up the “showy” difficult piece for one he/she will play well. Material chosen also refers to the appropriateness of the selection for presentation before a 4-H audience. **The target audience should be around 13 years of age and be PG or G rated.**

TALENT – This is the performer’s actual ability to do what the activity or skill requires. In any musical classification, this includes items such as the quality of music tones, intonation, manner of uttering tones with regard to rise, fall, pitch, harmony, rhythm, and any other attributes of an artistic presentation. In choreographed routine, it includes rhythm, timing appropriate gestures, memorization, and artistic delivery. Judges should be aware that some of the performers have not had formal training.

CREATIVITY – Creativity is the ability to produce something new, unique, or original. An act may be original in the way it was developed and/or interpreted. Sometimes the act itself may not be original, but the costuming, staging, or delivery may show creativity. Additionally, the quality of the creativity should be measured.

SHOWMANSHIP – Showmanship is the stage personality of the performer. It can include poise, confidence, facial expression, projection of voice, projection of music, body movements, gestures, and the performer’s stage presence, depending on the category (see score sheets for specific criteria). It is always the performer’s communication with the audience. It is his/her ability to make smooth entrances and exits, to avoid awkward pauses, and to acknowledge the applause of the audience. It is the use of the microphone and special stage props if these are a part of the act. In general, it is the whole personality of the performer while he/she is on stage.

COSTUME AND PROPS – Costume and props should be appropriate and supportive of the act. For some acts, street clothes may be the most appropriate costume. If the special costumes are used, they should contribute to the effectiveness of the act. Props are the backdrop and/or other items used to add character and meaning to the presentation. See rules #8-10 under “General Rules & Information” for more details on the appropriate size of props and items that cannot be used.

MESSAGE – Communication of an idea or theme. What is the underlying message that will be taught or presented?

PRESENTATION STYLE – Method of acting; distinctive or characteristic manner; overall excellence; skill or grace in performance and/or appearance.

VOCAL PRESENTATION – Exercising the power of producing voice, speech, or sound, expressing oneself as to relate to character or message being portrayed.

MUSICAL PRESENTATION – Music selected is appropriate to the skill level of the individual or group; sound level of the musical presentation is at an appropriate level; instruments are tuned properly.

UNIFORMITY – Consistency in formation; presenting a consistent appearance; in step; synchronized.

AUDIENCE APPEAL – Evokes reaction from audience that is desired from the performance (laughter, clapping, serious, qui

