



Racine County 4-H  
Communication  
Performing Arts Festival  
Participant Guide  
April 25, 2026

## Table of Contents

What is it?.....	4
Why participate?.....	4
2026 Racine County 4-H Communication Performing Arts Festival.....	4
Tips for preparing.....	5
Grade division time limits.....	5
Cloverbud 4-H Pledge and Pledge of Allegiance.....	6
*Rules.....	6
*Suggestions.....	6
Cloverbud 4-H Poster.....	6
*Rules.....	6
*Suggestions.....	6
Best All Around Communicator Award.....	7
Award Ceremony.....	7
Posters / Class A.....	8
Creative Writing / Class B.....	9
Demonstrations / Class C.....	10
Speaking / Class D.....	11-13
Photography / Class E.....	14
Computers / Class F.....	15-16

Creative Art / Class G.....	17
Display/Model / Class H.....	18-19
Performing Arts / Class I.....	20-21

## **What is the Communication Performing Arts Festival?**

\*An event to help 4-H youth with confidence in public speaking. This 4-H event promotes communication in a relaxed environment.

## **Why participate in the Communication Performing Arts Festival?**

\*Registered 4-H youth members from Cloverbuds - 12th grade are welcome and encouraged to register. This is a great way to practice talking with judges about your projects.

## **2026 RACINE COUNTY 4-H COMMUNICATION PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL**

When: Saturday, April 25, 2026

Where: Union Grove Elementary School

Who Eligible to Participate: Registered 4-H members, Cloverbuds - 12th grade

Time: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm /Times vary depending on number of entries /Judging 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Some classes have designated judging times / schedule will go out prior to event

When is registration due: February 24, 2026 by 4:30 pm

How to register: Sign up genius link

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A4CAA929A6FD0-61877014-racine>

Questions: Email Amy Gehrand at [amy\\_gehrand@att.net](mailto:amy_gehrand@att.net) or Devon Collery [dbrozynski1@gmail.com](mailto:dbrozynski1@gmail.com)

### **Tips for when preparing...**

- \*Speak clearly
- \*Speak to be heard by everyone
- \*Change voice tone frequently
- \*Talk to be understood by everyone
- \*Make eye contact with judges and audience members
- \*Appear relaxed - not slouched
- \*Express feelings
- \*Use gestures and body language
- \*Practice - pets are good listeners
- \*Practice in front of a mirror
- \*Practice - in front of family and friends

### **Grade Division/Time Limits/Word Limits**

Grades K5-2nd / 1-4 minutes / up to 500 words

Grades 3rd-4th / 3-7 minutes / up to 1,000 words

Grades 5th-7th / 5-9 minutes / up to 1,500 words

Grades 8th-12th / 7-12 minutes / up to 2,000 words

**Your entries will be on display during the event.**

**Communication Performing Arts Festival entries may be entered in the Racine County Fair for the year 2026.**

**CLOVERBUD 4-H PLEDGE OR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Rules - Memorize and recite either the 4-H Pledge or the Pledge of Allegiance or Both

\*Memorize and recite the 4-H Pledge

I pledge  
My head to clearer thinking  
My heart to greater loyalty  
My hands to larger service  
My health to better living  
For my club, my community, my country, and my world

\*Memorize and recite the Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the flag  
of the United States of America,  
and to the republic for which it stands,  
one nation under God, indivisible,  
with liberty and justice for all.

Suggestions -

- \*Practice
- \*Don't be nervous
- \*Ask older 4-H members or adult leaders to listen and give feedback

**CLOVERBUD 4-H POSTER**

Rules -

- \*Size 14" x 22"
- \*Poster about your favorite part within 4-H

Suggestions -

- \*Use simple lettering
- \*Draw pictures to explain topic
- \*You are able to use any medium(colored pencils, crayons, markers or paint)
- \*The poster should be attention getting
- \*Include information that is brief, legible, and easy to read

\*Neatness, organization, and easy to read/look at from a distance

### **BEST ALL-AROUND COMMUNICATOR AWARD**

\*Open to Communication Performing Arts Festival participants **Grade 3 to 12** exhibiting in **three** of the following classes: Poster, Creative Writing, Demonstrations, Speaking, Photography, Computers, Creative Art, and Display/Model.

\*Recognizes outstanding achievement supporting a single theme in multiple classes.

\*Performing Arts entries are **NOT** eligible for consideration.

\*Select three exhibits from CLASSES A-H to be considered. (example: one entry from Class A, one entry is from Class D, one entry from Class H)

\*There will be ONE All-Around Communicator award given for an original theme. Original themes must be specified prior to the event date. (Depending on how many entries there may be two All-Around Communicators)

\*Entries are eligible, **ONLY** if there is a theme for the three entries to be considered. (example - I have one enlargement of a rabbit, I demonstrate how to clip rabbit nails, and I create a children's book about rabbits )

\*Please let Amy Gehrand [amy\\_gehrand@att.net](mailto:amy_gehrand@att.net) and Devon Collery [dbrozynski1@gmail.com](mailto:dbrozynski1@gmail.com) know your theme and which classes you have selected by **Monday, March 30, 2026 at 4:30 pm.**

### **THE AWARDS CEREMONY**

The following awards will be presented following the judging:

\*All Cloverbuds (K5-2nd grade) participants will receive a special ribbon and gift for participating. Cloverbuds are not eligible for Spotlight ribbons based upon State 4-H policies.

\*In all other age categories, each entry will receive a blue, red, or white ribbon.

\*In Performing Arts, "Best of Show" and "Reserve Best of Show" will receive a special award.

\*One or two All-Around Communicator awards will be given for an original theme.

## **POSTERS / CLASS A**

Your poster may promote joining 4-H, a 4-H related activity, a project, or an upcoming event OR relate to an original theme for the All-Around Communicator.

**Entries are due by 4:30 pm on Wednesday, March 25, 2026 to the Racine County Extension Office in Burlington .**

\*You are limited to one poster entry per 4-H member.

\*Posters must be 14" x 22", horizontal or vertical.

\*You must have 4-H or the 4-H clover design on your poster.

\*Attention getting, neat, legible, easy to read from a distance.

\*On the back of the poster, describe where the poster might be displayed AND list your name, club, and grade level.

\*Posters will be judged prior to the festival and will be put on display at the festival.

\*Awards will be given out during the awards ceremony.

\*Ribbon placing will be lowered one level if guidelines are not followed.

**\*Entry descriptions (one poster per exhibitor):**

**\*Painted or hand-drawn**

**\*3-D and/or computer-aided**

**CREATIVE WRITING/ESSAY, POEM, SHORT STORY / CLASS B**

You may write about 4-H in general, your favorite project, what 4-H has taught you, any other topic, or an account of an interview with someone. Friendly reminder what you write about to keep it within the 4-H Clover. Your entry may also be one of your entries for All-Around Communicator if you chose to.

**Entries due by 4:30 pm on Wednesday, March 25, 2026 to the Racine County Extension Office in Burlington .**

\*Entries will be judged prior to the festival and will be on display at the festival.

\*Awards will be given out during the awards ceremony.

\*Judging Criteria: 60% composition, 10% grammar, 10% punctuation, 10% spelling and 10% neatness.

\*You may enter a poem, short story, and essay, but no more than one exhibit per genre.

\*Entries must be neatly handwritten or printed (double-spaced) on one side of the paper only.

\*Your name, address, 4-H club, grade division and entry type (poem, short story, or essay) must be in the upper right-hand corner on the front page of your entry.

**\*\*Grade divisions and length requirements:**

K5-2nd grade	Poem: any length	Essay and/or short story: up to 500 words
3rd-4th grade	Poem: any length	Essay and/or short story: up to 1,000 words
5th-7th grade	Poem: any length	Essay and/or short story: up to 1,500 words
8th-12th grade	Poem: any length	Essay and/or short story: up to 2,000 words

## **DEMONSTRATIONS / CLASS C**

You will present your demonstration between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm during the festival. You will be assigned an approximate time to perform your demonstration and will be notified of that time prior to the event. The time will depend on how many entries are in the class. Each demonstration will be judged face to face immediately following your presentation.

The demonstration may relate to your original theme, if you are going for the All-Around Communicator, or a different topic of your choice.

\*All demonstrators will be competing against themselves.

\*Show the audience how to “do” or “make” a project or activity using visual aids. visual aids.

\*Please bring all props you will need for your demonstration, a table may be Available.

\*Face to face judging based on Demonstration quality (introduction, single theme, understandable/steps logical, conclusion), Delivery (audible/clear announcement/varied tone, equipment set up and use, visual aids, confidence/poise, knowledge of subject, smile, eye contact) Teamwork, if appropriate and falling within the time guidelines (see above).

**Grade divisions and time requirements: (Demonstrations should be within the time indicated below or the ribbon will be lowered one place.)**

K5-2nd grade	1-4 minutes
3rd-4th grade	3-7 minutes
5th-7th grade	5-9 minutes
8th-12th grade	7-12 minutes

Team Demonstrations - Time limit will be determined by the oldest participant

## **SPEAKING (ORIGINAL SPEECH, DRAMATIC READING, PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT) / CLASS D**

Speaking entries will be presented and judged between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm during the festival. You will be assigned an approximate time to perform and will be notified of that time prior to the event. Times will be determined on how many entries there will be. Each speaking entry will be judged face to face immediately following the presentation.

### **Entry Descriptions and Topic Ideas:**

#### **ORIGINAL SPEECHES:**

\***K5-2nd grade:** Plan and practice telling the judge and audience about a topic you care about, like what makes 4-H fun, what makes a good friend, a place you've visited, your favorite book or another topic of your choice.

\***3rd-12th grade:** Write and present a speech relating to the original theme, if you are going for All-Around Communicator OR on a topic of your choice. speeches must be the original work of the 4-H member: Informative, persuasive, or entertaining.

\*Note cards may be used skillfully as an aid, BUT you should NOT read directly from the note cards.

\*Visual aid and/or electronic slides are optional.

\*Face to face judging based on Introduction, Composition and Content (easy to understand, single main point, evidence), Delivery (clear, friendly/relaxed, interesting, effective gestures/movement, visual aids-optional, smile/eye contact), Conclusion, and Teamwork, if appropriate.

## **DRAMATIC READINGS:**

\***K5-2nd grade:** Recite the 4-H Pledge and/or the Pledge of Allegiance from memory, or read a short story, poem or nursery rhyme.

\***3rd-12th grade:** Select one or more readings - poetry, short story or a book excerpt-to fit time guidelines. The reading may be an original work or by another author.

\*More than one selection may be chosen to meet the time requirement.

\*Delivery must convey your personal interpretation of the material.

\*Face to face judging based on Introduction, Composition and Content, (easy to understand, single main point), Delivery (clear, friendly/relaxed, interesting, effective gestures/movement, visual aids-optional, smile/eye contact), Conclusion, and Teamwork, if appropriate.

\*Participant selects written prose or poetry, either original work or by another author.

\*Delivery must convey your personal interpretation of the material.

\*Cloverbuds (K5-2) may also choose to recite the American and/or 4-H pledges from memory.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS (PSA):**

\***K5-2nd grade:** Be part of a team of 4-Hers presenting a PSA or perform your own.

\***3rd-12th grade:** Write and read a one-minute radio news announcement, commentary or public service announcement. Pretend it will be heard on your local radio. Tell the audience who, what, where, when and why of something in a fun and creative way. PSAs should take about 60 seconds or less to read.

\*Face to face judging based on Introduction, Composition and Content, (clear message, easily defined target audience, relevant message, effective language, accurate material), Delivery (clear, friendly/relaxed, varied pitch/tempo/inflection, proper pronunciation) and Conclusion.

\*Length 60 seconds or less (all ages)

-30 seconds - about 75 words

-60 seconds - about 150 words

## **GRADE DIVISIONS AND TIME REQUIREMENTS:**

K5-2nd grade	speaking 1-4 minutes	PSA of 1 minute
3rd-4th grade	speaking 3-7 minutes	PSA of 1 minute
5th-7th grade	speaking 5-9 minutes	PSA of 1 minute
8th-12th grade	speaking 7-12 minutes	PSA of 1 minute
Team	time limit determined by oldest participant	PSA of 1 minute

## **PHOTOGRAPHY / CLASS E**

Entries will be judged face to face between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm during the festival. Judging will be based on Technical Quality, Composition, and Storytelling Ability.

\*Photos must be taken by the participant.

\*Photos must be mounted on poster board, 11" x 14" or on a matte board.

\*Please **DO NOT** use photo corners to attach photos. **Use rubber cement or photo mounting spray.**

\*You may submit two (2) entries.

\*Include your name, grade, and club on the back of each entry.

\*Photos in collections should be no larger than 4" x 6" each.

\*Enlargements must be at least 5" x 7" but no larger than 8" x 10".

\*Photography will be judged based on technical quality, composition and storytelling ability.

\*Photos should **NOT** have captions. The photo should tell a story **ON** its own.

### **ENTRY DESCRIPTIONS:**

\*You may have 2 entries. Your entries may be 2 collections, 2 enlargements, or 1 of each. **Photos may be color or black and white.**

1. Collection of 4 photos - 4 pictures of the same subject or object, or 4 photos that go together or have the same common theme. These photos should be no larger than 4 x 6.
2. Enlargement - any subject (must be at least size 5 x 7 but no larger than 8 x 10)

## **COMPUTERS / CLASS F**

Use your computer to communicate your original theme, if for the All-Around Communicator, or construct your entry to promote 4-H, a favorite project, any other event, or an idea of your own.

Entries will be judged face to face between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm during the festival.

\*Please bring your own laptop if a computer display is required.

\*WI-FI access is available.

\*Face to face judging based on Subject Matter (purpose, knowledge, organization and accuracy, creativity, quality), Educational Value (worthwhile, easily understood), Member Knowledge (subject/software, learn, recommend changes, explain process).

### **ENTRY DESCRIPTIONS:**

You may submit up to **three** entries, but only one exhibit per entry number. You may create **one** of the entries below, if you chose to compete for the All-Around Communicator.

1. Create a flyer on the computer that provides information on you, 4-H, another youth organization, or the Racine County Fair. A flyer consists of an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper printed on one side.
2. Create a 4-page newsletter that includes graphics. Print the 4 pages, back to back on 8.5" x 11" sheets of paper.
3. Create a multi-media presentation. Include printout of the presentation for display. The original, uninterrupted presentation should take no longer than 10 minutes.
4. Create a trifold, 6 panel brochure that includes graphics. The original paper size must be 8.5" x 11" and the brochure must have text or graphics on all six panels.
5. Create an original piece of art on the computer.

6. Create a design. Examples include, but are not limited to, a landscape, garden, home, building or CAD-CAM design.
7. Create and print a word cloud with at least 50 words, describing a topic.
8. Create and print a 12 page, computer generated scrapbook. Each page should measure 8.5" x 11".
9. Create an animation using an online website or software program (Claymation, animated cartoon, etc.).
10. Take a digital video clip, save it to the computer and edit the video. You must share the original video, as well as the edited version. The completed video should be no longer than 5 minutes.
11. Create a website for your 4-H club, 4-H project, or other youth organization.
12. Create a single page ad.
13. Use programming language to perform a task - include a printout of the result of the program.
14. Build a computer and install the operating system.
15. Create an item using 3-D printing, including a diagram of your model with support structures.

## **CREATIVE ART / CLASS G**

Entries will be judged face to face between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm during the festival. Judging based on Technical Quality, Composition and Creativity.

### **Entry descriptions:**

You may submit up to **three** entries, but only **one** exhibit per entry number.

1. Create a children's book with illustrations: hand-drawn or computer graphics.
2. Create a scrapbook of a 4-H trip, family trip, special event or any other topic.
3. Create an original drawing or painting (16" x 20" maximum size).
4. Create an original sculpture or 3-D art.
5. Create art in any other medium, as long as it tells a story.
6. Create a book review shoebox diorama. Optional to bring the book you read.

## **DISPLAY/MODEL / CLASS H**

Face to face judging will take place between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm during the festival.

Display/Model may not be larger than 4' x 4'

Should be educational

Examples include: 3-D model (legos, model cars, house design, etc.)

Scrapbook

Wood creations

Educational booth

Homemade game

Farm display

These are just a few examples.....

### **Lettering (if applicable):**

\*Not too much wording

\*Use simple lettering

\*Words should be big enough to read from a distance

\*Check all spelling

### **Color:**

\*Use bold, deep colors

\*Avoid using too many colors

Make sure the display is balanced but not crowded

Pictures, diagrams, etc. to help explain topic (if applicable)

**CONTENT:**

1. Theme - clear and interesting
2. Provides education
3. Information - accurate and factual
4. Overall organization

**APPEARANCE:**

1. Neatness - lettering and graphics
2. Design - well planned and attracts attention
3. Readability - easy to read and understand
4. Expression - pleasant and interesting
5. Relays a good message

## PERFORMING ARTS / CLASS I

All types of talent are welcome! Performances do not need to be musical. Judging will be between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm during the festival.

\*Judging based on Performers (smile factor, enthusiasm/ease/confidence, appearance/costuming), Selection (appropriate for age, audience response, teamwork) and Delivery (tone, quality and accuracy, interpretation, technique).

\*You may participate in one group and/or one individual entry. Please submit a separate registration for each.

\*Please limit **INDIVIDUAL** entries to no more than 5 minutes. Please limit **GROUP** entries to no more than 10 minutes.

\***Performances will be judged during the event times.** You will be assigned and **approximate** time to perform and notified of that time prior to the event. Note that performance times are subject to change. Please arrive at least 30 minutes before your scheduled performance time.

\*Score sheets /critique sheets will be distributed during the Awards Ceremony.

\*The “Best of Show” entry will receive a special ribbon.

\*The “Reserve Best of Show” entry will receive a special ribbon.

\***NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED!**

\*Please provide your own keyboard.

\*Please provide via email audio files to support your performance (if needed) **no later than April 13, 2026 by 4:30 pm.**

\*Provided will be a speaker and computer.

\*Please bring a back up of your audio file for your performance to the festival.

\*File name should include the performer’s name.

\*Please email your audio file to Amy Gehrand [amy\\_gehrand@att.net](mailto:amy_gehrand@att.net) **AND** Devon Collery [dbrozynski1@gmail.com](mailto:dbrozynski1@gmail.com) Two weeks prior to the festival.

**Entry Descriptions are:**

1. Vocal Music
2. Instrumental Music
3. Dance
4. Drama or Skit (example: group skits, club Cloverbud project skits, individual monologues, etc.)
5. Novelty or Clowning (example: juggling, hula hoop, karaoke, or stage talent)

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