Demonstrations & Illustrated Talks

Demonstrations should be placed in the category that most closely relates to the related project. Otherwise, demos or illustrated talks may not be suitable for competition at the district & state levels.

- **District:** Each county may enter all blue qualifying JR, INT, & SR individuals & all blue qualifying JR, INT, & SR teams. Counties reserve the option of working with red placing entries, to improve the entry to a blue level & qualify the entry for district competition.
- **State:** Each district may enter all blue qualifying SR individuals & all blue qualifying SR teams in state level competition. Participants must meet a blue standard in district competition to qualify for state.
- **Regional/National:** Selected project areas give 4-H’ers the opportunity to compete beyond the state level. In such cases, one overall demo will be certified for competition although there may be an individual & team winner at the state level.

Regardless of category entered, the following regulations apply:

- No living vertebrates (i.e. fish, reptiles, birds, or mammals) may be brought to district or state level events.
- Demos or illustrated talks must be between 3-12 mins for JRs & INTs, & 5-12 mins for SRs. A team demon is one in which 2 team members participate both in speaking & presentation. No more than 2 members per team.
- State entries must have competed at the county/district levels. Participation guidelines for county/district level activities that do not culminate at the state level are at the discretion of planning committees at the county/district.
- Each presentation (i.e. demo, illustrated talk, Share-the-Fun activity, speech, etc.) will be the same from district level to state level. A 4-H’er should definitely improve on his/her activity but it must remain basically the same.
- If a 4-H’er is participating at the state level with a similar illustrated talk or demonstration to the previous year, the demo or illustrated talk must be changed to include more depth & growth.
- Participants must provide all equipment & supplies for their presentations.
- Competitors are responsible for all aspects of their preparations & set-up of their competitions. Only competitors are allowed in the set-up/dressing room at State Competitions.
- In demo categories where one entry is needed to be recognized as the official state entry for a regional/national competition, the judges will be asked to select the overall entry from the 1st place individual & 1st place team, provided this meets respective national guidelines.
- During Florida 4-H Congress, individual 4-H’ers can participate in one demo OR public speaking event AND either Share-the-Fun or one judging/other event (i.e. Fashion Revue), as long as schedule permits. Please contact the State Events Coordinator to confirm Congress schedule for these events. Youth at county & district levels can be encouraged to participate in both demos & judging or other events. 4-H’ers may compete in contests & be a council delegate.

The Demonstration/Illustrated Talk & Public Speaking competitions combine 2 forms of achievement & recognition for youth. These are: Standards of Excellence established by experts (as defined by the scorecards for Demonstration/Illustrated Talk or Public Speaking Contests). By measuring personal progress against standards of excellence, youth can gain insight into their own efforts & abilities. Peer Competition, a panel of judges subjectively identifies, in a concrete time & place, the best teams or individuals through rankings. It is a strong motivator for some youth, but is inappropriate for youth under the age of eight. In State Congress Competitions, using both “standards of excellence” & “peer competition”, as described above, participants will first be recognized for reaching a standard of excellence. Blue, Red, & White levels are used to determine the standard met. Participants will then be recognized through peer competition for earning 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place within their category. Only blue standard participants at district events should progress to state level competitions. Only blue standard participants at state level events may compete at the corresponding National Event. All judges’ decisions are final.