

# State 4-H Dog Educational Guidelines 2026

**All educational contests will be held on  
Saturday, September 26, 2026, at the  
State Dog Show**



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## ART

To encourage the 4-H member to apply artistic talent within the Dog Project. To increase knowledge and skill in dog-related arts.

To learn the value of developing visual exhibits in areas of specific interest.

### GRADE DIVISIONS:

Junior..... 3-8

Senior.....9-13

### WISCONSIN CONTEST CATEGORIES:

1. Drawing and Painting, any media
2. Graphic Art (computer-generated)
3. Any Other Craft; ceramic, glass, fabric, puzzle, leather, wood (formerly under Woodworking) or any other craft medium

### WISCONSIN CONTEST RULES:

1. Only one entry per category is permitted. All exhibits must be the work of the exhibitor and relate to the Dog project.
2. Drawing and Painting category
  - A. Overall Size: minimum 9" x 12" and maximum 18" x 24" including any matting or frame.
  - B. Drawing Presentation: All work must be securely matted with a maximum 3" border. Matting board examples: Crescent, Alpha mat, and Bainbridge brand matting board. No glass allowed. Plexiglass or some other clear protective covering may be used. Charcoal and/or pastels may be exhibited in a raised frame with clear protective covering, as long as overall size is within minimum and maximum criteria.
  - C. Painting Presentation: All watercolor must be matted with a suitable matting board, with a maximum 3" border. All oil and acrylic must have a suitable frame for hanging the work (stretcher frames are acceptable). Recommended matting boards: Crescent, Alpha mat and Bainbridge brand name matting board. No glass allowed. (Plexiglass or some other protective covering may be used.) Exception: Glass painting is acceptable.
3. Any Other Craft category. This includes any craft item that does not fit in the first 2 categories.
4. Be prepared to answer questions about why you made the item and what you learned. If a member is unable to attend, another person may bring an article to be judged, with a card indicating information about the exhibit.
5. All entries must attach a card indicating information about exhibit (eg: choice of colors, medium used, technique, etc)
6. All exhibitors will receive a critique sheet with the judge's comments about the project.
7. A grand, reserve and 8 top ten ribbons in each division will be awarded. Disqualified entries are NOT eligible for awards but will be critiqued by judge with reason for disqualification listed on judges form.

# ART JUDGING GUIDE

Exhibitor Name \_\_\_\_\_ Exhibitor # \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Placing \_\_\_\_\_

Category \_\_\_\_\_

## ART

	EXCELLENT	VERY GOOD	GOOD	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
Originality Use of imagination and creativity				
Composition Balance, harmony, overall design				
Craftsmanship Completed appearance, neatness				
Use of Materials Skill level, appropriate selection				
Presentation Mat/Frame - general appearance				

Judge \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature or initials)

## CREATIVE COMMUNICATION

To encourage 4-H youth to visually show their knowledge, skill and love of dogs. To help 4-H youth gain self-confidence and develop lifetime creative skills and abilities. To learn the value of developing and organizing written and pictorial exhibits in a specific area of interest. To increase awareness of the 4-H Dog Project through the use of posters, displays and scrapbooking.

### GRADE DIVISIONS:

Junior.....3-8  
Senior.....9-13

### WISCONSIN CONTEST CATEGORIES:

1. Poster: Can be creative or educational
2. Display: Items that used to go in Vet Science can go here
3. Scrapbooking: Tells a story; dog-related; original work

### WISCONSIN CONTEST RULES:

1. Exhibitor is limited to one entry per category. All exhibits must be the work of the exhibitor and relate to the Dog project.
2. Posters must use a poster board of 14" x 22". One inch of border is recommended. (No foam board)
3. To be successful, a poster must:
  - A. Catch the eye of the passerby.
  - B. Be simple and clear, not too wordy.
  - C. Impress an idea or a fact upon the viewer.
4. The poster can be any topic related to the Dog Project. For example:

Educational: care, training, health, nutrition, psychology, breed, history of breeds, anatomy, careers, safety, reproduction, youth leadership in project, colors and markings. (Include information on your choice of subject and resources used.)

Creative: collage, advertisement, promotions. (Include a statement about your choice of subject matter and reason for entering a poster in Creative.)

5. All posters and displays must attach a card including information about their exhibit, including the choice of subject, and resource material. This information is necessary or your poster or display may be disqualified.
6. No part of the poster may protrude over 1/8" above the poster board. No sharp objects may be glued to the poster (ie: glass, wire, needles).
7. Displays can be placed on a 3 sided display board or can contain the actual items. Exhibit area on table will be approximately 18" x 24". Examples of displays include: Illustrated Models (ie: circulatory system, digestive system, bones, etc.) Vet Kit, First Aid Kit, Flow Chart(ie: Parasite Life Cycle, Disease Staging, etc)

8. Scrapbooking should tell a story about you and your dog project. It may include original artwork, photographs, clippings, cut-outs, stickers, captions, etc. The book should consist of no more than eight single sided bound pages plus a cover. (You may have eight single-sided pages.)
9. The following information needs to be included on the back of the poster, back of display, or the last page of the scrapbook with name, grade, county and category.
10. Judging Criterion: creativity, telling the story, composition (grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc.), neatness
11. A grand, reserve and 8 top ten ribbons in each division will be awarded. Disqualified entries are NOT eligible for awards but will be critiqued by judge with reason for disqualification listed on judges form. All exhibitors will receive a critique sheet with the judge's comments about the project.

## POSTER AND DISPLAY JUDGING GUIDE

Exhibitor Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Category \_\_\_\_\_ Placing \_\_\_\_\_

JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_  
(signature or initials)

	EXCELLENT	VERY GOOD	GOOD	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
<b>I. Information Given and Idea Expressed</b>				
Theme				
Simplicity				
Originality				
<b>II. Art, Design, Lettering</b>				
Pleasing composition, attractive				
Dynamic, eye-catching, original				
Neat, easily read lettering				
Use of color				
<b>III. Construction</b>				
Materials: texture, shape, size				
Durability, withstand shipping				

Comments:

# SCRAPBOOKING JUDGING GUIDE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_

Placing: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Scrapbooking tells a story. It may include original artwork, photographs, clippings, cutouts, stickers, captions, etc. The book should consist of no more than eight single-sided bound pages plus a cover.

<b>Creativity</b>	<b>Content</b> (introduction, body, conclusion)	<b>Composition</b> (grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc.)	<b>Neatness</b>
Possible points:  _____/30	Possible points:  _____/30	Possible points:  _____/30	Possible points:  _____/10

Total Score: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DEMONSTRATION OR ILLUSTRATED TALK INDIVIDUAL**

**To help youth gain self-confidence. To develop their ability to demonstrate or illustrate their skill or activity and share it with others. To develop skills in effective organization and presentation.**

### **GRADE DIVISIONS:**

Beginner.....3-5  
Junior..... 6-8  
Senior.....9-13

### **WISCONSIN CONTEST RULES:**

1. Individuals must be currently enrolled in the 4-H Dog Project in the county they represent.
2. Subjects must be dog-related, original, and factual. Use of live animals is permitted.
3. Participants are expected to do a presentation, of one of these two types:
  - a) Demonstrate dog-related procedure by explanation and actually doing the procedure (or facsimile of procedure). Visual aids may also be used.
  - b) Explain what is involved in dog-related topics by use of props and/or visuals.
4. Senior presentations should be 9-12 minutes in length. Three points will be deducted from the total score for every minute (or fraction of a minute) under the time limit.
  - a) Judge will allow the presentation to go over by a maximum of 1 minute. Then the judge will call time and assess a 10 point time penalty.
  - b) Youth will be permitted 5 minutes to set-up their presentation and 5 minutes to clean-up.
5. Beginner and junior presentations should be no longer than 10 minutes.
  - a) Judge will allow the presentation to go over by a maximum of 1 minute. Then the judge will call time and assess a 10 point time penalty.
  - b) Youth will be permitted 5 minutes to set-up their presentation and 5 minutes to clean-up.
6. Contestants must introduce themselves by name, county (or state, when applicable) and demonstration title.
7. Contestants must cite their major references after the conclusion of their presentation. This will not be counted in the allotted time.
8. Only the judge(s) may ask questions of the contestant in the contest. Question time will not count in the allotted time. Contestants should repeat the question, then answer it.
9. Ties will be broken first by the judge's accumulated delivery score, second by the judge's accumulated organization score, and third on the judge's accumulated content and accuracy score.
10. Creative audiovisual aids may be used, but the contestants must be involved in making or designing them. All visual aids, prep, and equipment (including computer/LCD) are the responsibility of the presenter.

11. See Judging Guide for additional information.
12. A grand, reserve and 8 top ten ribbons in each division will be awarded. Disqualified entries are NOT eligible for awards but will be critiqued by judge with reason for disqualification listed on judge's form.

## **DEMONSTRATION OR ILLUSTRATED TALK TEAM**

**To help youth gain self-confidence. To develop their ability to demonstrate or illustrate their skill or activity and share it with others. To develop skills in effective organization and presentation while working with another person to achieve these goals.**

### **GRADE DIVISIONS:**

Beginner.....3-5  
Junior..... 6-8  
Senior..... 9-13

1. Team members must be currently enrolled in the 4-H dog Project in the county they represent.
2. Subjects must be dog-related, original, and factual. Use of live animals is permitted.
3. Participants are expected to do a presentation, of one of these two types:
  - a) Demonstrate dog-related procedure by explanation and actually doing the procedure (or facsimile of procedure). Visual aids may also be used.
  - b) Explain what is involved in dog-related topic by use of props and/or visuals.
4. Senior presentations should be 10-15 minutes in length. Three (3) points will be deducted from the score for every minute or fraction of a minute you are under time.
  - a) Judge will allow the presentation to go over by a maximum of 1 minute. Then judge will call time and assess a 10 point time penalty.
  - b) Youth will be permitted 5 minutes to set-up their presentation and 5 minutes to clean-up.
5. Beginner and Junior presentations should be no longer than 10 minutes.
  - a) Judge will allow the presentation to go over by a maximum of 1 minute. Then the judge will call time and assess a 10 point time penalty.
  - b) Youth will be permitted 5 minutes to set-up their presentation and 5 minutes to clean-up.
6. Contestants must introduce themselves by name, county (or state, when applicable) and presentation title.
7. Contestants must cite their major references after the conclusion of their presentation. This will not count toward the allotted time.
8. Only the judge(s) may ask questions of the contestants in the contest. Question time will not count in the allotted time. Contestants should repeat the question, then answer it.
9. Ties will be broken first by the judge's accumulated delivery score, second by the judge's accumulated organization score, and third on the judge's accumulated content and accuracy score.
10. Creative audiovisual aids may be used, but the contestants must be involved in making and designing them. All visual aids, prep, and equipment (including computer/LCD) are the responsibility of the presenter.

11. See Judging Guide for additional information.
12. A grand, reserve and 8 top ten ribbons in each division will be awarded. Disqualified entries are NOT eligible for awards but will be critiqued by judge with reason for disqualification listed on judges form.

# INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM DEMONSTRATION OR ILLUSTRATED TALK JUDGING GUIDE

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibitor(s) Name \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibitor(s) No. \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Placing \_\_\_\_\_

Category \_\_\_\_\_

Judge (signature or initials) \_\_\_\_\_

Beginner (Grades 3-5)..... 10 minute maximum  
Junior (Grades 6-8)..... 10 minute maximum  
Individual Senior (Grades 9-13)..... 9-12 minute  
Beginner (Grades 3-5)..... 10 minute maximum  
Team Junior (Grades 6-8)..... 10 minute maximum  
Team Senior (Grades 9-13)..... 10-15 minute

**Note:**

- a) Senior Only: Three (3) points will be deducted from the senior score for every minute or fraction of a minute you are under time.
- b) Judge will allow the presentation to go over by a maximum of 1 minute. Then the judge will call time and assess a 10 point time penalty.
- c) Youth will be permitted 5 minutes to set-up their presentation and 5 minutes to clean-up.

Ties will be broken by (1) accumulated delivery score, (2) accumulated organization score, and (3) accumulated content and accuracy score.

Judges will consider applicable questions listed under each section when determining the score for that section.

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## A. INTRODUCTION (10 POINTS)

- 1. Did the introduction serve to create interest in the subject? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Was the introduction short and to the point? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Was a catchy title used? \_\_\_\_\_

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## B. ORGANIZATION (25 POINTS)

- 1. Was the topic sufficiently focused to adequately cover in the time allowed? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. Did the discussion relate directly to the points being made? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. Could the audience see the demonstration procedures or visual aids? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4. Were materials and equipment carefully selected, neatly arranged and well-organized? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5. Were visual aids used if and when needed? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 6. Were key points or each step stressed? \_\_\_\_\_
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**C. CONTENT AND ACCURACY (25 POINTS)**

1. Were facts and information accurate? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Was there enough information concerning the subject? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Were approved practices used? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Was credit given to sources of information if appropriate? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Was the content appropriately related to the dog project? \_\_\_\_\_

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**D. STAGE PRESENCE (10 POINTS)**

1. Were presenters neat and appropriately dressed for subject of presentation? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Did the presenter speak directly to and look at the audience? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Was the presentation too fast or too slow? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Was good teamwork displayed? (Generally, it is not advisable for one to do all the talking.) \_\_\_\_\_

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**E. DELIVERY (15 POINTS)**

1. Did presenters appear to enjoy giving the presentation? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Did the presenter have good voice control? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Were all words pronounced correctly? \_\_\_\_\_
4. If notes were used was it done without detracting from the presentation? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Did presenter seem to choose words at the time they were spoken as opposed to a memorized presentation? \_\_\_\_\_

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**F. EFFECT ON AUDIENCE (5 POINTS)**

1. Did the audience show an interest in the presentation? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Could the audience go home and carry out the idea if interested? \_\_\_\_\_

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**G. SUMMARY (10 POINTS)**

1. Was the summary short and interesting? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Were the key points briefly reviewed? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Did the summary properly wrap up the presentation? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Could presenter(s) handle questions easily? \_\_\_\_\_

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**JUDGE'S COMMENTS**

**TOTAL POINTS** \_\_\_\_\_

Minus Time Penalty (-) \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL SCORE** \_\_\_\_\_

## PHOTOGRAPHY

To encourage dog-related photography by 4-H youth. To help 4-H youth gain self-confidence and develop life-time photographic skills and abilities. To increase knowledge of photography in general and specifically as it applies to dogs. To learn the value of organizing and developing visual exhibits in a specific area of interest. To increase awareness of the 4-H Dog Project through the use of photographic displays.

### GRADE DIVISIONS (for action, non-action, and dog-related):

Junior	3-8
Senior	9-13

### WISCONSIN CONTEST CATEGORIES:

1. **Action** – This photo needs to display a live dog in movement.
2. **Non-Action** – This photo needs to display a live dog without movement. (A dog standing still, dog posed, dog sleeping, etc.)
3. **Dog Related** – This photo needs to display dog related items. No live dogs or parts of a live dog.

### WISCONSIN CONTEST RULES:

1. Exhibitor is limited to one 8" x 10" dog-related photograph in each category (maximum of 3 entries per exhibitor). Photo must be taken by AND work of contestant during current project year.
2. Only the exhibitor may do any digital/dark room manipulation of the image.
3. All photos MUST be 8" x 10". ALL PHOTOS MUST BE MOUNTED on 11" x 14" mat board, poster board, or foam board. Photos may be over matted but if over matted must have at least a 7½" by 9½" oval or rectangular opening. Photos that are over matted MUST also be mounted. **No corner mounts, staple tabs, hangers or wires may be used. Any plastic coverings will be removed before judging and will not be returned.**
4. Photos may be color or black and white or sepia.
5. No frames or glass permitted.
6. No captions permitted. Entry may be titled on back of board.
7. Information on the back of the mat board **must** include: **name, county, grade and category (action or non-action or dog-related)** and the following where applicable:
  - a) Camera and lens type
  - b) Film type and speed or digital
  - c) Lighting condition (daylight, fog, dusk, indoor ambient, indoor flash, etc.)
  - d) Special technique, darkroom/software manipulation, or special equipment used
  - e) Describe digital editing that has been done.
8. Evaluation criteria: Entries will be judged on how well they fit the category (Action/Non-Action/Dog-related), creativity, spontaneity of subject, technical quality and overall appearance.
9. Your entry WILL be judged in whichever category you have enrolled. Your photo will be critiqued but must meet category requirements to be eligible to be placed.
10. A grand, reserve and 8 top ten ribbons in each division will be awarded. Disqualified entries are NOT eligible for awards but will be critiqued by judge with reason for disqualification listed on judges form.

## PHOTOGRAPHY JUDGING GUIDE

Exhibitor Name \_\_\_\_\_ Exhibitor # \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Placing \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Division \_\_\_\_\_

Category \_\_\_\_\_

CRITERIA	EXCELLENT	VERY GOOD	GOOD	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
<b>1. CREATIVITY</b>	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
Eye catching				
One central idea				
Idea shown clearly				
Creativity				
<b>2. TECHNICAL QUALITY</b>	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
Focus, sharp & clear				
Proper exposure				
Lighting				
Unique camera angle				
<b>3. SPONTANEITY OF SUBJECT</b>	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
All elements are balanced				
Used rule of thirds				
Included leading line(s) (Eyes drawn to subject)				
Subject is evoking emotion				
<b>4. OVERALL APPEARANCE</b>	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
Neat appearance				
Proper mounting				
Fits category				
Followed contest rules				

COMMENTS:

Judge \_\_\_\_\_  
(signature or initials)

## **PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST – INFORMATIVE SPEECH**

**To help youth gain self-confidence, courage and persuasiveness. To share ideas with others. To develop the ability to speak in public. To inform others about dog-related subjects.**

### **GRADE DIVISIONS:**

Beginner	3-5
Junior	6-8
Senior	9-13

### **WISCONSIN CONTEST RULES:**

1. The subject must pertain to the horse industry. Speeches not appropriately related to the horse industry may be disqualified at the discretion of the judge.
2. Individuals must be enrolled in the 4-H Dog Project in the county they represent.
3. Brief notes may be used, but demonstration materials and visual aids are not permitted.
4. A public address (microphone) system will not be used during the contest. A podium will NOT be reserved. If one is available in the room, contestants have the option of using it.
5. Senior speeches should be 7-10 minutes in length. Three points will be deducted from the total score for every minute (or fraction of a minute) under the time limit.
  - a) Judge will allow the presentation to go over by a maximum of 1 minute. Then the judge will call time and assess a 10 point time penalty.
6. Beginner and Junior speeches have a 7 minute maximum time limit.
  - a) Judge will allow the presentation to go over by a maximum of 1 minute. Then the judge will call time and assess a 10 point time penalty.
7. Contestant is to provide the following information: introduce themselves by name, county (or state when applicable) and title of the speech. This can be done verbally or by handing the Judge a card with the information.
8. Contestants should cite their major references after the conclusion of their speech. Time for citing references will not be counted in the allotted time.
9. Only the judge may ask questions of the contestant. Question time will not be counted in the allotted time. Contestants should repeat the question and then answer it.
10. Ties will be broken first by accumulated delivery score, second by accumulated organizational score, and third by accumulated content and accuracy score.
11. See Public Speaking Judging Guide for additional information.
12. A grand, reserve and 8 top ten ribbons in each division will be awarded. Disqualified entries are NOT eligible for awards but will be critiqued by judge with reason for disqualification listed on judges form.

PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST JUDGING GUIDE  
**INFORMATIVE SPEECH**

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibitor(s) Name \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibitor(s) No. \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Placing \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge (signature or initials)

Beginner grades 3-5 7 minute maximum

Junior: grades 6-8 7 minute maximum

Senior: grades 9-13 7-10 minutes

**Note:**

- a) Senior Only: Three (3) points will be deducted from the senior score for every minute or fraction of a minute you are under time.
- b) Judge will allow the presentation to go over by a maximum of 1 minute. Then the judge will call time and assess a 10 point time penalty.

Ties will be broken by: (1) accumulated delivery score, (2) accumulated organization score, and (3) accumulated content and accuracy score.

Judges will consider applicable questions listed under each section when determining the score for that section.

Contestants should cite their major references after the conclusion of their speech. Time for citing references and answering questions will not be counted in the allotted time. **Only judges will be permitted to ask questions.**

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**A. INTRODUCTION (10 POINTS)**

- 1. Did the introduction serve to create interest in the subject? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Was introduction short and to the point? \_\_\_\_\_

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**B. ORGANIZATION (15 POINTS)**

- 1. Were the main points easy to follow? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Were the main points arranged in a logical order? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Were sentences short, easy to understand? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Was speech interesting? \_\_\_\_\_

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**C. CONTENT AND ACCURACY (20 POINTS)**

- 1. Were facts and information accurate? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. Was there enough information concerning the subject? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. Was credit given to sources of information if appropriate? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4. Was content appropriately related to dog project? \_\_\_\_\_
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**D. PRESENTATION (15 POINTS)**

1. Was speaker neat and appropriately dressed? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Were gestures appropriate to speech and to topic? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Were there a minimum of gestures and movement? \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Did speaker talk directly to the audience? \_\_\_\_\_
  5. Was posture erect but not stiff? \_\_\_\_\_
  6. Did speaker look at the audience? \_\_\_\_\_
  7. Did speaker refrain from leaning on podium? \_\_\_\_\_
  8. Did speaker seem relaxed and at ease? \_\_\_\_\_
- 

**E. DELIVERY (20 POINTS)**

1. Did speaker have good voice control? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Were all words pronounced correctly? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Did speaker's facial expression and body expression reflect the mood of the speech? \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Were notes used without detracting from the speech? \_\_\_\_\_
  5. Did speaker seem to choose words at the time they were spoken as opposed to a memorized or read-type delivery? \_\_\_\_\_
- 

**F. GENERAL (10 POINTS)**

1. Did the speaker convey to the audience a sense of wanting to communicate? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Did speech reflect the thoughts and personality of the speaker? \_\_\_\_\_
- 

**G. SUMMARY (10 POINTS)**

1. Was the conclusion short and interesting? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Did the conclusion properly wrap up the speech? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Could speaker handle questions easily? \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL POINTS** \_\_\_\_\_

Minus Time Penalty (-) \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL SCORE** \_\_\_\_\_

**JUDGE'S COMMENTS:**

## PUBLIC SPEAKING - INTERPRETIVE READING

To help youth gain self-confidence, courage and persuasiveness. To share ideas with others. To develop the ability to speak in public. To inform others about dog-related subjects and/or the 4-H Dog Project.

### GRADE DIVISIONS:

Beginner	3-5
Junior	6-8
Senior	9-13

### WISCONSIN CONTEST RULES:

1. The reading must pertain to the subject of dogs. The reading may be an original work of the exhibitor.
2. Reading may be prose, poetry, stories, play cuttings, narratives, book or review.
3. Interpretive reading is the art of reading aloud from the printed page.
4. The selection should NOT be memorized.
5. A public address system will not be used during the contest. Use of a podium is optional.
6. **Your reading should be copied on paper and mounted on construction paper instead of reading out of a book.**
7. Props and costumes are not used.
8. Contestants should have an opening that includes your name, age, and county. It should also include the title and author of the selection and an introduction (transition to reading).
9. Senior readings should be 7-10 minutes in length. Three points will be deducted from the total score for every minute (or fraction of a minute) under the time limit.
  - a) Judge will allow the presentation to go over by a maximum of 1 minute. Then the judge will call time and assess a 10 point time penalty.
10. Beginner or Junior readings have a 7 minute maximum time limit.
  - a) Judge will allow the presentation to go over by a maximum of 1 minute. Then the judge will call time and assess a 10 point time penalty.
11. Ties will be broken first by accumulated score of points 5-8 on the judging guide, second by accumulated score of 2-4, and third by point 9.
12. See Public Speaking Judging Guide for additional information.
13. A grand, reserve and 8 top ten ribbons in each division will be awarded. Disqualified entries are NOT eligible for awards but will be critiqued by judge with reason for disqualification listed on judges form.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST JUDGING GUIDE  
INTERPRETIVE READING**

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibitor(s) Name \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibitor(s) No. \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Placing \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge (signature or initials)

Beginner	grades 3-5	7 minute maximum
Junior:	grades 6-8	7 minute maximum
Senior:	grades 9-13	7-10 minutes

**Note:**

- a) Senior Only: Three (3) points will be deducted from the senior score for every minute or fraction of a minute you are under time.
- b) Judge will allow the presentation to go over by a maximum of 1 minute. Then the judge will call time and assess a 10 point time penalty.

Ties will be broken by: (1) accumulated score of points 5-8, (2) accumulated score of points 2-4, and (3) by point 9.

Time for citing references and answering questions will not be counted in the allotted time. **Only judges will be permitted to ask questions.**

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**1. Opening (10 POINTS)** \_\_\_\_\_  
Tells author and title; provides introduction & transition.

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**2. Eye Contact (10 POINTS)** \_\_\_\_\_

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**3. Poise, seems well practiced, minimizes errors, not memorized (10 POINTS)** \_\_\_\_\_

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**4. Posture and overall appearance (10 POINTS)** \_\_\_\_\_

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**5. Diction: Pronunciation and Enunciation (10 POINTS)** \_\_\_\_\_

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**6. Vocal volume and rate (10 POINTS)** \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Vocal variety and expression; pleasant and interesting voice (15 POINTS) \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Facial expression and body movements; appropriate and not distracting (10 POINTS) \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Effect on audience; conveys main ideas and emotions well (15 POINTS) \_\_\_\_\_

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**JUDGE'S COMMENTS**

**TOTAL POINTS** \_\_\_\_\_

Minus Time Penalty (-) \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL SCORE** \_\_\_\_\_

**WISCONSIN STATE 4-H DOG EDUCATION CONTESTS – ENTRY FORM**  
**Held during the State 4-H Dog Obedience and Showmanship Show**

**Entry Deadline, July 10<sup>th</sup>; Contest: Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>**  
Langlade County Fairgrounds - Multipurpose Building  
1633 Neva Road, Antigo, WI

- **Contest rules located in Educational Guidelines**
- **Please note**, you do not need to show a dog to enter the dog education contest. However, if you are showing a dog and doing education entries, please send them together
- You need to be a currently enrolled WI 4-H Member to participate
- You need to be present to give your speech or demonstration. Art, posters, and similar items can be brought and picked-up by another member as long as they are entered.
- Entry fee is \$5.00 per class, you cannot compete against yourself in the same category. For example, you can enter a still and an action photo but couldn't enter two action photos.
- **Entries must be postmarked NO LATER THAN JULY 15<sup>th</sup>. LATE ENTRIES WILL BE REJECTED AND RETURNED**
- **Make checks payable to: Wisconsin 4-H Dog Association** There will be a \$30.00 charge for all NSF returned checks
- **Send entry and payment to:**  
WI 4-H, UW Madison Division of Extension  
State Dog Show  
3500 University Ave.  
Madison, WI 53705

4-H Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade:(as of Jan 1, 2026)\_\_\_\_\_

4-H County: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Check all that you are entering.** Please make sure your entries are correct. No substitutions or changes will be allowed.

Public Speaking: \$5.00

Beginner (Gr 3-5)\_\_\_\_ Junior (Gr 6-8)\_\_\_\_ Senior (Gr 9-13)\_\_\_\_

Interpretive Reading: \$5.00

Beginner (Gr 3-5)\_\_\_\_ Junior (Gr 6-8)\_\_\_\_ Senior (Gr 9-13)\_\_\_\_

Individual Demonstration (or Illustrated Talk): \$5.00

Beginner (Gr 3-5)\_\_\_\_ Junior (Gr 6-8)\_\_\_\_ Senior (Gr 9-13)\_\_\_\_\_

Team Demonstration (or Illustrated Talk): \$5.00 (per youth)

Beginner (Gr 3-5)\_\_\_\_ Junior (Gr 6-8)\_\_\_\_ Senior (Gr 9-13)\_\_\_\_\_

Please list team member: \_\_\_\_\_

Drawing and Painting: \$5.00

Beginner (Gr 3-5)\_\_\_\_ Junior (Gr 6-8)\_\_\_\_ Senior (Gr 9-13)\_\_\_\_\_

Graphic Art: \$5.00

Beginner (Gr 3-5)\_\_\_\_ Junior (Gr 6-8)\_\_\_\_ Senior (Gr 9-13)\_\_\_\_\_

Any Other Craft: \$5.00

Beginner (Gr 3-5)\_\_\_\_ Junior (Gr 6-8)\_\_\_\_ Senior (Gr 9-13)\_\_\_\_\_

Poster: \$5.00

Beginner (Gr 3-5)\_\_\_\_ Junior (Gr 6-8)\_\_\_\_ Senior (Gr 9-13)\_\_\_\_\_

Display: \$5.00

Beginner (Gr 3-5)\_\_\_\_ Junior (Gr 6-8)\_\_\_\_ Senior (Gr 9-13)\_\_\_\_\_

Photography – Action: \$5.00

Beginner (Gr 3-5)\_\_\_\_ Junior (Gr 6-8)\_\_\_\_ Senior (Gr 9-13)\_\_\_\_\_

Photography – Still or Non-action: \$5.00

Beginner (Gr 3-5)\_\_\_\_ Junior (Gr 6-8)\_\_\_\_ Senior (Gr 9-13)\_\_\_\_\_

Photography – Dog Related: \$5.00

Beginner (Gr 3-5)\_\_\_\_ Junior (Gr 6-8)\_\_\_\_ Senior (Gr 9-13)\_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the WI 4-H Policies, WI 4-H Dog Policies, and event rules. If I do not follow the rules and policies, I may be disqualified from the dog educational contests.

Member Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

As a parent/guardian I understand that there must be basic rules for this 4-H event. I have read and understand the show guidelines and event rules, WI 4-H Policies and WI Dog Policies.  
My child has my permission to participate in the 4-H Dog Educational classes on the date/s indicated.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that this youth is a current 4-H Dog member in good standing and can represent this county at the 4-H Dog Show educational contests.

4-H Youth Development Staff or County Dog Leader Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_