



# Public Presentations

## Public Presentations

The public presentation program is one of the most beneficial and rewarding 4-H experiences. It is the one most often credited by 4-H alumni as having given them an edge above their peers, in both college and professional careers. It provides a unique opportunity to develop a positive self-concept and poise, gain self-confidence before a group, learn to express ideas clearly, respond spontaneously to questions and gain subject matter knowledge.

In 4-H, public presentation opportunities are available at the club, county, regional, state, and national level. Providing an opportunity for every member to publicly demonstrate their learning is an expectation clearly stated in the *MN 4-H Charter Application*. 4-H Demonstrations are an excellent way to provide this opportunity to your members.

### Why do 4-H members give demonstrations?

When people see something, they remember it much longer than when they merely hear it. 4-H members learn many useful and interesting things in their project work by doing them. Demonstrations are a great way of sharing what has been learned. This also helps the 4-H member

retain and refine what they have learned. Demonstrations add interest to 4-H meetings and build the self-confidence and speaking ability of the demonstrator.

- **Demonstrations**—a sophisticated term for show and tell. When we want to learn something, we often ask, “Will you show me how?” The person who shows us how is giving a demonstration. He or she is showing and telling.

There are different stages of demonstrating

**Mini** – members usually begin giving a very simple and short (2-5 minutes) project talk or demonstration at the club meeting. The member learns how to give a demonstration, to speak in front of a group, and to develop poise and confidence.

**Project** – member learns to get more involved in the planning, researching and organizing of a more in-depth demonstration (7-15 minutes), while continuing to gain more poise, confidence and creativity in the presentation.

Other types of presentations include the Illustrated Presentation and the Youth in Action presentation.

**Illustrated Presentations**—these are another type of show and tell where you use visual aids and not the real product. You provide the information you want to share while utilizing charts, posters, PowerPoint, pictures, models, etc.

**Youth in Action**—the member develops a concern to those who are listening, shows a greater mastery of the subject, and has completed a more in-depth study of the topic. The member becomes a “teacher” and tries to make sure that the audience is learning during the presentation. There is a dialogue between the member and the audience in a “hands on learning” experience.

More in-depth information and tools to help in planning a demonstration are available in *“Getting Started in 4-H Demonstrations”* (Toolkit 28).

In some counties, another opportunity for youth to develop public presentation skills is through the 4-H Communication Arts Program.

**Communication Arts Program** of which includes public speaking, creative writing, interpretive reading and photo-journalism.

**Public Speaking**—original oratory. A participant uses his/her own composition to discuss a selected topic intelligently with a degree of originality, in a persuasive manner to inform or

The participants should be given latitude in the ideas expressed but held closely accountable for the manner in which he/she expresses them in the delivery.

**Creative Writing**—is a written essay. A short literary composition dealing with one topic designed to inform, explore, express and/or persuade the reader of the author’s ideas on designated topics.

**Interpretive Reading**—oral presentation. Presenting the written work from any *published* source in a creative, inspiring, or thought provoking manner.

**Photo-Journalism**—newspaper reporting style display. A combination of visual and written media to interpret newsworthy or human interest events, idea or object.

