

# 4-H TALENT SHOWCASE



The 4-H Talent Showcase (formally Share-the-Fun) is a competitive event related to the Theater and Performance Arts project. 4-H members have the chance to develop a spirit of cooperation with their fellow 4-H members; develop self-confidence through public performance; stimulate interest in broad-based recreation in 4-H clubs; encourage 4-H members to discover and develop their talents and to grow socially, culturally, and further develop leadership skills.

## Entry

- Enter as an individual and/or a team of 2 to 9 members.
- Teams are made up of individuals in the same age division (Junior, Intermediate or Senior).

## County Entries

- Each county may enter two contestants or teams per age division per category.

## Categories

- *Choreographed Routine*
  - 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.
  - No speaking to form a skit or story line.
  - 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, creativity, showmanship, and costuming.
- *Variety Show*
  - This is an acting category. Variety Show, 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 Skit).
  - 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.
- *Poetry/Prose*
  - Acts which showcase 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 showcasing 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.
- Material does **NOT** have to be memorized.
- Judged on material chosen, message, talent, presentation style, props/costuming.
- Definitions
  - **Poetry** is generally 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.

• *Vocal*

- Vocal presentation may be done a cappella or with an accompaniment of a USB, mp3 or mp4 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 showcase 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.

• *4-H Skit*

- 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.

• *Instrumental Music*

- Musical presentation may be musical instruments accompanied by background recorded music or an instrumental performance only. A piano is NOT available for use. Contestants must provide their own keyboard, if needed for their presentation.
- 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.

- *Solo/Band Performance*

- 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.
- A piano is NOT available for use. Contestants must provide their own keyboard, if needed for their presentation.
- 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.

### **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.

### **Props**

- Props utilized must be able to go through doors that are 6 ft. wide and 7 ft. tall.
- The following materials may not be used in any category: talcum powder/baby powder, flour, pies, food, water, oil, loose feathers, flower petals, hay, straw, helium balloons, glitter, sand, confetti, open flames 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 or live animals will be allowed.

### **Introduction of the Act**

- Contestants do not need to introduce themselves. At Come Alive, each act will be introduced individually, immediately prior to their performance by the announcer.
- The introduction/description will be submitted as part of the Required Information Form that is due prior to Come Alive. Anything that needs to be said should be included in the introduction to be read by the announcer; however, if you choose to add information, it will count against your performance time and may confuse judges depending on the delivery method.

### **Required Information Form**

 • 4-H Talent Showcase contestants must complete and submit the REQUIRED Information Form by April 1, 2026 to Jheri-Lynn McSwain at [jlmcswain@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:jlmcswain@ag.tamu.edu). This form is attached in the appendix or can be found as a fillable PDF at the following link on the District 5 website at <https://d54-h.tamu.edu>

- **Paperwork submitted incomplete or after the due date will result in disqualification from participation in this event.**

### **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.
- One person should be designated by the group to work with the stage manager when it is your turn to set up for your performance. This person should know exact locations for all equipment, props, etc. on stage and be able to give clear instructions.

### **Adult Assistance - Performance**

- During a performance adult coaches may give cues for music 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.

#### **Accompanist**

- NO Accompanist will be permitted for any category.
- If music is required, it must be submitted on the Required Information Form or performed by the contestant. See Category Descriptions for specific rules for each category.
- A piano is NOT available for use. Contestants must provide their own keyboard, if needed for their presentation.

#### **Practice/Warm Up**

- There will NOT be a location for warm-up or practice. 4-H members should rehearse and come prepared to present a top-notch performance. The Come Alive schedule does not allow time for practice.
- A brief amount of time will be permitted to view stage, backstage, etc. following participant orientation.

#### **Dressing Rooms**

- Male and female dressing rooms will be provided.

#### **Music**

- Participants are responsible for providing a device (i.e., smartphone, CD player, MP3 player, laptop, etc.) that has a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " aux connection to be linked to the PA system in the auditorium, along with their music selection. Speakers and input cable will be provided.

#### **Stage Contest Area**

- Stage - approximately 10 feet wide and 10 feet deep and raised
- Projector screen (may bring own projector; projector will NOT be provided)
- Stool
- Table
- Chair
- Theatrical lighting; no spotlights
- Microphones and inputs based upon individual need

#### **Time Limits**

- Contestants may use up to 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.

#### **Scoring**

- 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.
- See the 4-H Talent Showcase scorecards in the Appendix for scoring criteria and areas of focus in which interview/judges' questions are generated.

## Appendix

See the links in the District 5 website to access fillable PDF forms for the following contests

<https://d54-h.tamu.edu>

- Fashion Show paperwork
- Textile and Fabric Creations label
- Fashion Storyboard label
- Talent Showcase information form

Reminder:

 • Required and completed paperwork must be submitted by due dates listed under contest headings in order for participant to compete. **Late or incomplete paperwork will not be accepted.**