

To: County Extension Agents – ANR, FCH, 4-H

From: Carolyn Prill-Bennett Tina Bryant
Contest Chair District 4-H Specialist

Subject: **District 1 Talent Showcase Contest**

Contest Date: **April 10, 2026**

Location: **Mary Moody Northern Hall – WTAMU**

Registration: **February 16 – March 16 on 4-HOnline Fee: \$20**
Late Registration March 18 – 19 Late Fee: \$50

Schedule: **Check-in: 5:00 p.m.**
Contest Start Time: 5:30 p.m.

Age Categories: **3rd - 5th grade – Junior**
6th – 8th grade – Intermediate
9th – 12th grade – Senior

It is the responsibility of the agents to validate and correct placement of youth in age categories. Counties may move juniors up to intermediates, but intermediates can NOT be moved up to seniors or down to juniors.

Accommodations

- Requests for accommodations must be submitted to the District Office from the County Office at least 2 weeks prior to the event.
- This request must be accompanied by official documentation in one of the following options for why the request is being submitted:
 - A) Official doctor's note from a licensed medical professional
 - B) School documentation and/or evaluation from a public institution
 - C) Official evaluation from a licensed professional therapist and/or diagnostician
- Note: The documentation and request are required within the appropriate timeline outlined for the event in order for the accommodation to be considered but does not guarantee that the requested accommodation can be made.
- The request will be reviewed by the district office (and when necessary, in consultation with the state office).
- Request and documentation will be kept confidential within the appropriate county/district staff and event administrators.

Contest Guidelines

- Participants can choose two Talent Showcase contests, one from block 1 and another from block 2.
 - Block 1 Contests: Choreographed Routines, Variety Show, Musical/Instrumental, and Vocal.
 - Block 2 Contests: 4-H Skit, Poetry/Prose, and Solo/Band Performance.
- The contest will take place in person.
- Only youth that have a UIL conflict may submit a video to Tina by **March 27th**. If there is not a UIL conflict, youth are required to be present for the contest.
 - Acts must be recorded in a video format, uploaded to YouTube, and set to “unlisted” NOT private, NOT public.
 - Youth not performing in person can NOT place above in person acts.
- It is the discretion of the Judges to move contestants into the appropriate category if the act is incorrectly placed at contest.
- Contest performance times will be set up prior to the date of the competition. These times are fluid due to the length and needs of individual acts. Checking in is necessary for all contestants for the contest to run smoothly. **Failure to check in constitutes a scratch for the contest.**
- Individual performers are encouraged to utilize their own technology and musical equipment. A piano is what can be provided at contest. Due to the small space utilized for this contest, a microphone is not necessary (contestants are less than 4 feet from the judges, they are not on a stage). Anything else required is the responsibility of the individual performers. Youth are expected to be able to set up for their own performance, parents can assist, but please work with your youth to practice this as well as part of their talent.
- All set up of equipment for individual acts needs to be done within the time allotted as stated in the category descriptions below; (Four (4) minutes for set-up and breakdown; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act). Prioritizing one youth’s needs for set up will not be allowed this year for the sake of timeliness and consideration of everyone competing. Basically, this means please wait your turn and for the judges to move to the next performance.
- Recording and Photos: No photography or videotaping will be permitted in any contest category. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- Audience seating will be limited in some of the contest rooms due to the size of the space. Anyone who disrupts the contest in any manner will be asked to leave the room.
- Score sheets will not be handed out to contestants directly after the contest, they will be given to your county agent after scores have been uploaded at the district level, seek scores and comments at that time.
- The first and second place winners in the Senior division of each category will only represent District 1 at Texas 4-H Roundup if the judges scores are above 60. Senior entries in a category (or video performances) do not automatically advance to state by default. If the judges decide an entry is not a state qualifying piece and scores are at or below 60's, the performance will not advance to state.

State Qualifiers

The first and second place winners in the Senior division of each category will represent District 1 at Texas 4-H Roundup. It is possible that both the first and second place winners be from the same county and both may advance to state.

Presentation Material at State. 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.

CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS:

1. 4-H SKIT. An entry may consist of one (1) to nine (9) participants. 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 breakdown; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

2. CHOREOGRAPHED ROUTINES. An entry may consist of one (1) to nine (9) participants. No speaking to form a skit or story line. The act requires choreography and can be demonstrated through twirling, pompom 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. All 4-H members entered in the category must be a part of the act. Acts may use recorded music but may not use an accompanist. Judged on material chosen, talent, creativity, showmanship, costuming, and material chosen. Four (4) minutes for set-up and breakdown; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

3. VARIETY SHOW. An entry may consist of one (1) to nine (9) participants. 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 breakdown; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

4. MUSICAL/INSTRUMENTAL. An entry may consist of one (1) to nine (9) participants. Musical presentations may be musical instruments accompanied by background recorded music or an instrumental performance only. 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. Four (4) minutes for setup and breakdown; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

5. POETRY/PROSE. An entry may consist of one (1) to nine (9) participants. 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. All material must be memorized. No script may be used during the performance. Judged on material chosen, message, talent, presentation style, props/costuming. Four (4) minutes total for set-up and breakdown; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

Defining Poetry and Prose: 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.

6. SOLO/BAND PERFORMANCE. An entry may consist of one (1) to nine (9) participants. 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. 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. Four (4) minutes for set-up and breakdown; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

7. VOCAL. An entry may consist of one (1) to nine (9) participants. Vocal presentation may be done a cappella or with an accompaniment (via USB, mp3 or mp4). 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. Four (4) minutes for set-up and breakdown; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

Contest Guidelines & Score Sheets

https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/talent_showcase_guide_2025.pdf

https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/talent_showcase_scoresheet_2025.pdf



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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperative.