



Bernalillo County 4-H Talent Review Auditions

Handbook

This handbook contains information concerning the Bernalillo County 4-H Talent Review Auditions. This handbook may be used by 4-H members, parents, leaders, and volunteers to review the rules and procedures of each 4-H Talent Review category.



Contents

General Rules

Rules and Score Sheets for each Talent Review Category

- Comedian
- Poet
- Vocal
- Musical
- Choreographed Routine
- Drama
- Celebrate 4-H

Definition of Terms for Score Sheets

General Rules

Auditions

The Bernalillo County 4-H program makes available seven (7) Talent Review categories for 4-H members to participate in. These seven (7) categories include Comedian, Poet, Vocal, Musical, Choreographed Routine, Drama, and Celebrate 4-H. To determine category for entry, refer to the descriptions on the enclosed category rules.

General Eligibility

- A. 4-H members who are currently enrolled in 4-H, and who are 9 years of age but not over 20 years of age by January 1 of the current year in which the auditions are held, are eligible except as noted in specific Talent Review category rules.
- B. 4-H members may be enrolled in any 4-H project.
- C. Acts are to be for 4-H members, by 4-H members.
- D. Participants may participate in any given category only once (not as an individual and a group), however, they may enter multiple categories as time allows.

Levels of Competition

County Auditions: Talent Review auditions are conducted at the county level. The scheduled date(s) of the Talent Review auditions will be announced in the Cloverleaf newsletter and may require a registration form for entry. Judge(s), Superintendent(s), and/or 4-H Staff will review entries for proper category, appropriateness of material, and ensure that all other rules and regulations are followed. Entries deemed inappropriate by the Judge(s), Superintendent(s) and/or 4-H Staff will not be permitted to advance to the NW District and State 4-H Conference Talent Review competitions, and may be interrupted and/or cancelled during the auditions. Qualifying 4-H members will be selected to advance to the NW District and State 4-H Conference Talent Review competitions.

NW District Competition: Open only to **Novice** and **Junior** 4-H members qualifying at the county auditions. Qualifying Novice and Junior 4-H members will be selected to advance to the NW District Talent Review competition. NW District competitions are typically held in June/July by a hosting county of the 4-H NW District.

State 4-H Conference Competition: Open only to **Senior** 4-H members qualifying at the county auditions. Qualifying Senior 4-H members will be selected to advance to the State 4-H Conference Talent Review competition. State 4-H Conference competitions are typically held in July at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces.

Procedures

- A. Judge(s), Superintendent(s), and/or 4-H Staff will determine:
 - 1. If an entry is in the correct category.
 - 2. The order of performance for the auditions/contest.
 - 3. All decisions by the judge(s), superintendent(s), and/or 4-H Staff will be final.
- B. If at all possible, a sound system will be provided, complete with microphone and CD/tape players. Some categories may be required to perform without a microphone.

- C. Regulations for props should be followed. Props utilized must be able to go through doors that are 6 feet wide and 7 feet tall. The following materials may not be used in any category: talcum powder, flour, pies, water, oil, feathers 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, live animals or real fire arms will be allowed.
- D. Time limits for all categories will be strictly enforced. All categories have a time limit of six (6) minutes for presentation and four (4) minutes for set-up and break down. A penalty of five (5) points per minute or part of a minute over the time allowed will be deducted from the total score.
- E. Only adult coaches will be allowed back stage, in the vicinity of the storage area of props, and to assist 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.
- F. During a performance adult coaches may give cues for music back stage or help with costume/prop changes back stage. They are NOT allowed to participate in any other form while the act is going on. Any voices heard during the performance from back stage must be either a participant OR a taped voice.
- G. No flash photography or videotaping will be permitted in any County Audition or State 4-H Conference category. NO EXCEPTIONS. This includes photography and video taping of your own 4-H member or county entry.

Awards

The Bernalillo County 4-H Council will provide participation certificates for county Talent Review auditions. Awards will be provided for NW District and State 4-H Conference speech arts competitions.

Comedian

- Eligibility:** Read general rules.
- Any 4-H member who meets the general eligibility rules can participate.
- Entry:** Individual or Group Entry – maximum of five (5) participants.
- Procedures:** Acts which showcase comedy are required. The act may incorporate vocal, musical, and/or dance but these aspects cannot be more than half of the performance time. These performances CANNOT include 4-H related material. Otherwise, it should be categorized as “Celebrate 4-H”. Examples of comedy entries might include “Who’s On First?”, The Three Stooges, or something original. Stand-Up Comedy is also acceptable, as long as the material is appropriate for a youth audience. Consider selecting a prose piece as is used in UIL competition that is humorous. Judged on material chosen, message, talent, presentation, style, props/costuming.
- Mechanics:** Four (4) minutes total for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

Poet

- Eligibility:** Read general rules.
- Any Senior 4-H member who meets the general eligibility rules can participate.
- This category is not open for Novice and Junior 4-H members to enter.
- Entry:** Individual or Group Entry – maximum of five (5) participants
- Procedures:** Acts which showcase poetry are required. The act may incorporate vocal, musical, and/or dance but these aspects cannot be more than half of the performance time. The category does not require 4-H related material, however, if an original poem showcasing 4-H is written, this would be acceptable. Judged on material chosen, message, talent, presentation, style, props/costuming. Four (4) minutes total for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.
- Mechanics:** Four (4) minutes total for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

Vocal

- Eligibility:** Read general rules.
Any 4-H member who meets the general eligibility rules can participate.
- Entry:** Individual or Group Entry – maximum of nine (9) participants.
- Procedures:** Vocal presentation may be done a cappella, with an accompaniment tape, or musical instruments. No lip sinc will be allowed. No skit or story line will be permitted. **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.
- Mechanics:** Four (4) minutes total for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

Musical

- Eligibility:** Read general rules.
Any 4-H member who meets the general eligibility rules can participate.
- Entry:** Individual or Group Entry – maximum of nine (9) participants.
- Procedures:** Musical presentation may be musical instruments accompanied by background tape, a band, piano solo, etc. No vocal presentation or lip sinc will be permitted. No skit or story line will be permitted. Judged on talent, showmanship, musical presentation, and material chosen.
- Mechanics:** Four (4) minutes total for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

Choreographed Routine

- Eligibility:** Read general rules.
Any 4-H member who meets the general eligibility rules can participate.
- Entry:** Individual or Group Entry – maximum of nine (9) participants.
- Procedures:** No speaking to form a skit or story line. 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.*** Judged on material chosen, talent, uniformity, creativity, showmanship, costuming, and material chosen.
- Mechanics:** Four (4) minutes total for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

Drama

- Eligibility:** Read general rules.
Any 4-H member who meets the general eligibility rules can participate.
- Entry:** Individual or Group Entry – maximum of nine (9) participants.
- Procedures:** Has a story line or theme that relates to a youth issue, current event, or world affair. The drama skit may be simply increasing awareness of the issue and/or a recommended solution to the issue being addressed. It is not a requirement to include 4-H in the skit. May incorporate music, vocal, and/or dance but these aspects cannot be more than half of the performance. Judged on creativity, material chosen, showmanship, costume, talent, props, message, addressing of current issues.
- Mechanics:** Four (4) minutes total for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

Celebrate 4-H

- Eligibility:** Read general rules.
Any 4-H member who meets the general eligibility rules can participate.
- Entry:** Individual or Group Entry – maximum of nine (9) participants.
- Procedures:** Must be 4-H based story line, promoting 4-H, community service, a project or activity. May incorporate music, vocal selections, and/or dance 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. Judged on material chosen, talent, creativity, showmanship, costumes and props.
- Mechanics:** Four (4) minutes total for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

Definition of Terms for Score Sheets

The information below is a guide for scoring. Each term used on the score sheets are defined in an effort to clarify what is expected in each performance category. There is a score sheet for each of the six (6) categories.

Inappropriateness in any category is not permitted and would change the score of that particular area dramatically and could lead to disqualification. For example, a brilliantly executed skit that depends upon the use of foul language would not be acceptable. Any inappropriate reference to sex, age, or handicap will lead to disqualification.

MATERIAL CHOSEN – This area refers to the appropriateness of the material selected. A vocalist should select the song that is within his/her voice range; a pianist should pass up the “showy” difficult piece for one he/she will play well. Material chosen also refers to the appropriateness of the selection for presentation before a 4-H audience.

TALENT – This is the performer’s actual ability to do what the activity or skill requires. In any musical classification, this includes items such as the quality of music tones, intonation, manner of uttering tones with regard to rise, fall, pitch, harmony, rhythm and any other attributes of an artistic presentation. In dance, it includes rhythm, timing appropriate gestures, memorization and artistic delivery. Judges should be aware that some of the performers have not had formal training.

CREATIVITY – Creativity is the ability to produce something new, unique, or original. An act may be original in the way it was developed and/or interpreted. Sometimes the act itself may not be original, but the costuming, staging, or delivery may show creativity. Additionally, the quality of the creativity should be measured.

SHOWMANSHIP – Showmanship is the stage personality of the performer. It can include poise, confidence, facial expression, projection of voice, projection of music, body movements, gestures, and the performer’s stage presence, depending on the category (see score sheets for specific criteria). It is the performer’s communication with the audience at all times. It is his/her ability to make smooth entrances and exits, to avoid awkward pauses, and to acknowledge the applause of the audience. It is the use of the microphone and special stage props if these are a part of the act. In general, it is the whole personality of the performer while he/she is on stage.

COSTUME AND PROPS – Costume and props should be appropriate and supportive of the act. For some acts, street clothes may be the most appropriate costume. If the special costumes are used, they should contribute to the effectiveness of the act. Props are the back drop and/or other items used to add character and meaning to the presentation. See rule C. under “General Rules” for more details on the appropriate size of props and items that cannot be used.

MESSAGE – Communication of an idea or theme. What is the underlying message that will be taught or presented?

PRESENTATION STYLE – Method of acting; distinctive or characteristic manner; overall excellence; skill or grace in performance and/or appearance.

VOCAL PRESENTATION – Exercising the power of producing voice, speech or sound, expressing one’s self as to relate to character or message being portrayed.

MUSICAL PRESENTATION – Music selected is appropriate to the skill level of the individual or group; sound level of the musical presentation is at an appropriate level; instruments are tuned properly.

UNIFORMITY – Consistency in formation; presenting a consistent appearance; in step; synchronized.

ADDRESSING OF CURRENT ISSUES – Relates to teen issues, current events or world affairs. Presentation should promote awareness and/or possible solutions.