

PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING

ENTRY DEADLINE: January 13, 2023

ENTRY FEE - \$20

CHECK-IN: 8:00 a.m. – March 13, 2023 – Event Center

CONTEST: 9:00 a.m. – March 13, 2023 – Event Center (Awards at conclusion)

The prepared public speaking contest is designed to enhance the communication skills of future leaders as well as promoting interest in the various facets of agriculture including natural resources and policy making. 4-H and FFA participants are challenged to write and present a speech in one of the following areas:

- Animal Science
- Plant Science
- Natural Resources
- Agribusiness
- Ag Policy
- Agricultural Technology & Communications

This event will be ruled by the RGVLS General Rules plus the following special rules:

ENTRY

- One copy of the manuscript with bibliography is due in the RGVLS office on or before March 3, 2023. You may email your manuscript to terri@rgvls.com. The first email sent will be the manuscript entered. Once it has been submitted, it cannot be changed. Each contestant may only enter one speech.
- A bibliography in APA style must accompany each manuscript

ORIGINALITY

- The manuscript and speech presentation must be the contestant's own effort.
- A statement of originality must accompany each entry

ELIGIBILITY

- Participation is limited to individuals who are in good standing of 4-H clubs or FFA chapters in the State of Texas

AGE GROUPS

- Juniors – 8 years old and in the 3rd grade, but not more than in the eighth grade
- Seniors – At least 9th grade, but not graduated from high school nor more than 18 years old

FORMAT

- Presentations will be judged by a panel of 2-3 judges
- The junior age group may be combined into one division for judging depending on the number of entries. The top two (2) contestants will compete for Grand and Reserve Grand Champion in the finals. If entries allow for separate divisions, all division winners will compete in the finals
- Senior contestants will be divided into their respective divisions, winners face off in finals.

TIME LIMIT

- Juniors – Each speech shall be a minimum of four (4) and a maximum of six (6) minutes
- Seniors – Each speech shall be a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of eight (8) minutes
- Deductions will be applied to overall score if time is under/over allotted time. Time point deductions will apply as one point for each ten (10) seconds over/under the allowed time

QUESTION/ANSWER PERIOD

- A three (3) minute question/answer period will follow each speech. At the end of three minutes, time will be called, and all questioning will end. If time is called during the student's answer, the contestant may complete his/her answer. Only official judges may ask questions

ATTIRE

- Business attire or official 4-H or FFA dress is recommended

PROPS

- The use of props of any kind is prohibited. Violation will result in disqualification.
- Note cards are not considered props

SCORE SHEET

- The manuscripts will be reviewed and validated by show officials prior to the contest. A separate panel of judges will evaluate and score the presentations.
- Judges' comments will be returned to CEA/AST or 4-H club manager following the contest

DIVISIONS

- **AGRIBUSINESS** – Any current or future subject that addresses topics such as:
 - Cooperatives
 - Sales
 - Service
 - Journalism
 - Communications
 - Entrepreneurship
 - Marketing/Advertising
 - Finance
 - Commodities
 - Hedging

- **AGRICULTURAL POLICY** – Any current or future subject addressing policy or legislation
 - Domestic Farm Issues
 - International Trade
 - International Competition
 - Rural Economic Development
 - Legal Issues
 - Animal Welfare
 - Subsidies
 - Price Supports

- **ANIMAL SCIENCE** – Any current or future subject that addresses any aspect of
 - Dairy Industry
 - Equine
 - Poultry
 - Sheep
 - Goat
 - Swine
 - Beef
 - Specialty Animal Industries

- **PLANT SCIENCE** – Any current or future subject that deals with any aspect or horticulture and/or agronomy industries. This may include areas as:
 - Floriculture
 - Fruit and/or Vegetable Production
 - Nursery Operations
 - Turf and Landscape Management
 - Crop Production
 - Specialty Crop Production

- **NATURAL RESOURCES** – Any current or future subject that addresses topics such as:
 - Soil
 - Water
 - Air
 - Water quality
 - Wildlife
 - Forestry
 - Aquaculture
 - Conservation
 - Recreation
 - Recycling
 - Energy Environmental Issues

- **AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATIONS** – Any current or future subject that addresses topics such as:
 - Biotechnology
 - Bio Genetics
 - Bio Engineering
 - Mechanical Engineering
 - Farm Safety
 - Use of Technology
 - Research
 - Laser
 - Satellites
 - Computers
 - Embryo Transfer

AWARDS

- Junior & Senior Division Champions – Rosette
- Junior & Senior Division Reserve Champions – Rosette
- Junior Grand Champion – Buckle
- Senior Grand Champion - \$500 Scholarship & Buckle
- Senior Reserve Grand Champion – Buckle