Revised August 31, 2026

Speaking Contest Rules

General Rules

1. Speaking contest will be held the Tuesday of the Smith County Youth Expo.

2. Entry fee will be determined by Board of Directors. Entries must be submitted on the Showman App and are due no later than December 1.

3. Speeches are required to be the work of eligible exhibitors. Contestants must be either a Texas FFA or Smith County 4-H member.

4. Speeches must relate directly to an agricultural topic.

5. Contestants may enter more than one prepared speech. Speeches must be completely different topics. A different speech is defined as:

   a. All speech material in each manuscript must be entirely different, including the introduction, body and conclusion, which also includes all facts, figures, quotes, titles, etc.

6. Contestants should wear FFA Official Dress or business attire.

7. There will be no speech topic divisions.

8. Contestants will be scored using the Prepared Public Speaking Rubric attached. Score sheets will be given back at the conclusion of the contest.

9. Placings will be announced at the Smith County Youth Expo Ribbon Sale on Friday. The Champion and Reserve Champion out of the Junior and Senior Divisions will be recognized and receive awards.

Junior Speech Rules (Grades 3rd - 8th)
1. All general rules apply.
2. Time requirement: 3 - 7 minutes
3. The contest will consist of speech delivery and a 4-minute question period.
4. The written speech must be the original work of the contestant.

Senior Speech Rules (Grades 9th - 11th)
1. All general rules apply.
2. Time requirement: 6 - 8 minutes
3. The contest will consist of speech delivery and a 5-minute question period.
4. The written speech must be the original work of the contestant.

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Speaking Contest Rubric

Speaker appears confident and not nervous.	_____/10
Speaker's examples are clear and reinforce the speech points.	_____/10
Speaker speaks without hesitation or unnecessary pauses.	_____/10
Speaker uses body language and non-verbal gestures appropriately.	_____/10
Speaker maintains eye contact with audience for the duration of the speech.	_____/10
Speaker's tone is balanced and displays a wide range of intent and emphasis.	_____/10
Speaker does not display any distracting habits during speech.	_____/10
Speaker attracts and maintains the audience's attention.	_____/10
Speaker pronounces all words correctly.	_____/10
Topic is sophisticated and represents thought and intellect.	_____/10
Speaker is dressed appropriately.	_____/10
Speech is within allotted time. (2 points per 5 seconds over/under)	_____/10
Answers to questions are accurate and well-rounded.	_____/30
Total Points:	_____/150

COMMENTS: