

## **Northeast States 4-H Presentations Fest FAQ Sheet for 4-H Program Leaders**

Save the date! A group of 4-H staff and faculty from across the Northeast region are working in a collaborative effort to create the first virtual Northeast States 4-H Presentations Fest. This event aims to provide youth with additional opportunities to improve and showcase their communication skills. Below is some info about this upcoming opportunity.

**Title of Event:** Northeast States 4-H Presentations Fest

**Date of event:** September 18, 2021

### **Goals of Event:**

1. The primary goal for this project is to create a modern, advanced standard for presentations and give 4-H youth a multi-state platform to improve their presentation skills through feedback from peers and trained evaluators. The objectives to reach this goal are to:
    - Create, disseminate and evaluate a State-level survey to determine path forward for NE States 4-H Presentations Fest;
    - Create modernized, shared training materials and evaluation forms across 9 states for this event;
    - Provide training to 4-H Coaches, Evaluators and Peer Evaluators
    - Further develop and refine program materials after the event through evaluation, research and partnership with relevant Cornell and academic contacts and departments
  2. A secondary goal (contingent based on if funding is identified or awarded\*) is to provide 4-H programs a high-profile tangible opportunity to highlight the skills we teach and recruit new 4-Hers to our programs. Objectives for this goal include to:
    - Record the NE States 4-H Presentations Fest;
    - Manage post-production of event content to be used as recruitment and marketing videos;
    - Distribution of recruitment and marketing materials;
    - Dissemination of program materials to national partners with the hope of funding and scaling up to a nationwide presentations event
- \*Melanie Forstrom has applied for an Innovation Grant with Cornell for this effort.

**Exhibit categories:** Exhibits will have both live and pre-recorded options in the following categories.

1. Illustrated Talk
2. Demonstration
3. Formal Speech

**Open to the following states:** Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia

**Age of eligible participants:** 13-19

**Participant selection:** 2 youth in each category per state (Total of 78 youth)

**Registration** - Will open in summer 2021. More info forthcoming

**Event Communication** – Program information such as participant eligibility and guidelines will be communicated by the planning committee to program leaders. Program leaders will be responsible for coordinating with their state 4-H staff to determine how participants will be chosen to represent their state in accordance with local and state public speaking and communication contests.

**This effort is being coordinated by Melanie Forstrom of Cornell Cooperative Extension (maf357@cornell.edu). There are working groups on the following topics as related to organizing this event:**

- Preparation/training materials
- Evaluation/Feedback Materials and Training
- Prizes/Awards
- Marketing/Promotion
- Logistics – Registration, Scheduling