



# 4-H Communications and Expressive Arts



## Step It Up!

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started

### Citizenship/ Leadership

- Volunteer to teach a young 4-H'er how to do a new skill
- Try out for a part in a local community theatre production
- Construct props for a school play
- Create a newsletter for your 4-H club or other group.

### Communication

- Debate at Florida 4-H Legislature.
- Help another member prepare their working exhibit or presentation
- Volunteer to organize publicity for a community event
- Speak up about bullying

### Healthy Living

- Start a performing group to present a play about the benefits of healthy living to audiences ranging from preschoolers to the elderly.

### Science

- Present a demonstration or illustrated talk on how communication occurs and/or communication disorders.

## Are you Into It?

Do you talk to friends? Take part in a school play? Write reports? Read books?

Welcome to the wonderful world of communications! It's been estimated by some, that the average person spends between 50-80 percent of their day communicating in some way (including 23 hours per week communicating online and texting.) While communicating in some fashion may come naturally to some, communicating effectively takes practice! In a 4-H Communications project you can:

- Learn to capture the attention of a crowd as a powerful public speaker.
- Get started writing the next great novel, or at least a few short stories, as you exercise your writing skills.

## Here's what you can do all year!

### Starting Out Basic

- Introduce a speaker at your club meeting
- Learn the basic parts of a speech
- Write a thank you note
- Start a journal in print or on-line
- Create a poster to promote National 4-H Week.
- Get a pen pal
- Read a story to a group of children
- Begin a blog or other type of social media presence

### Learning More Intermediate

- Learn and practice electronic etiquette
- Learn to make good impressions
- Practice using technology with presentations
- Create exciting and effective visual aids
- Develop listening skills; observe and record listening types at your next meeting
- Observe others in conversation, keep a journal of your findings
- Prepare ice breakers for your club meeting
- Speak up about bullying

### Expanding Horizons Advanced

- Prepare for an interview by practicing with your leader
- Prepare your resume
- Present a persuasive speech
- Learn about stage lighting
- Write a play; then assemble a cast, direct and present the play at a community event
- Learn to mime and perform for your club
- Practice using technology with presentations.
- Write a 4-H article for your local newspaper.



## Take Communications further!

- Write a short story or collection of poems and make copies for your family and friends
- Give a presentation or working exhibit at your club meeting and at your county communication event
- Write thank you notes to a speaker or a donor to your club program
- Organize making posters for display for national 4-H week
- Record a radio ad or volunteer to be interviewed on a local radio/TV station.
- Volunteer to read a book at the local library
- Teach a younger member how to give a presentation or prepare a working exhibit
- Create an electronic presentation about your 4-H club activities for members to use in community presentations
- Write a letter to the editor about the value of 4-H for national 4-H week
- Attend Florida 4-H University and participate in workshops, motivational speakers and a community service project, bringing ideas back to your community: [florida4h.org/programsandevents\\_/4hu/](http://florida4h.org/programsandevents_/4hu/)
- Interested in a college education in the area of journalism, broadcasting, or agriculture communications? Schedule a visit with the University of Florida: [ufl.edu/admissions](http://ufl.edu/admissions)
- Check out Florida 4-H Camp: [florida4h.org/camps\\_/](http://florida4h.org/camps_/)

### Project Sharing Ideas

- Give an educational presentation, working exhibit, or extemporaneous speech
- Prepare an exhibit describing steps in preparing a speech
- Write a short story. (or a novel!)
- Make an audio file of sound effects to use with a play
- Prepare a poster about text messaging do's and don'ts

## Resources

### 4-H Project Resources

Project materials to assist youth in learning may be available through your county 4-H office or you can order directly.

Available at National 4-H:  
[www.4-hmall.org](http://www.4-hmall.org)

Communications

- Level 1 Picking Up the Pieces
- Level 2 Putting it Together
- Level 3 The Perfect Fit

Theatre Arts

- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3

Available at EDIS:

[edis.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/)

- Discovering the Treasure of Public Speaking

### Connections and Events

Attending events and taking advantage of opportunities that will expand your project learning will help you become the best you can be. Contact your county 4-H office.

Take part in:

- Competitive events
- Demonstration and Illustrated Talks
- Public Speaking Contests
- Photo Exhibit
- Poster Art Program
- 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Program
- 4-H University

Attend other statewide events. Check them out at [florida4h.org](http://florida4h.org)

### Record Keeping

Learning to take good records of what you do and what you spend for your project is a 4-H life skill.

The following record keeping forms can help you keep a record of your activities.

Project Report Forms can be found at [florida4h.org](http://florida4h.org)

- Junior (ages 8-10)
- Intermediate (ages 11-13)
- Senior (ages 14-18)
- Financial Summary
- Member Portfolio (ages 8-13)

### Awards and Recognition

Florida's Recognition Program involves feedback through:

- Participation
- Setting Goals
- Meeting Standards
- Peer Competition
- Cooperation

Certificates, pins, ribbons, trophies, trips and/or scholarships are awarded based on quality of performance at the county, district, state and national levels.

To learn more about current recognition opportunities visit the Florida 4-H website at [florida4h.org](http://florida4h.org) or contact your county 4-H agent.

Learn more at [florida4h.org](http://florida4h.org)  
or contact your local UF/IFAS Extension County Office

**4-H**  
GROWING TOGETHER