



2019 Expressive Arts Fest

03.09.19 | Holmen Middle School

Here is your How-To Guide on performing at the La Crosse County 4-H Expressive Arts Festival. Sometimes it can look scary and overwhelming. Well, we want to make it simple for you! This flyer will break down all the ways you can perform and hopefully give you a few helpful tips to guide you.

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There is only one type of performance that is judged by Fair standards and that is the Demonstration section. If you want to compete at the Fair for Demonstration, you need to attend this event! All other types of performance will be judged by merit and participation this year.

Please note that adjustments have been made to rules and guidelines this year, and of course, if you have any questions, please contact us at 608-785-9593 or lacrossecounty4h@lacrossecounty.org.

Don't forget to visit the website for up-to-date information and registration: <https://lacrosse.uwex.edu/4-h-youth-development/events-activities/county-festivals/>

Special thank you to Miki Markofski and the Home Runners 4-H Club in helping with the tips!

How can I perform?

It's a way to show off your skills in:

- Drama/Theatre
- Speaking
- Demonstration
- Music
- Arts & Crafts
- Marketing
- Photography



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Drama Categories

- **Play:** A one-act play, commercial or original drama. Props and costumes are encouraged. Maximum time limit is 30 minutes.
- **Mini-Drama:** Produced with minimal props and costumes that can be performed in any room. Examples include skits, puppetry, or creative dramatics. Maximum time limit is 12 minutes.

Speaking Categories

- **Memorized Selection:** Prose, poetry, or any other piece that must be memorized presented by an individual. No notes allowed. Maximum time limit is 5 minutes. Presenters must provide a clean copy of the piece to be recited for the judge(s).
- **Literary Reading:** Includes prose and poetry pieces presented as a reading by an individual. No props or costumes allowed. Maximum time limit is 5 minutes.
- **Play Reading:** Readers are to make their selection “come alive” without the use of costumes or props. Appropriate gestures and human-produced sound effects (no artificial devices) are allowed. Scripts are to be used. Maximum time limit is 12 minutes. Groups must consist of 3 or more participants.
- **Original Speech:** A speech written by and presented by an individual on any subject, preferably one pertaining to his/her 4-H project work. Notes are permitted. Maximum time limit is 5 minutes.
- **Storytelling:** Original or published narrative, told as if to a younger audience, and presented without notes by an individual. No poetry is allowed. Costumes or props are encouraged, and facial expressions or gestures are allowed. Maximum time limit is 12 minutes.



What is the difference between prose and poetry? Anything that isn't a poem, such as a story or narrative, is considered prose!

Demonstration Categories

- **Demonstration:** Teaching someone how to do something on any subject. Presentation must consist of an introduction, body, conclusion, and questions from the audience.
- **Illustrated Talk:** Show and tell the audience your knowledge about something. Visuals and charts are encouraged, including, but not limited to maps, charts, posters, graphs, pictures, slides, or models to explain what the participant is saying.
- **Action Center:** An informal presentation to someone passing by about any subject, with an emphasis on showing. Individual presenter or groups of 2-4 carry on conversations with people passing through. Handouts may be used, posters or pictures may be used, and passerby interact with the presentation. A good example of an Action Center presentation is a school science fair or a booth exhibit at an event.



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Music Categories

- **Instrumental:** Groups perform selection(s) from any genre using only musical instruments.
- **Vocal:** Groups perform selection(s) from any genre using their voices only. Costumes are permitted, but no props are allowed.
- **Dance:** Groups perform choreography from any genre. Costumes and props are permitted, but the focus should be on the group's movements. Music set to the choreography may only be instrumental.
- **Novelty:** Groups provide musical, vocal, or movement entertainment by combining a variety of instrumental, vocal, or dance techniques. Examples of a Novelty performance include, but are not limited to lip syncing, variety shows, show choirs, or other musical performances that do not fit in the first three categories above.

Arts & Crafts Category

Participants submit arts & crafts items for display and judging. Youth are not required to be present for the day, but can simply drop off their exhibits in the morning and pick them up in the afternoon after judging. See the General Rules sheet for more information about entries.

Marketing Category

Participants submit items that could be used to market the 4-H program. Youth are not required to be present for the day, but can simply drop off their exhibits in the morning and pick them up in the afternoon after judging. See the General Rules sheet for more information about entries.

Photography Category

Participants submit original photographs for display and judging. Youth are not required to be present for the day, but can simply drop off their exhibits in the morning and pick them up in the afternoon after judging. See the General Rules sheet for more information about entries.



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Expressive Arts Festival General Rules & Guidelines

Drama:

- ◆ All groups must consist of 3 or more participants regardless of category.
- ◆ Youth may participate in only 1 performance per category.
- ◆ Performances can not have been prepared or presented in any other competitive event.
- ◆ Groups are allowed 5 minutes apiece for set up and take down of their stage in addition to the maximum time limit of their category.
- ◆ No hay, straw, cornstalks, shavings, or sawdust may be used.
- ◆ Presentations must be family friendly and appropriate.

Speaking:

- ◆ Youth may only participate in 2 speaking performances regardless of category.
- ◆ No hay, straw, cornstalks, shavings, or sawdust may be used.
- ◆ Presentations must be family friendly and appropriate.

Demonstration:

- ◆ Youth may participate in only 1 performance per category.
- ◆ No hay, straw, cornstalks, shavings, or sawdust may be used.
- ◆ The maximum time limit in all categories is 15 minutes.
- ◆ Presentations must be family friendly and appropriate.

Music:

- ◆ Groups must consist of 3 or more participants regardless of category.
- ◆ The maximum time limit in all categories is 12 minutes. Participants may utilize no more than 3 minutes each for set up and take down.
- ◆ No hay, straw, cornstalks, shavings, or sawdust may be used.
- ◆ No directing is permitted from the audience or in front of the stage.
- ◆ Presentations must be family friendly and appropriate.

Arts & Crafts:

- ◆ All entries must have a 3" X 5" index card listing title of piece, artist name, club, grade, date completed, and brief description of materials used attached securely somewhere to the piece.
- ◆ Participants may only enter 5 exhibits.
- ◆ No woodworking entries are permitted.
- ◆ Note: to submit an item for the La Crosse Interstate Fair, you may be restricted to 24" x 24" size. This is not a requirement for Expressive Arts.

Marketing:

- ◆ All entries must have a 3" X 5" index card listing title of piece, artist name, club, grade, date completed, and brief description of materials used attached securely somewhere to the piece.
- ◆ Any item is acceptable that can be used for promotion of 4-H. All entries must have at least one 4-H logo. Please view pages 9-13 at <https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/4-H%20Name%20and%20Emblem%20User%20Guide%202014.pdf> for instructions on how to acceptably utilize the 4-H logo on your entries.

Photography:

- ◆ All entries must have a 3" X 5" index card listing title of piece, artist name, club, grade, date completed, and brief description of materials used attached securely somewhere to the piece.
- ◆ Participants may only enter 5 exhibits.
- ◆ The maximum size of entries to be eligible for entry to the La Crosse Interstate Fair is 5" X 7" and mounted on poster board of any color no larger than 6" X 8".
- ◆ Photos must be participant's own original work.

For additional questions and clarifications, please contact the UW-Extension office at 608-785-9593 or LaCrosseCounty4H@lacsossecounty.org.



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03.09.19 | Holmen Middle School | **General Speaking Tips**

Below are some tips to keep in mind when practicing and giving your performance!

Introduction

- Always give acknowledgement to the author even if it's "unknown."
- Tell why it was selected!

Other Speaking Tips

- Stand still - try not to wiggle your feet!
- Talk over your paper, not into it (do not hide your face with your paper).
- Make eye contact with the audience.
- Be loud and soft in different parts with your voice.
- Use inflection and slow, clear articulation.
- If reading a piece, mount it on dark construction paper to make it look nicer and make it more rigid.
- Keep your place by scrolling down with one thumb as you read in case you get lost while looking up.
- It is very appealing when a piece is self-written!

Here is a Sample Introduction to Memorize!

Use your own details to personalize it:

"Hi, my name is Millie Smith. I am 13 years old in the 8th grade. I am in the Home Runners 4-H Club in La Crosse County. Today I will read you a poem called "My Hope" by Lester Lawrence. I chose this piece because it is a beautiful picture of how hope can pull us through hard times. I want you to enjoy it as much as I do."

Illustrated Talk Tips

- Make it personal - why you picked it and where the information came from.
- Start with a good grabber. Sometimes a question is a great way to begin.
- Look up, talk to everyone, and walk around a bit. Talk to the judge instead of reading to the judge.
- Talk about your poster, map, chart, or model, stress the peculiar.
- End with "Do you have any questions?"

Demonstration Tips

- The primary purpose is to teach the audience how to complete a task or process.
- Start with why, give a brief overview of the entire process, then go through the steps one-by-one (for each step describe it, then show it). Allow for questions and then summarize briefly.
- (Optional) Discuss options, extras, or variations.
- Demonstrate what you know and love!

Some examples of Demonstrations

- How to prepare a recipe
- How to compose a photograph
- How to line dance



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