

# 4-H Demonstrations

## Why?



Demonstrations are one of the most rewarding experiences for 4-H members and leaders. As you work with 4-H members on their public presentations, you are opening new doors for many of these young people. Through giving public presentations, 4-H members learn to:

- express themselves clearly and convincingly
- organize their ideas and present them in a logical order
- research subjects
- have confidence in themselves
- emphasize the major points of a presentation through the use of visuals or examples
- listen to the opinions of others

Demonstrations can help shy, introverted 4-H members develop confidence, poise, self esteem, stage presence, and knowledge. They can also help members who are overly aggressive become more sensitive towards others.

Through giving demonstrations, members will learn that:

- errors are learning tools
- criticism may be positive
- pride can be displayed in a positive way
- skills and abilities must be used properly

## What?



A demonstration is a planned presentation by one or more 4-H members who teach by showing and explaining things. The 4-H member describes what he or she is doing and makes something using ingredients, tools, etc. Usually, at the conclusion of a demonstration, the finished product is available for the audience to touch, taste, feel, or test.

## Length?



4-H Age Division	Age	Time Suggestions
Cloverbuds	5 - 7 years	Less than 5 minutes
Juniors	8 - 10 years	3 - 8 minutes
Intermediates	11 - 13 years	5 - 15 minutes
Seniors	14 - <19 years	10 - 20 minutes

# 4-H Demonstrations

How?



## General Demonstration Tips:

- Choose a different topic each year
- Decide whether you'd like to present as an individual or as a team.
- Use a template to help you structure your presentation.
- Use illustrations, posters, and visuals (including models, tools, etc.) to help your audience understand your presentation – avoid any visuals that **DISTRACT** attention from your main idea. Make sure lettering and images on graphics can be viewed from the back of the room and at every angle (easels are available). Live animals are not permitted in 4-H public demonstrations.
- Have your material well organized in a logical order. Perhaps trays, boxes, bowls etc. will help you to manage your materials. If you use these, look for transparent containers so that your audience can see the contents. Also consider labeling containers so that your audience sees the materials and the process.
- Plan what you'll wear. Your clothes should be simple, neat, and clean. Those doing food presentations should wear short sleeves. Hair should be under control. Don't wear **DISTRACTING** clothes, jewelry, or makeup. Choose clothing appropriate for your presentation: e.g., clown gear for a clowning presentation, period clothing for a presentation on John Muir.
- Prepare to bring any reference materials to your presentation and be prepared to share your references with your audience at the end of your presentation.
- **PRACTICE** often, out loud, and pull in lots of different people to serve as your audience. Be sure to ask your practice audience questions like: "What was not clear in my presentation?" "What really struck you?" "How can I make my presentation even better?"

## Shaping the Presentation

- Choose a topic that is of great interest to you! If you need ideas, talk with your 4-H friends and Leader; talk with other adults and youth in your life; or look in the library, magazines, newspaper, and other media.
- Choose a title that gives an interesting hint at what your topic is about. For example, if you are going to do an illustrated talk about rabbits' eyelids, you might want to call it "The Eyes Have It" instead of "Rabbit Eyelids."
- Prepare a written outline of the 3 main parts of your presentation. You are welcome (and encouraged) to use your outline and brief notes as you present (no need to memorize!)



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## Cloverbud Demonstration Outline

1. Attention Getter - Say or do something cute, funny, or interesting.
2. Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_
3. I am a member of \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H Club
4. I am \_\_\_\_\_ years old
5. Today, I am going to talk to you about \_\_\_\_\_ (Demo Title)
6. The pieces you will need are \_\_\_\_\_
7. The first step is \_\_\_\_\_
8. The second step is \_\_\_\_\_
9. The third step is \_\_\_\_\_
10. Now you should have a completed \_\_\_\_\_
11. I got my information from \_\_\_\_\_
12. Smile and ask “Are there any questions?”

Repeat the question and answer to the best of your ability, if you don't know the answer it is okay to say “I'm sorry, I don't know”

## Example:

1. Are you hungry?
2. Hello, my name is Clara Cloverbud
3. I am a member of the Kitchen Kids 4-H Club
4. I am 6 years old
5. Today, I am going to talk to you about Perfecting the PB&J
6. The pieces you will need are: Bread, Jelly, Peanut Butter, a Plate and Knife
7. The first step is to get your bread out and lay it on the plate
8. The second step is to spread jelly on one side of the bread and peanut butter on the other
9. The third step is to put the bread together
10. Now you should have a delicious PB&J sandwich
11. I got my information from the book *Simple Recipes for Kids*
12. 😊 Are there any questions?

Question Example:

- Q: Do you have a favorite jelly?
- A: The question was asked “Do you have a favorite jelly?” Yes, I really like grape jelly.



# 4-H Demonstrations

## Junior, Intermediate or Senior Example

This is a general example of how to prepare a demonstration.

### Introduction:

Hi, my name is Sally Senior. I am 15 years old and in the 11th grade. This is my 5th year in 4-H and my 5th demonstration. The title of my demonstration is Happy Chicks, Happy Life. Today I will show you (or tell you) how to properly set up a chick brooder. (Think up something cute and catchy for a title and then explain what you are going to do and why it is important to learn about.)

### Body:

- Start your demonstration here with an attention grabbing or funny sentence that pertains to your topic. You may also consider starting with a question to the audience.
- Show all the visual aids you may have. For example, if you were doing a demonstration on chick brooding you would show all the materials (brooder box, heat lamp, water dish, food & feeder, thermometer, shavings, etc.)
- Go into explaining the steps involved in how to do whatever you are giving your demonstration about. (in this example you would give step by step instructions on the order, how, and why you set up a brooder).

### Conclusion:

Conclude with today I have shown you how to or today I have told you about your topic. Give a good closing sentence to explain why you think this is an important thing to learn and possibly what it has done for you.

- Example: Today I have shown you how to setup a chick brooder. Raising chicks can be a very fun project, but you must provide the proper nutrition, heat and safe environment in order to have happy, healthy chicks.

Share your sources with the audience. Stating I got my information from \_\_\_\_\_ and showing the book or papers to the audience is very impactful.

Thank the audience for their time and ask if there are any questions.

### Questions:

Always repeat the question when someone asks a question, this allows the whole audience to hear the question and gives you a little time to think about your answer. You can simply say “The question was asked; can you use any kind of shavings for your chick brooder?”

If you don’t know the answer, repeat the question and state that you don’t the answer right now but can get back to them once you have a chance to research it.

Please contact your 4-H leader or the extension office if you have any questions about the demonstration process.