

IFAS Extension

Florida 4-H Youth Development Program

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Dear Parent,

Your child is about to be a part of a very exciting and important educational program-- the Florida 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Program. Though oral communication skills are most commonly associated with productive living, they are not as heavily emphasized as reading, writing, and computing. Your County's schools have recognized the importance of communicating effectively, and have endorsed the inclusion of this public speaking education program in the curriculum for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders.

The program is underwritten by the Tropicana Corporation and coordinated by your local County Florida 4-H program. The educational materials were made available to the schools earlier in the year. Teachers conducting the program set aside part of their classroom time to help students research, organize, practice, critique, and present speeches of their choosing. The rules are simple: Speeches:

- * must be original and student written.
- * must be a different topic each year of participation.
- * must be between 2 and 3 minutes.
- * may **NOT** utilize visual aids (no costumes, posters, props, etc.)
Note Cards are not considered visual aids.

Speeches are written and presented in the classroom with classroom winners advancing to a school contest and school winners advancing to a county contest. The county contest (for school winners) on various dates, check with your county's 4-H agent for more information.

If you would like additional information about this important program, please don't hesitate to call your youngster's teacher or local [County 4-H Office](#). For more information about Florida 4-H, visit www.florida4h.org.

Sincerely,

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