4-H SPEECH CONTEST

EVENT: GROUP INTERPRETATION

TIME: Maximum - Senior: 10 minutes
- Junior/Intermediate: 5 minutes

DESCRIPTION:

Two or more contestants will be considered a group. One contestant may present the narration and many characters may present description or certain parts of it. Any of the contestants may interpret more than one of the group; girls should interpret female parts and boys, the male role if boys and girls are members of the group. Since this is interpretation, if all members of the group are girls, they may interpret male parts as well as female parts, and an all-boy group may interpret female parts.

The contestants should be cautioned that they are interpreters of literature, not actors. Their responsibility, therefore, is to react to the imaginary characters in front of them, not to the contestants who stand beside them. The characters presented should be suggestively portrayed.

The contestants should have a sensitive appreciation for mood, the conflict, suspense, transition and climax. They should not only have a thorough understanding of characters or character they are interpreting, but should also know mental, physical and emotional relationships of characters to each other and the dramatic value of each character presented in their reading. A careful timing that suggests naturalness of reaction to the dramatic value is very important.

Narrative should be held to a minimum, a bare necessity, but that which is used should be vivid and animated. It should have conversational directness and expressiveness. The play contestants lead or guide his audience with narration towards an intellectual and emotional understanding of anything, which needs explanation. If narration must be used for any reason, it must be important and should never be presented as just a “filler”.

Most of these will be interpretations of scenes from plays; however, other literature primarily interested in people and their relationship with others may be used.

Reprinted and revised from Hawaii Speech League, page 42 2/03