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August 11, 2006

**MEMORANDUM TO: COUNTY EXTENSION AGENTS
TEXAS 4-H FACULTY**

SUBJECT: 2007 STATE SHARE-THE-FUN CONTEST

**FROM: CHERYL A. NEWBERRY
Extension Program Specialist-- 4-H
Share The Fun Superintendent**

Howdy! I am pleased to provide you with the 2007 Texas 4-H Share-The-Fun Contest Rules and information. Enclosed is the following information concerning the 2007 contest at Texas 4-H Roundup. **Please make sure you copy and send this packet out to your counties!** Included in this packet are the following pieces:

1. General Rules & Information
2. Contest Category Descriptions
3. Definition of Terms for Score Sheets
4. Seven Individual Score Cards (one for each category)

NOTES:

1. A total of 7 categories will be implemented for the 2007 contest.
2. A county may have only one entry in each category advance from District Roundup.
3. The first place district winners in each of the seven (7) categories qualify for State 4-H Roundup.
4. If a county has an entry in each category at District and each wins first, then they can all advance to State.
5. 4-H'ers may not enter the same category in which they have previously been part of a first place entry at State; however, they may choose one of the other categories.
6. **Guidelines are more clearly defined on the amount of space allowed for storage of props in the general rules.**

The 2007 Share The Fun Contest will be held in Reed Arena. More information for teams qualifying for State will be sent to those counties next Spring. If you have questions concerning Share The Fun for your DISTRICT contest, please contact your 4-H Specialist coordinating that event. If you have questions pertaining to the rules for the State Contest, please contact me.

cc: Dr. Martha Couch
Dr. Toby Lepley

**2007 TEXAS 4-H SHARE-THE-FUN CONTEST
GENERAL RULES & INFORMATION**

**Superintendent: Cheryl A. Newberry
Extension Program Specialist–4-H, West Region**

1. There are seven (7) categories, each with a separate description and score card. Category descriptions are listed in State 4-H Roundup Guide and in the enclosed Contest and Category Descriptions. The seven (7) categories are:
 1. Comedian
 2. Poet
 3. Vocal
 4. Musical
 5. Choreographed Routines
 6. Drama
 7. Celebrate 4-H
2. The first place winners from each category at District will qualify for State 4-H Roundup. If a county has an entry in each category at District and each wins first, then they can all advance to State. 4-H'ers may not enter the same category in which they have previously been part of a first place entry at State; however, they may choose one of the other categories.
3. Objectives of the category are listed in the State 4-H Roundup Guide and in the enclosed Contest and Category Descriptions.
4. To determine category for entry, refer to the descriptions on the enclosed Contest and Category Descriptions. County Extension Agents are strongly encouraged to review entries for proper category and appropriateness of material, and ensure that all other rules and regulations are followed.
5. Judges will determine:
 - A. If an entry is in correct the category.
 - B. The order of performance at the awards assembly at State Roundup.
6. All decisions by the judges will be final.
7. Regulations for props should be followed. Props utilized must be able to go through doors that are 6 ft. wide and 7 feet tall. ***Each entry will be allowed to bring props that will be able to be stored in a space that is 3 feet X 8 feet. Space at the State Contest is LIMITED!***
8. The following materials may not be used in any category: talcum powder, flour, pies, water, oil, feathers or other substances which are hard to clean up, may cause damage, or be dangerous to participants. No roller skates, shoes with spikes, cleats, motorized vehicles, live animals or real fire arms will be allowed.
9. Time limits for all categories will be strictly enforced. **All categories** have a time limit of six (6) minutes for presentation and four (4) minutes for set-up and break down. A penalty of five (5) points per minute or part of a minute over the time limits allowed will be deducted from the total score.

10. Only **adult coaches and/or agents** will be allowed back stage, in the vicinity of the storage area of props, and to assist the 4-H members with set-up and break down of props and equipment. *4-H members or other youth who are not a part of the team will not be allowed to assist with set-up or take down.*
11. **Defining Accompanist:** An accompanist may be used for any of the categories to provide music via piano, guitar, or other musical instrument where a vocalist is performing in an act. An accompanist may also provide musical back up when a musician is performing in an act. ***An accompanist MUST be an adult, at least 18 years of age, AND not a current 4-H member.*** The accompanist will not be judged as part of the act. Remember that if the entry is entered in any of the categories besides vocal or musical, the act may not be more than 50% vocal or musical.
12. During a performance adult coaches may give cues for music at the sound booth or back stage and help with costume/prop changes back stage. **They are NOT allowed to participate in any other form in the act while the act is going on, with the exception of their role as an accompanist (See rule #11).** Any voices heard during the performance from back stage must be either a participant OR a taped voice.
13. No flash photography or video taping will be permitted in any contest category. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** This includes photography and video taping of your own county entry.
14. Awards – All 4-H members participating in each category of Share-The-Fun at Texas 4-H Roundup will receive a participant award. The top three winners in each category as determined by the judges will receive award medals by the Texas Cooperative Extension. Additional awards will be presented after State 4-H Roundup to the first, second and third place winners in each category. The awards will be announced at Texas 4-H Roundup.

Revised: June 2006

2007 TEXAS 4-H SHARE-THE-FUN CONTEST CONTEST AND CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

ENTRY: INDIVIDUAL OR GROUPS (Maximum of five participants) – Comedian and Poet Categories
INDIVIDUAL OR GROUPS (Maximum of nine participants) – Vocal, Musical, Choreographed Routines, Drama, Celebrate 4-H Categories

OBJECTIVES:

- ▶ To provide an opportunity for 4-H youth to develop a spirit of cooperation through working together to develop self-confidence through public appearance.
- ▶ To stimulate interest and encourage a broad-based recreation program in Texas 4-H at the club and county level.
- ▶ To encourage 4-H members to discover and develop their talents.
- ▶ To provide for social, cultural, and leadership development of 4-H youth.

CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS:

COMEDIAN – Individual or Group Entry – maximum of five (5) participants. Acts which showcase comedy are required. The act may incorporate vocal, musical, and/or choreographed routine but these aspects cannot be more than half of the performance time. These performances CANNOT include 4-H related material. Otherwise, it should be categorized as “Celebrate 4-H”. Examples of comedy entries might include “Who’s On First?”, The Three Stooges, but *original or material that has been creatively re-written is preferred for this category!* Stand-Up Comedy is also acceptable, as long as the material is appropriate for a youth audience. **Every 4-H member entered in the category must be a part of the performance on stage.** Consider selecting a prose piece as is used in UIL competition that is humorous. Judged on material chosen, message, talent, presentation, style, props/costuming. Four (4) minutes total for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

POET – Individual or Group Entry – maximum of five (5) participants. Acts which showcase poetry are required. The act may incorporate vocal, musical, and/or dance but these aspects cannot be more than half of the performance time. This category does not require 4-H related material, however, if an original poem showcasing 4-H is written, this would be acceptable. **Every 4-H member entered in the category must be a part of the performance on stage.** Judged on material chosen, message, talent, presentation, style, props/costuming. Four (4) minutes total for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

VOCAL – Individual or Group Entry – maximum of nine (9) participants. Vocal presentation may be done a cappella, with an accompaniment tape, with an **ADULT ACCOMPANIST** (see rule #11) or musical instruments. **Bands may enter this category, however, the presentation is judged on vocal performance, not the musical performance, therefore, all members of the group MUST BE SINGING!** No lip sinc will be allowed. No skit or story line will be permitted. *Sign language may be added to enhance the performance, but entries that strictly showcase sign language without vocal presentation are not permitted in this category.* They must be entered in Choreographed routines. Judged on talent, showmanship, vocal presentation, and material chosen. Four (4) minutes for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

MUSICAL – Individual or Group Entry – maximum of nine (9) participants. Musical presentation may be musical instruments accompanied by background tape or **an ADULT ACCOMPANIST** (see rule #11) **playing a musical instrument.** No vocal presentation or lip sinc will be permitted. No skit or story line will be permitted. **All 4-H members entered in the category must be a part of the musical act.** Judged on talent, showmanship, musical presentation, and material chosen. Four (4) minutes for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

CHOREOGRAPHED ROUTINES – Individual or Group Entry – maximum of nine (9) participants. No speaking to form a skit or story line. The act requires choreography and can be demonstrated through twirling, pom pom squad routines, jump rope teams, basketball dribbling exhibitions, or dance (Jazz, tap, country & western, ballroom, etc.) . *Sign language presentations to music have been added to choreographed routines. However, if a participant is SINGING and SIGNING, this entry should be entered in the Vocal Category.* **All 4-H members entered in the category must be a part of the act.** Judged on material chosen, talent, uniformity, creativity, showmanship, costuming, and material chosen. Four (4) minutes for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

DRAMA – Individual or Group Entry – maximum of nine (9) participants. Has a story line or theme that relates to a youth issue, current event, or world affair. *The drama skit may be simply increasing awareness of the issue and/or a recommended solution to the issue being addressed.* It is not a requirement to include 4-H in the skit. May incorporate music, vocal, and/or dance but these aspects cannot be more than half of the performance. **All 4-H members entered in the category must be a part of the act.** Judged on creativity, material chosen, showmanship, costume, talent, props, message, addressing of current issues. Four (4) minutes for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

CELEBRATE 4-H – Individual or Group Entry – maximum of nine (9) participants. ***Must be 4-H based story line, promoting 4-H, community service, a project or activity.*** May incorporate music, vocal selections, and/or dance but these aspects cannot be more than half of the performance. Skits can be humorous, creative and make fun of but not degrade Extension employees or the 4-H program. **All 4-H members entered in the category must be a part of the act.** Judged on material chosen, talent, creativity, showmanship, costumes and props. Four (4) minutes for set-up and break down; maximum of six (6) minutes for presentation for a total of ten (10) minutes per act.

Revised: June 2006

**2007 TEXAS 4-H SHARE-THE-FUN
DEFINITION OF TERMS FOR SCORE SHEETS**

The information below is a guide for scoring. Each term used on the score sheets are defined in an effort to clarify what is expected in each performance category. There is a score sheet for each of the seven (7) categories.

Inappropriateness in any category is not permitted and would change the score of that particular area dramatically and could lead to disqualification. For example, a brilliantly executed skit that depends upon the use of foul language would not be acceptable. Any inappropriate reference to sex, age, or handicap will lead to disqualification.

MATERIAL CHOSEN – This area refers to the appropriateness of the material selected. A vocalist should select the song that is within his/her voice range; a pianist should pass up the “showy” difficult piece for one he/she will play well. Material chosen also refers to the appropriateness of the selection for presentation before a 4-H audience.

TALENT – This is the performer’s actual ability to do what the activity or skill requires. In any musical classification, this includes items such as the quality of music tones, intonation, manner of uttering tones with regard to rise, fall, pitch, harmony, rhythm and any other attributes of an artistic presentation. In dance, it includes rhythm, timing appropriate gestures, memorization and artistic delivery. Judges should be aware that some of the performers have not had formal training.

CREATIVITY – Creativity is the ability to produce something new, unique, or original. An act may be original in the way it was developed and/or interpreted. Sometimes the act itself may not be original, but the costuming, staging, or delivery may show creativity. Additionally, the quality of the creativity should be measured.

SHOWMANSHIP – Showmanship is the stage personality of the performer. It can include poise, confidence, facial expression, projection of voice, projection of music, body movements, gestures, and the performer’s stage presence, depending on the category (see score sheets for specific criteria). It is the performer’s communication with the audience at all times. It is his/her ability to make smooth entrances and exits, to avoid awkward pauses, and to acknowledge the applause of the audience. It is the use of the microphone and special stage props if these are a part of the act. In general, it is the whole personality of the performer while he/she is on stage.

COSTUME AND PROPS – Costume and props should be appropriate and supportive of the act. For some acts, street clothes may be the most appropriate costume. If the special costumes are used, they should contribute to the effectiveness of the act. Props are the back drop and/or other items used to add character and meaning to the presentation. See rules # 8 and 9 under “Rules & Regulations” for more details on the appropriate size of props and items that cannot be used.

MESSAGE – Communication of an idea or theme. What is the underlying message that will be taught or presented?

PRESENTATION STYLE – Method of acting; distinctive or characteristic manner; overall excellence; skill or grace in performance and/or appearance.

VOCAL PRESENTATION – Exercising the power of producing voice, speech or sound, expressing one's self as to relate to character or message being portrayed.

MUSICAL PRESENTATION – Music selected is appropriate to the skill level of the individual or group; sound level of the musical presentation is at an appropriate level; instruments are tuned properly.

UNIFORMITY – Consistency in formation; presenting a consistent appearance; in step; synchronized.

ADDRESSING OF CURRENT ISSUES – Relates to teen issues, current events or world affairs. Presentation should promote awareness and/or possible solutions.

Revised: June 2006