



TO: School Principal, Counselor, Curriculum Coordinator or Language Arts Teacher

FROM: Karen Miliffe, Extension Agent/ 4-H Youth Development

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Miliffe".

RE: 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Program

We are writing to encourage your school/class to consider participating in the 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Program. 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking is designed to teach 4th through 6th graders basic public speaking skills. Over two million Floridians have participated in the program since its founding in 1969.

What is 4-H?

Orange County 4-H is the youth development program of University of Florida IFAS Extension. The UF/IFAS Extension 4-H program uses a learn-by-doing approach to help youth gain the knowledge and skills they need to be responsible, productive citizens. There are currently almost 1,000 Orange County youth engaged in 4-H programs, with activities ranging from robotics and public speaking to animals and gardening.

How does the 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Program work?

Youth participate in a series of lessons designed to teach them how to research, organize, practice, critique and present a speech. At the end of these lessons a classroom competition is held. At this event youth have the opportunity to present a speech on a topic of personal interest. Speeches are then judged according to a set of criteria. Classroom contest winners have the opportunity to advance to competitions at the school and county level. With this comes the opportunity for awards including a 4-H Summer Camp Scholarship.

Where does this program fit into my curriculum?

The 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Contest can help fulfill the Sunshine State Standards. More information is enclosed with this memo.

What materials are provided?

Once you have completed and returned the 4-H Group Enrollment Form participating classrooms will receive the letter to parents, tip sheet, lesson plan and recognition materials at no cost courtesy of the PepsiCo/Tropicana Company.

How do I get started?

You can sign up by completing the attached enrollment form and returning it to the address listed in the sidebar. Upon receipt of the registration form we will send out an informational packet containing all of the materials you need for the program.

The County Level competition will be held at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at the Orange County Extension Center in Orlando (see attached directions). School programs must be completed in advance of this date in order for youth to be eligible to compete.

We would be happy to come out and meet with you at your school to discuss the program in greater depth. For more information contact the office at 407-254-9222 or orange4h@ifas.ufl.edu.