



Cornell Cooperative Extension Telephone: 845-340-3990
Ulster County Fax: 845-340-3993
10 Westbrook Lane E-mail: ulster@cornell.edu
Kingston, NY 12401-2928

Cooperative Extension
ULSTER COUNTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lisa M. Berger
(845) 340-3990

Cornell to host 4-H Public Speaking Event Oct. 2 at Morrison Hall

ITHACA, N.Y. Youth from all over New York State are speaking out on topics from horses to song lyrics. Fifty-five teens from 28 counties have been selected to participate in this year's 4-H State Public Presentations, a public-speaking event to be held at noon on Saturday, Oct. 2, in Morrison Hall on the Cornell University campus.

Middle school and high school students involved in the 4-H Youth Development program have been giving talks and demonstrations at the local and regional levels, and those with the top talent have advanced to the state event at Cornell, where they will represent their counties. The event will award gold, silver and bronze medals to winners in the demonstration, speech, illustrated talk and dramatic interpretation categories. Each county is allowed to send up to three presenters in three categories.

Ulster County's participant, sixteen year-old Jaime Churchill of Saugerties, is a member of four 4-H clubs: Ulster County MuttMasters; Feathered Friends; Teen Council; and Capricious Kids. Jaime is a well-rounded 4-H member involved in animal science projects including dogs, rabbits, chickens, ducks, and goats. She also is at home with clothing and textiles. An avid sewer, Jaime participates in Clothing Revue. Jaime's leadership development includes participation as a Teen Ambassador as well as being a teen representative to Ulster County's 4-H Strategy Committee and Program Development Committees for dogs and small animals.

The Public Presentations program is often credited by 4-H alumni as having given them an edge above peers in both college and professional careers. According to Dianne Walter, Cornell program coordinator for 4-H Public Presentation Program, Our program is heralded by teachers who recognize the impact of the presentation program, she said. Teachers often tell me that when a school assigned project includes an oral presentation -- they can always pinpoint 4-H public-presentation veterans. They are the best prepared, most organized, most articulate and the most poised.

4-H Youth Development actively involves youth in opportunities that help them learn to lead, build their communities, connect with Cornell University, and connect with each other. The Statewide 4-H Public Presentation program is an annual event organized to meet this mission. For more information about 4-H Youth Development in Ulster County, contact: Patti Zellmer, 845-340-3990 or via email: psz2@cornell.edu.

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