



LEON COUNTY 4-H/TROPICANA PUBLIC SPEAKING PROGRAM



Overview

The 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Program began in 1969 in Manatee County, location of Tropicana's main office. Prior to 1986 the program was conducted in the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades in eight Florida counties. In 1986 Leon County became the first north Florida county to participate in the 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Program. During the past year thousands of Leon County students from area schools (includes home school) participated in this program. In addition hundreds of teachers served as 4-H Public Speaking Project leaders. It is our goal that every Leon County youngster will receive public speaking instruction for a minimum of three years.

Objectives

For all Leon County fourth, fifth and sixth grade students to:

- Recognize the necessity of obtaining as much of the available information on a given topic as possible.
- Carefully organize material to be presented in a timed, orderly and thorough speech.
- Develop a pleasing personal appearance before an audience.
- Acquire the ability to speak convincingly in public, expressing ideas effectively.
- Develop confidence and poise.
- Be recognized for their accomplishments through participation and competition.

Proposal

The development of life skills among youth is a primary goal for the 4-H program. While oral communication skills are among the skills most commonly associated with productive living, they are not as heavily emphasized as writing, reading and computing. In order to enhance these skills in a high number of Leon County youth, the Leon County 4-H Program and Tropicana are seeking to offer the 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Program to all fourth, fifth and sixth grade students. Parents will be informed about their child's participation and other educational opportunities available through 4-H. A county-wide contest will be held to recognize students who have demonstrated outstanding public speaking skills. A district contest will be held for first place county winners in nearby NW Florida counties. The following are proposed responsibilities for those involved in implementing the program:

Leon County 4-H

- Overall management of the program including planning, communications, implementation, and evaluation.
- Educational content/materials.
- Organization of county contest and district contest.
- Provide information for parents.
- Recruit community volunteers to assist with program.

Tropicana

- Provide development and printing of all materials including teacher lesson plan, student brochure, etc.
- Provide recognition symbols for participants at various levels of competition.
- Provide public relations expertise and media exposure.

Leon County Schools

- Provide opportunity to inform public speaking contacts and teachers of public speaking program.
- Conduct program on a volunteer basis by teachers in each school.
- Provide demographic data on participants.
- Organization of school contest (including judges, submitting winners' names, providing county contest information).
- Assist with county & district contests (facility, judges, MC, awards presenters, timers, scorers, video taping, etc.).
- Media coverage.
- Assist with evaluation of the program.