TO: 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Program School Liaisons  
FROM: Yolanda Y. Goode, Extension Agent III/4-H Youth Development  
SUBJECT: 2011-2012 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Contest  
DATE: September 23, 2011

The date for the Gadsden County 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Contest has been set for Thursday, January 26, 2012 at 9:15 a.m. at the North Florida Research Center in Quincy.

As the Curriculum coordinator/assistant principal/counselor, you are the liaison between the 4-H office and your school for the 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Contest. If you wish to designate another person for this task, please let us know right away by calling Kay at 875-7255 or emailing her at kdpeddie@ufl.edu. Enclosed is the Youth Group Enrollment Form which must be completed by the classroom teacher.

Please pass this information on to your 4th, 5th and 6th grade teachers. Each teacher who chooses to participate must notify Kay to receive the teacher packet by returning the completed Youth Group Enrollment Form by October 20, 2011. NO RIBBONS, MEDALLIONS OR OTHER AWARDS WILL BE DELIVERED UNTIL WE HAVE RECEIVED THESE ENROLLMENT FORMS.

Please start early so all youth and teachers can receive the recognition they deserve. Arrangements will be made to get all necessary teacher and student materials to your school once we have received your Youth Group Enrollment Forms.

The Youth Group Enrollment Form can also be found on our website at http://gadsden.ifas.ufl.edu/ as well as suggested teacher’s lesson plans, 4-H Tropicana calendar for 2011-12 and speech topic ideas.

Once a class is enrolled, we have the following items which are available upon request as long as supplies last for classes participating:

- parent letter, tips on speaking guide and participation certificates.

Only your 1st place school winners will compete at the county competition. Make sure your students work to keep their speeches between 2 to 3 minutes. There is a stiff penalty if a speech does not fall into the allotted time. Second place winners will serve as an alternate if the 1st place winner is unable to attend the county competition.

As in the past, the two “roving trophies” will once again be awarded to the schools of the 1st place county winners in each division. The County winners are also awarded a scholarship to attend 4-H residential Camp Cherry Lake in June 2012. Note: The 4-H District III Tropicana Contest will be held in Tallahassee. The date and place is TBA.

I hope you will be able to take advantage of this worthwhile program in your school. The 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Program helps to meet the requirements for Florida Writes and the Sunshine State Standards. If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to call me at 850-875-7261 or via e-mail at yygoode@ufl.edu. I look forward to working with your school.

Yolanda Y. Goode
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