



Have I Got a Story!

4-H Storytelling Event
& Service Project

Storytelling is one of our oldest traditions. It is a way to pass on history and to help us understand our world. Just as importantly, storytelling fulfills our need to entertain and to be entertained. When a minister shares a parable or a comedian tells a funny story, they are continuing that ancient tradition.

Have I Got A Story! lets you:

- Demonstrate your ability to speak before an audience.
- Share your thoughts and feelings.
- Entertain others.
- Build your confidence.
- Provide a community service that is enjoyable and meaningful.

What You Will Learn:

- How to choose a story that fits your audience.
- How to make decisions in presenting your story.
- How to deliver your story before a live audience.
- How to interpret an existing story or create a new story.

Who Can Participate

Any Alabama young person may participate in any 4-H competitive event. However, you must be a member of an Alabama 4-H Club. It's easy and quick to join – just call or e-mail your county Alabama Cooperative Extension System Office for information (for contact information, go to www.aces.edu/counties).

If you and your friends would like, you might start a 4-H Interest Club that focuses on your topic. For more information, see **Starting a 4-H Club** (www.Alabama4H.com).

Have I Got a Story! is a 4-H Event. Your local Extension Office has information on local and regional events, as well as other 4-H activities.

Levels of Competition

Look at **General Event Policy for eligibility.**

http://www.aces.edu/fourh/docs/programs/General_Contest_Policy.pdf

Check the **Alabama 4-H Age and Eligibility Chart to determine the divisions of 4-H Membership.**

http://www.aces.edu/fourh/docs/programs/Eligibility_Chart.pdf

The Rules for Have I Got a Story!

- Stories may be told individually or by two people telling a story in tandem. Teams and individuals will be judged in the same event.
- In Junior/Intermediate Level events, stories should be 2 to 4 minutes for individuals and 4 to 6 minutes for two people.
- In Senior Level events, stories should be 8 to 10 minutes and 10-12 minutes for two people.
- For Seniors, an *additional two minutes* should be used to briefly tell about your service component. The judges will have questions which are not included in your time limits.
- Seniors must complete a Community Service Report.
- It is not planned that microphones be used, so story tellers are free to move around.
- Your story must be told without notes.
- You may use simple props which do not distract from your telling of the story.
- Your story should be something you learned to tell this year.
- Try to tell a story that has not been used in 4-H before.
- Costumes are acceptable, but are not required.
- Your story may come directly from a book or another source or it may be adapted or your own original story.
- For Senior Level events, there must be a community service component such as telling your story to youth or at a community event.



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Parents' and Volunteers' Guide

Like all 4-H projects, this activity is just for young people. It is expected that the young person create an original presentation. The role of adult helper is to support and encourage youth in their efforts, to ask and answer questions about the project, and to coach youth.

The Community Service Component

Learning to tell a great story is a wonderful thing, but you will need to put your new skill to work. There are some real benefits for you. Serving others helps you build your academic skills, learn civic responsibility and develop leadership. It may also give you a good opportunity to meet new people, publicize 4-H and practice your communications. You will need to complete a **4-H Community Service Report**.

It is important that you decide what service you can provide, not have a parent or 4-H leader make this decision for you. Groups of young people are encouraged to work together to discover how they can serve their community.

What Are Some Ideas?

You probably have some great ideas of how to use your story telling to serve others, but here are a few thoughts to get things rolling:

- Organize a story-telling festival or talent show. Could it be a fund raiser?
- Help younger kids practice story telling or video tape them telling jokes.
- Tell stories to children or to older people in your community. Do the older people have stories of their own to share?
- Provide entertainment to a youth group or service organization.

Remember: always identify yourself as a member of 4-H and a participant in the *Alabama 4-H Storytelling Event*.

TELLING YOUR STORY

- Practice introducing your story. Figure out a good way to introduce yourself.
- Pause before you begin. Look at your audience and make sure you have their attention. Think of the first line of your story, take a deep breath, release it, and begin your story.
- Speak clearly and pronounce words correctly.

- It is important to be able to see everyone and for everyone to be able to see you. When you look at your audience, you involve them in your story. If you look mostly at the floor or ceiling, the audience might think that you are afraid of them or not interested in them. Remember you want to share your story with the audience.
- It is important to know your story well enough to be able to tell it smoothly, without stumbling over words or forgetting important parts of the story. If you do forget your story - don't panic - pause, picture where you are in the story and pick it up again.
- Tell your story at a comfortable pace - not too fast or not too slow. Remember, a common fault of storytellers is telling the story too fast. Use appropriate pauses to provide a feeling of suspense and anticipation.
- Everyone feels nervous. Feel your feet on the ground. It helps to take a deep breath. They are on your side and are looking forward to hearing what you have to say. Think of the audience as your best friend.
- If you use gestures, they should feel comfortable to you and make your telling of the story better.
- Project your voice so the person in the last row can hear you.
- Use your voice to help express your story. For example, use it to show surprise, sadness, happiness, or disappointment.
- Try to hold the audience's attention throughout the story. A good storyteller can make the audience see what is happening.
- Be dynamic! Put yourself into the telling!

About Judging

When you tell your story, the judge or judges won't listen for small details, but for how well you create your characters, the quality of the story you selected and your enthusiasm. They want to be entertained.

Eye contact with the judge and audience, your posture, the clearness of your speech, and your effective use of gestures and movement, are also important to the judging.

August 2010

4-H Regional/Area Awards will be determined by the planning committee for that event. Notice will be sent to each county involved.

State Competition and Awards

Each county may register one Senior Level I and one Senior Level II individual in each event that is offered.

On the state level, ribbons will be awarded to 50% of the participants in a contest using ordinal rankings up to a tenth place ranking. Example: If there are 10 participants, first place will receive the Alabama State Trophy and a first place ribbon; placing ribbons will be awarded for the next four ranked participants for placing of second through fifth. The other five participants will receive honorable mention ribbons.

Identification of Entry

Name(s), county and level of participation should be displayed with each entry. 4-H Project Exhibit cards are available, but not required. An introduction at the beginning of your time would be appropriate.

Disqualification for Have I Got A Story!

There are no obvious reasons for disqualification with this category. Youth are cautioned that language, gestures and subject matter should be appropriate for the age level and the audience. Disqualification may occur if the facilitator and the event review committee consider that the material was in-appropriate.

Deductions for Have I Got A Story!

>Exceeding the time limit



For anyone who is in the Operation Military Kid this project would be an ideal way to share their experience. Choose from the cultural and heritage that your family has experienced. This can be in another state or on the other side of the world. Tell your story in an interesting and fun way. If you need suggestions, please contact the OMK Coordinator, Charlene Hines, 334-844-2294. All 4-H projects and events are open to OMK youth. For more information www.Alabama4H.com

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How I Have Helped Others: My 4-H Community Service Report

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.
- Gandhi

Name:
County:
Date:
Number of Youth Served:
Number of Adults Served:
Start & End Date:

Number of People Involved: _____
Did you recruit others to help?

Total Hours of Effort: _____
Your time and the time of volunteers you recruited.

Briefly describe your project:

Reflection. What difference did this project make in your life or in the lives of others?

Documentation Provide photographs and any publicity such as news clippings.

Examples of Service Projects:

- *I visited a class of 20 1st Graders and got them to tell stories about their pets. This helped them learn to talk in front of a group.*
- *I got kids in my Club to help me plant pansies in the flower bed at the library. They learned good gardening technique and provided something pretty for our community. We put up a sign: "Flowers provided by the High Hopes 4-H Club."*
- *My friends and I participated in the Community Arts Festival. We displayed our quilts in a 4-H booth and taught younger kids how to make quilt square designs using glue and paper.*
- *I grew lots of squash in my garden. I took some to the Food Bank and gave some to elderly neighbors. I put 4-H Clovers on the paper bags.*

Estimated monetary value: \$ _____
What do you think your service was worth to the community? You can estimate the dollar value of the volunteers' time. For youth, value their time at minimum wage, \$7.25/hour. For adults, use \$20.25/hour.

Story Telling Score Sheet – Juniors/Intermediates ____ Junior (age 9-11) ____ Intermediate (age 12-13)

Participant Name _____ **County:** _____

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING STORYTELLING

- Storyteller must know the story. Word-for-word memorization, however, is not necessary.
- Storyteller must tell the story without use of any written materials. Simple props are okay.
- Stories may be told individually or by two people. Teams and individuals are judged in the same event.

	Possible	Awarded
Does the Storyteller pronounce the words correctly and clearly?	10	
Does the Storyteller speak loudly enough to be heard by the audience?	10	
Is voice expression used to enhance and interpret the story?	10	
Does the Storyteller maintain good eye contact by looking at the audience?	10	
Does the Storyteller know the story?	10	
Does the Storyteller tell the story at a comfortable pace?	10	
Is the Storyteller composed?	10	
Are body language, facial expressions, and gestures effective and appropriate to the story?	10	
Does the Storyteller hold the attention of the audience throughout the story?	10	
Overall Presentation and Story Selection	10	
Points Awarded	100	

Junior/Intermediate Level stories should be 2 - 4 minutes for individuals and 4 - 6 minutes for two people.

Total time of story: _____ MIN, _____ SEC Deduct 3 points for each 30 seconds over or under limits.	<u>Final Score</u>	
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Judges' Comments

May, 2008

Story Telling Score Sheet – Seniors

___ **Senior I** (Ages 14-15) ___ **Senior II** (Ages 16-18)

Participant Name: _____

County: _____

- Storyteller must know the story. Word-for-word memorization, however, is not necessary.
- Storyteller must tell the story without use of any written materials. Simple props may be used.
- Stories may be told individually or by two people. Teams and individuals are judged in the same event.

Story Telling	Possible	Awarded
Does the Storyteller pronounce the words correctly and clearly?	5	
Does the Storyteller speak loudly enough to be heard by the audience?	5	
Is voice expression used to enhance and interpret the story?	5	
Does the Storyteller maintain good eye contact by looking at the audience?	5	
Does the Storyteller know the story?	5	
Does the Storyteller tell the story at a comfortable pace?	5	
Is the Storyteller composed?	5	
Are body language, facial expressions, and gestures effective and appropriate to the story?	5	
Does the Storyteller hold the attention of the audience throughout the story?	5	
Overall Presentation and Story Selection	5	
Story – Sub-Total	50	

Community Service: Quality of Project	40	
Community Service: Presentation of Project	10	

Senior stories: 8 - 10 minutes for an individual. 10 - 12 minutes for duo.
Allow an additional 2 minutes for speaker to tell about the service component.
Judges' questions are not included in the time limits

Total time of story: _____ MIN, _____ SEC Deduct 3 points for each 30 seconds over or under limits.		
Total Points	100	

Judges' Comments