

Performing Arts Festival
Group Performance Section – GUIDELINES
Saturday, March 16, 2024
Meyer Middle School- 230 N 9th St, River Falls, WI 54022

**All entries must be submitted to the Pierce County Extension Office or emailed to april.daniels@wisc.edu
NO LATER than Monday, March 4, 2024.**

- 1) **REGISTRATION** – Each club will make the determination of the category they plan to enter and complete a registration form. Registrations for the group performance section of the Performance Arts Festival must be submitted to the Pierce County Extension Office or emailed to april.daniels@wisc.edu **no later than** 4:30 p.m., on Monday, March 4, 2024.
 - a) If a club wishes to enter more than one category, please complete a separate registration form for each production. A club may enter a total of two group performance categories, but may not compete against themselves with the same type of entry. Plays, mini-dramas, skits, and musicals will be considered four separate categories.
 - b) 4-H members and Cloverbuds interested in participating in the group performance section of the Performance Arts Festival may combine with another club(s) for participation.
 - c) We will try to give preference to the time(s) a club wishes to be placed on the program schedule, but we **cannot guarantee** the time you desire. It will be based on a first-come, first-serve basis. A schedule will be made up and emailed to the director and/or club leader of each production the week of the Performance Arts Festival.
- 2) **INTRODUCTION** - Each club should plan an introduction to their performance. The introduction should include: the club name, director, title of the production, and author of production. For example: *“Welcome Ladies and Gentlemen. The Clover Gemstones, under the direction of Winnie Green, present “4-H is Spectacular” written by Chris Clover.”*
- 3) **DIRECTORS** - The director(s) may be any 4-H member(s) or adult(s). All adult directors **MUST** have completed their youth protection training and be enrolled leaders in Pierce County.
- 4) **PROPS** - Clubs are responsible for bringing their own props and must be removed from the staging area immediately following your performance. Clubs are responsible for their own clean-up following their performance. Hazardous props such as water or other liquids that may spill are not allowed. Lit candles, real fires, real weapons, hay, and straw are prohibited (dry ice is okay **if** it is permitted by the facility and you give us notice in advance).
- 5) **LIGHTING AND SOUND** – No special stage lighting or sound will be provided. Microphone use is for the announcement of entries only, not performances. If a production technician is available on the day of the festival, all auditorium productions will receive equal sound and lighting treatment to the best of our abilities.
- 6) **CURTAIN** – Nothing should be pinned to the curtains. A curtain attendant will be responsible for pulling the curtain open and closed during the beginning and end of production on the auditorium stage. The curtain should not be opened and closed for transition between acts.
- 7) **STAGE USE** – All plays (on-stage dramas) and musical performances will be performed on stage in the auditorium regardless of the number of entries. Mini-dramas and skits may be scheduled to use a performance area in the band or choir room because they can be performed at or in any place (setting). If play and musical entries are low, skits and mini dramas will be scheduled to perform on stage.
- 8) **WARM-UP SPACE** - There will be a warm-up room available for clubs in all performance categories. Clubs will move from the warm-up room to the staging area of their category before their scheduled performances. Props may be moved from the warm-up room into the hall near the stage just prior to performing. A warm-up schedule will be set a few days prior.
- 9) **CONTENT**- Performances must use appropriate 4-H/family language and actions for audiences of all ages. This includes, but is not limited to song lyrics, gestures, suggestive language/behavior, clothing/costuming, dance moves, etc.
- 10) **AWARDS**
 - a) Ribbons – White, red, blue, and champion ribbons will be awarded to each club production performed. Category divisions will be play/drama, mini-drama/skit, and group musicals.
 - b) Specialty Club Certificates – Clubs will receive specialty awards in the following, but not limited to, categories: Best Costumes, Best Creativity, Best Props, Most Enthusiastic, Best Stage Presence, Best Stage Combat, Best Choreography, Best Set, Best Original Drama, Best Casting...
 - c) Special Recognition Certificates – “Clover Oscar” Awards will be presented to outstanding actors and actresses in each club production of a play, mini-drama, and skit. “Clover Tony” Awards will be presented to outstanding individuals within a club group musical production. Four individuals will be chosen to be recognized as the best overall performers in the group performance section of the Performance Art Festival: 2- Best Overall Younger Performer, 2- Best Overall Older Performer.

CATEGORIES

1. Play (on-stage drama)

- Each group is limited to a play of any length up to **30 minutes, including set-up and take-down time. It is suggested that performances be about 20 minutes in length.**
- Performances must include 2 or more actors and all actors must be 4-H members or Cloverbuds.
- Play production groups should plan to furnish their own props and sound effect equipment.

2. Mini-Drama

- A mini-drama is a short performance with props and costumes.
- A mini-drama can be performed at or in any place (setting) and might include puppetry, creative dramatics, etc.
- Performance length can be up to **15 minutes, including set-up and take-down.**
- Performances must include 2 or more actors and all actors must be 4-H members or Cloverbuds.

3. Skits

- Skits use minimal props and costumes (less is better).
- Skits can be performed at or in any place (setting) and might include puppetry, creative dramatics, etc. Performance length can be up to **15 minutes, including set-up and take-down.**
- Performances must include 2 or more actors and all actors must be 4-H members or Cloverbuds.

4. Group Musical

- Each club may make only one group musical entry. Musicals are made up of five or more vocalists, instrumentalists or dancers, or any combination of these three. Performances can be with or without props and/or choreography. Emphasis should be placed on musical expression. Pantomiming to recordings is not permitted. In the county festival, the following types of music ensembles are considered:
 - **Medley-** A collection of songs performed with the use of instrumental accompaniment to transition from one song to the next. Performed as one complete musical composition or work.
 - **Musical-** A collection of songs performed with the use of minimal spoken lines to transition from one song to the next.
 - **Songs with a theme-** A collection of songs performed in a concert or recital-type format.
- ACCOMPANIMENT- instrumental accompaniment may be live or recorded by 4-H members or adults. Adult vocal accompaniment or any other vocal accompaniment will not be allowed. No adult voices or pre-recorded voices are used to help kids sing their songs.
- **Performance length can be up to 15 minutes, including set-up and take-down.**

GROUP PERFORMANCE REGISTRATION FORM IS BEING SENT TO THE CLUB LEADER ONLY!

And should be sent back from the club leader or drama leader.

Be sure to list all drama leaders and make sure they are youth protected and active in the 4-H online program before they can work with the youth of Pierce County on these entries.

Individual Music and Dance entries, Photography entries, and Life in Pierce County photo entries have been sent to all members via email.

