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## **4-H youth display extraordinary skills, maturity in spring contests** *Public speaking, consumer savvy and artistic projects prepare kids for life*

**Littleton, Colo.** --- It was a battle of wits, poise and artistic expression when local youth squared off in three of the biggest 4-H contests of the year in March and April.

Arapahoe County kids, ages 5 to 18, showcased skills that many adults haven't mastered in the annual 4-H Consumer Choices, Speech and Demonstration and Cake Decorating Contests. Contestants were challenged with speaking in front of a live audience, making wise spending choices, and creating a piece of edible art in a limited time.

"4-H offers our youth countless opportunities to learn and practice life skills in a fun, safe setting," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Jim Dyer. "After months of skill building in their 4-H clubs, these youth should be proud of themselves for stepping out of their comfort zone and showing off unique skills in front of judges and a live audience."

The Consumer Choices tested the participants' decision-making skills when presented with different consumer products and services. Youth were given various scenarios and asked to select from an array of options to find the wisest purchase for the budget and criteria. 'Consumer Savvy' and 'Financial Champions' are both 4-H project areas that teach youth how to make wise use of their money and other resources to reach practical goals.

The Cake Decorating Contest asked contestants to design and decorate a pre-baked cake using a variety of decorator tubes and edible adornments or artificial trimming in one hour, and then clean up their work area. Cake decorating is one of the most popular project areas in 4-H. Participants start with the basics, like simple borders, decorations and cake molds, and then advance to lace/lattice work, tiered cakes, special icing and advanced flowers.

The Speech and Demonstration Contest asked youth to give a prepared speech, provide an individual or team demonstration on how to do something, or prepare and deliver an impromptu speech on a randomly-selected topic. Participants completed these challenging tasks in front of a large audience of their peers and family. The panel of contest judges looked at how well the youth delivered a speech or demonstration, including eye contact, presentation, audience interaction, tone and volume of their voice.

While speech is not a project area under 4-H, any member can participate in the annual contest and speak on a topic related to their 4-H project area. This year's contest include subjects ranging from "Safety around horses" (Horse project) and "What not to wear" (Artistic Clothing, Clothing Construction projects) to "Lights, Camera, Action" (Photography project); and "Marvelous muffins" (Food and Nutrition projects).

In 4-H, kids can learn unique skills in 270 project areas, ranging from gardening and rocketry to arts, leather-craft, photography, cooking, dog obedience, livestock showing and more. Arapahoe County currently is home to 296 4-H members in 28 traditional 4-H clubs, which are led by 83 volunteer leaders. The culmination of their hard work is exhibiting their projects at the Arapahoe County Fair, July 21-25. Visit [www.arapahoecountyfair.com](http://www.arapahoecountyfair.com) for a schedule of events.

For more information about 4-H, please call the Arapahoe County 4-H office at 303-730-1920 or visit [www.arapahoextension.org](http://www.arapahoextension.org).

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### **Photos & Captions**

Download contest photos: <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/pub/CM/Photos/4-H/>

**Cake.jpg**- Zach Moorman of the Aurora Smoky Hill 4-H Club shows off his patriotic design at the 4-H Cake Decorating Contest.

**Consumer Group.jpg**- Brianna Osborne of Bennett, Garrett Brockelman, Shannon Wentz and Juliana Brockelman of Strasburg, and Rick Palmisano of Aurora celebrate their prize ribbons after the 4-H Consumer Choices Contest.

**Consumer.jpg**- Wise shopper Naomi Stephenson of the Aurora Lucky Clovers 4-H Club contemplates a scenario at the 4-H Consumer Choices Contest.

**Team Demo.jpg**- Anna Groeling and Morgan Mackey of the Littleton Christmas 4-H Club, won Senior Champion Team Demonstration at the 4-H Speech and Demonstration Contest.

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### **2010 Cake Decorating Contest Champions:**

Best of Show: Rebecca Gamble, Aurora  
Unit 1 Junior: Isabelle Eastwood, Byers  
Unit 1 Intermediate: Hanna Danek – Littleton  
Unit 2 Junior: Jessica Teddy, Strasburg  
Unit 2 Intermediate: Rebecca Gamble, Aurora  
Unit 2 Senior: Hannah Reinhart, Watkins  
Unit 3 Intermediate: Heather Crismon, Bennett  
Unit 5 Intermediate: Brianna Osborn, Bennett  
Unit 5 Senior: Ann Moorman, Denver

### **2010 Consumer Choices Contest Champions:**

#### Juniors

Overall Junior Grand Champion Individual: Julianna Brockelman, Strasburg  
Team 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Brianna Osborn, Garrett Brockelman, Julianna Brockelman, Sharon Wentz (Strasburg)

#### Seniors

Overall Senior Grand Champion Individual: Katie Wilson, Aurora

## **2010 Speech and Demonstration Contest Champions**

### Prepared Speech

Junior Champion: Aubrey Gerken, Highlands Ranch

Intermediate Champion: Allison Judy, Denver

Senior Champion: Julia Gaffney, Aurora

### Impromptu Speech

Junior Champion: Preston Langer, Highlands Ranch

Intermediate Champion: Emma Handey, Centennial

Senior Champion: Julia Gaffney, Aurora

### Individual Demonstration

Junior Champion: Andrew Groeling, Highlands Ranch

Intermediate Champion: Joey Yousling, Aurora

### Team Demonstration

Junior Champions: Drake and Preston Langer, Highlands Ranch

Intermediate Champions: Sarah and Hannah Urtz, Englewood

Senior Champions: Anna Groeling, Highlands Ranch and Morgan Mackey, Littleton

### Horse Individual Demonstration

Senior Champion: Julia Gaffney, Aurora

### Horse Team Demonstration

Senior Champion: Abby Hanouw, Aurora and Alison Judy, Denver