



Date: January 28, 2026

To: 4-H Families

From: Amy Miller

Re: 4-H State Communications Day

Date: The Vermont 4-H State Communications Day is being planned for Saturday, May 9, 2026. The schedule will run tentatively from 10 am to 2 pm at UVM's Davis Center, 50 University Place, Burlington, VT 05405. *There is a circle for drop off and an elevator to access the 3rd floor. Handicap parking is available. Other parking will be noted and signage will be throughout the Davis Center.

Regional Events: Once again our 4-H County Educators are holding regional events across the state in March and April. Those eligible for State Communications Day must have participated in a Regional event to qualify for the state level competition.

We will be using the rubrics and categories listed online (please note sizes for posters and photos). We will also have two NEW categories this year:

Poetry Slam: Added under Performing Arts with the theme: KINDNESS. (3 min.)

*This category has potential to move on to the Big E.

Interview a 4-H Alumni: Added under Technology. The rubric for judging will include the choice in questions asked during the interview, the physical positioning of the interviewer/interviewee during interview, interactions/connection, editing and final production. This entry is created in advance and involves media skills with recording and editing incorporated. (3-5 min max)

*This category has potential to move on to the Big E.

Regional Quotas: Posters and Photos are limited in advancing to state day. **TEN posters** from each region advance to the State Communications Day. At the end of Regional Events, the 4-H County Educators will collect the **TEN posters** and any photos advancing to State Communications Day. Reminder: 4-H youth can advance ONE traditional photograph and ONE photo-based design to the State Communications Day (they must have placed a blue on each to advance). These will NOT be judged but will be voted by attendees in a popularity contest, known as "people's choice" awards. *Note: 12 photos and 8 posters advance to Eastern States/The Big E.

Clothing Revue and Smart Shopper will be presented on-stage but will not be judged (Please bring notecard descriptions to be read while on the "runway").

State Communications Day Eligibility: All exhibits submitted by youth age 8 (as of Jan. 1) and older will be eligible for State Communications Day no matter their placing at the local level.

Evaluation at the local level will provide youth with feedback and an opportunity to improve their presentations and exhibits in advance of the State Communications Day.

Registrations: Eligible individuals will receive a link to register for State Communications Day. Registrations will be due Wednesday, April 29 by 4:30pm.

Categories:

The current rubrics and categories will stand for 2026. Participants may review the [State Communications Day Overview](#) on the website for a description for each type of entry. All rubrics are [linked on the website](#) as well. *We need to know if a screen and projector are needed. If using a PowerPoint or other, please bring both a laptop and a thumb drive.

- Action Exhibit
- Public Speaking
- Illustrated Talk
- Individual Demonstration
- Team Demonstration
- Photo-Based Design
- Photography
- Poster
- Fashion Revue: Clothing Sewn & Smart Shopper
- Individual Stage/Performance
- Group Stage/Performance
- Tabletop
- Maker/Tinker
- 4-H Promotional Video
- Interview a 4-H Alumni Video
- Poetry Slam

A reminder that the following information regarding the State Communications Day can be found at these links on our website:

- Evaluation Criteria/Rubrics
- Lyric Checklist
- Dress Code and Program Content/Expectations
- Written Reflections
- Exhibit ID Cards for poster, tabletop, and photography. These tags should be attached to posters, tabletops, and the back of photography. The Exhibit ID cards are for returning entries.
- All photos should be DUPLICATES, not originals. 8"x10" photos which can be matted but sized no larger than 11"x14" or 154 square inches. Do NOT frame photos.
- All posters should be sized between 12"x18" and 14"x22"

Cloverbud Corner: A Cloverbud Corner will be offered. Cloverbuds are welcome to enter in any of the above categories but will only be given constructive feedback and not judged. Participation ribbons will be awarded but no placings will be determined.

Virtual Participation: Virtual submissions will be accepted only in special extenuating circumstances. Please reach out to Amy Miller, amy.miller@uvm.edu, if you might need this option.

Other reminders:

- Labels – Please note that all exhibits that use props or items as part of their displays, such as action exhibits, tabletops, and demonstrations should cover product labels as to not promote specific brands and provide a cohesive appearance to the exhibit.

Due Wednesday, April 29, 2026 by 4:30 p.m.:

- Registration forms for all submissions to the State Communications Day using the link online. This can only be completed AFTER participation in a Regional Event.
- All 4-H posters and photos meeting criteria and advancing for “People’s Choice” voting should be given to your County Educator/4-H Staff at your Regional Communications Day.
- Fashion Revue: Clothing sewn and Smart shopper, photography (both categories), and posters are not evaluated at State Communications Day.

Eastern States Selection: The performance dates for the New England Center Stage at Eastern States Expo/The Big E are Sunday, Sept. 20 and Monday, Sept. 21, yet participants arrive Saturday, Sept. 19. Youth are expected to stay in the dorms at the Big E. *Fingerprinting for chaperones will be available at the State Communications Day.

The following categories are selected for Eastern States:

- Action Exhibits are eligible to advance.
- Stage Performances are eligible to advance, except those that receive a white ribbon.
- Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks (individual and group) are eligible to advance. Consider equipment needed.
- The top 12 Photos with the most votes in “People’s Choice” selection will advance to the Big E. These will not be returned and need to be collected at the State Communications Day to be laminated and labeled properly.
- The top 8 Posters with the most votes in “People’s Choice” selection will advance to the Big E. These will not be returned and need to be collected at the State Communications Day to be labeled properly.
- The top 5-8 Tabletops will be chosen to represent at Eastern States. Exhibits will be adapted from completely static displays to having an interactive component presented at a “pod” or table or made into a presentation on stage. *These will be selected based upon Big E stage availability.
- All Fashion Review: Clothing Sewn and Smart Shopper advance.
- Poetry Slam Entries are eligible to advance.
- 4-H Promo Videos and “Interview A 4-H Alumni” are eligible to advance.

*Please remember that actual participants may change but the number of participants in each exhibit must stay the same or be less.

Tentative State Communications Day Schedule

Saturday, May 9, 2026

UVM Davis Center

*This is a draft, as times are approximate, pending entries, attendance and pace.

10:00 am	Check-in and exhibit set-up
10:00 am	Evaluator Orientation
10:15 am	Fashion Revue: Clothing Sewn & Smart Shopper participant practice
10:30 am	Opening Assembly
10:45-11:30 am	Action Exhibits present, displays open Promotional Videos and “Interview A 4-H Alumni” viewing Communication Presentations (demo, illustrated, public speaking, poetry slam)
10:45 am	Stage Performances (music, dance, monologue, poetry slam, magic, puppetry, etc) Fashion Revue: Clothing Sewn & Smart Shopper
12:45 pm	Break: Remove all exhibits/displays, Big E orientation, judges tabulate
1:15-2:00 pm	Awards Assembly and Honoring Graduating Seniors

*Fingerprinting will be available for volunteers and/or chaperones

<https://go.uvm.edu/4hcomm>