MICHIGAN FFA

CREED SPEAKING

Leadership Development Event

Contest Details

Individual Event
7-9th Grade
Official Dress Required: Yes
National Qualifying Event: Yes

OBJECTIVES

To develop agricultural leadership by allowing 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students an opportunity to participate in an official contest designed to increase their leadership skills and to increase their interest in agriscience education and the FFA organization.

EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

For educational standards, please refer to the Creed Speaking Handbook located at https://www.ffa.org/participate/ldes/creed-speaking/

TEAM MAKE-UP/ELIGIBILITY

Number of students

Members must be in either the 7th, 8th, or 9th grade to participate in this contest.

All participants must be members in good standing with the Michigan FFA Association and on the official roster.

Official Dress

Official dress for an FFA member includes:

1. An official FFA jacket zipped to the top
2. Black slacks and black socks/nylons or black skirt and black nylons
    a. *Skirt should be a minimum of knee length*
    b. *Slacks should be full length*
3. White collared blouse or white collared shirt
4. Official FFA tie or official FFA scarf
5. Black dress shoes with closed heel and toe

Note: Medical or cultural adjustments to required official dress may be made with prior approval of contest/event chair. Also, appropriate personal protective equipment may be used with Official Dress. ***Junior high FFA members are allowed to wear FFA jackets, but it is optional. Participants in junior high contests should not be judged differently for wearing or not wearing a jacket.***

If warranted, deductions for non-compliance with official dress guidelines will be determined by the contest chair and enforced equally by all judges. The chair may make a deduction of 0, 2, 5, 7, or 10 points.

CONTEST PERSONNEL

Judges

A total of three competent and unbiased judges will be provided.

Educators and industry representatives are recommended.

During the contest, the judges will seat themselves apart from one another in different sections of the room.

Contest Chair

The contest chair will monitor the contest room and assist the judges as they compile their final placing.

The contest chair will adequately prepare the judges before the event competition.

Timekeeper

The timekeeper should use a stopwatch and the guidelines provided on the Michigan FFA website. The timekeeper should also use the 8 ½" x 11" cards available at https://www.michiganffa.org/sites/default/files/2026-09/Creed%20Speaking%20Timekeeper%20Signs.pdf

Holding Room Monitor

The holding room should be monitored at all times.

PROCEDURE

Contest Procedures

Contestants will draw for order of speaking. The contest chair will introduce each contestant in order of drawing.

A participant may be disqualified if anyone other than the contest chair or holding room monitor enters the holding room at any time during the competition.

Each contestant shall begin the presentation by stating the introduction "The FFA Creed by E. M. Tiffany." This statement at the beginning is worth 5 points, if additional remarks are made during the start of the FFA Creed, these points will be lost.

Members will present the FFA Creed from the current year's Official FFA Manual.

Each contestant must recite the FFA Creed from memory.

One judge will evaluate accuracy of the Creed and record recitation errors during delivery using the provided Creed Script Scorecard. Each misspoken or missed word counts as one error. (All judges will score all sections of the Creed Presentation Scorecard).

Each contestant shall end the presentation with "Thank you." Additional concluding remarks will result in accuracy deductions as indicated on the script scorecard.

Following the presentation, each judge will ask a question provided by the State Association.

TIME

The timekeeper will record the length of the presentation. This will be reported to the judges. The exact total minutes and seconds must be recorded showing overtime for which deductions will be made.

The presentation will be a maximum of 4 minutes in length.

The question period is not timed.

For deductions, see the time deductions chart.

PRESENTATION LENGTH	POINT DEDUCTIONS
0:00 - 4:00	No deduction
4:01	-1 point
4:02	-2 points
4:03	-3 points
4:04	-4 points
4:05	-5 points
4:06	-6 points
4:07	-7 points
4:08	-8 points
4:09	-9 points
4:10	-10 points
One point will continue to be deducted for each second over.	

SCORES

The presentation will be scored on the following criteria:

Introduction	5 points
ORAL COMMUNICATION	
Pace	10 points
Tone	10 points
Volume	10 points
NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION	
Eye Contact	10 points
Mannerisms and Gestures	10 points
Poise	10 points
QUESTIONS	
Response to Questions	10 points
Support	10 points
Knowledge of Topic	10 points

Determining Awards

After scoring presentations, each judge will use their total score to rank the individuals numerically without consultation among judges. All judges' rankings for each individual will then be totaled together. The winner will be the individual whose total of rankings is the lowest (low point score method of selection).

District and regional individuals will be rated **gold** or **silver.** State semi-finals individuals will be rated **silver** or **bronze.** State finals individuals will be rated **gold** or **silver.** Determinations should be based on the score break of the performance. The top individual and an alternate will be selected to move on to another contest level.

Placing and awards shall be determined utilizing the Guide to Ranking Teams and General Rules Governing Michigan FFA Leadership Contests.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to these rules, please review the following documents:

- National FFA Creed
- General Rules Governing Michigan FFA Leadership Contests
- Creed Speaking Presentation Scorecard
- Creed Speaking Script Scorecard
- Guide to Ranking Teams
- Creed Speaking Timekeeper Instructions
- Contest Chair Instructions