



## Hippology Contest Rules

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### **Objective of 4-H Hippology Contest**

Hippology is an activity that can make learning fun for 4-H members, by letting them exhibit their knowledge and understanding of equine science and husbandry in a friendly, but competitive setting.

The Hippology Contest has four (4) different phases:

1. Examination Phase
2. Station Phase
3. Judging Phase
4. Team Problem

### **Rules and Regulations for State Hippology Contest**

#### **Contestants and Eligibility**

1. Counties are invited to send teams of not more than four members. On teams consisting of four members, all will compete; however, the lowest score in each phase will be dropped. For those teams consisting of three members, all members' scores will count in determining individual and team awards.
2. Teams may be selected by any means appropriate to the county they represent and must be certified as eligible by the county or area Colorado State University Extension office. The number of teams entered is at the county's discretion.
3. Contestants must be at least 14 years of age, but not have reached their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
4. Contestants must be enrolled in 4-H in the county or area they represent or combined in accordance with state 4-H policy prior to April 15<sup>th</sup> of the current year.
5. Contestants may not have participated in an official, post-secondary hippology contest nor have been in training in preparation for one of these contests.
6. Any 4-H member who has previously participated in the National 4-H Hippology Contest as a team member or alternate is not eligible for this event.

#### **The Contest**

1. Examination Phase – approximately 200 points – This phase of the contest will include:
  - a. Written exam
  - b. Projected slides to be identified as to breed, color, color pattern, activity, proper appointments, etc.
  - c. Anatomy which may include external, skeleton, internal organs, parts of the gastrointestinal tract, male and female reproductive organs, detailed anatomy of the foot and lower limbs.



2. Station Phase – approximately 200 points – This phase will consist of a series of stations or tables where all contestants will respond to the requirements of the station. Stations may include pictures from popular press sources, however the content within the stations will be taken from the approved sources below. Members will be allowed 2.5 minutes at each station. Stations may include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Various types of saddles (actual or pictures) and parts of saddles
  - b. Tack, bit, bridles, horseshoes, and parts of shoes
  - c. Tools and equipment, and assembly of specific parts of various pieces of equipment
  - d. Grains and forages used in equine rations, including various forms of methods of preparation
  - e. Internal and external parasites based on actual samples, pictures, life cycle charts, and/or damage caused
  - f. Blemishes and unsoundness
  - g. Age of equines based on teeth
  - h. Nutrition and health
  - i. Genetics
  - j. Reproduction
  - k. Use of pulse rate, respiration rate, temperature, dehydration, anemia, etc. to assess horse health
  - l. Measurements such as, but not limited to, wither height, shoe size, girth, collar size, gullet width, seat length of saddle, etc. may be required
  
3. Judging Phase – 200 points – Contestants will be required to place at least four (4) classes consisting of two (2) halter or conformation and two (2) performance classes. There will be no prohibition against contestant use of pre-printed materials during the judging portion, including, but not limited to, rule books, judging manuals, and score sheets. Every effort will be made to use the same horses as are being used in the judging contest, with the placing to be simultaneous with contestants in the judging contest, with the same official placings and cuts as apply to the judging contest. In extreme emergency, video, pictorial, and/or classes may be used, in which case they would be especially prepared for the event.
  
4. Team Problem – approximately 200 points – All teams will be presented with the same problem(s). Each team will have equal time to discuss among themselves the problem, immediately after which they will have to present an oral solution or series of suggested procedures relative to the problem. Teams will have 10 minutes to prepare and 10 minutes to present. No pre-printed material will be allowed during the 10 minute preparation period. Each member of the team is encouraged to contribute to the oral presentation, and contestants must introduce themselves and their county team upon entrance into the team problem room. Evaluation will be based on understanding of the problem, completeness of the response, the probability of success of the solution or procedures, and the logic used in making the oral response. The official may ask questions of any or all of the team members to clarify the presentation. If notes are used during the team problem, the highest score that may be received is 25 of the possible 50 points for that problem. If teams go over the 10 minute time limit, there will be a penalty of three points per minute over time.

Examples of the possible team problems might include:

- a. Balancing a horse's ration
- b. Farm management recommendations for specific horse operations (i.e. breeding, training, boarding, nursery, lay-up, etc.)
- c. Considerations for the establishment of a new horse facility (stable to be used for a specific purpose)
- d. Recommendations for selecting, locating, and purchasing horses for specific uses
- e. Behavior problems – causes, management of, and corrections
- f. Training and conditioning programs – equipment, schedules, methods, nutrition, problem avoidance
- g. Breeding and/or leasing contracts – specific clauses for insurance, liability, payments, care, termination, transport, etc.
- h. Teaching lessons in horse management
- i. Explanation of use or assembly of specific equipment
- j. Demonstrate a skill or ability to use specific equipment

Team problem scores will not be included in determining the rank of individuals in the contest, but will be added to the team scores of the other three phases to determine overall team standings.

### **Tie-Breaking**

All ties overall, individual or team, will be broken using the following sequence:

1. Examination scores
2. Station scores
3. Judging scores

Ties within any phase are to be broken using the overall score first and then the same sequence as above. If further tie-breaking is needed, the scores at each station, in order, may be used.

### **Awards**

1. Awards will be presented to the top ten (10) individuals in the Examination Phase, Station Phase, Judging Phase, and Overall.
2. Each member of the top ten (10) teams in the Examination Phase, Station Phase, Judging Phase, and in Overall will receive awards.

### **Supplies**

1. Individuals competing in the Hippology Contest should come prepared with a #2 pencil for all phases of the contest.
2. Individuals should have a notebook for the judging portion of the contest.

### **Competing in Other National Contests**

The state champion team from the State 4-H Contest is expected to represent Colorado 4-H at the National 4-H Contest in January of the following year, in Denver (Western Roundup). Colorado 4-H members are not eligible to attend the Eastern National horse contests in Louisville, KY. However, the high team may select two additional national contests such as contests held by various breed associations. Please contact the contest organizers for further details and entry limitations. This team must designate the two contests they have chosen by July 1<sup>st</sup> of the year they win the state contest. The coach of the winning team is

responsible for notifying the coach of the second place team, the State 4-H Equine Extension Specialist and the State 4-H Hippology Superintendent of their choices by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The reserve state champion team from the State 4-H Contest may represent Colorado 4-H at two national contests, after the state champions have made their selection. The coach of the second place team is responsible for notifying the coach of the third place team, the State 4-H Equine Extension Specialist and the State 4-H Hippology Superintendent of their contest choices by July 10<sup>th</sup>.

The third high team from the state contest may represent Colorado 4-H at one national contest after being notified of the intentions of the state champions and reserve champions.

4-H team coaches are welcome to take their teams to any national contest where there is no limit imposed by the contest on the entry of 4-H teams by each state. In any contest where the entries of 4-H teams are limited, the above protocol regarding eligibility must be followed. Only when a contest has not been selected by the first three placing senior teams at the state contest, may unranked teams be entered to represent counties in the Colorado 4-H program.

When considering out-of-state travel with junior 4-H members, please check with your county Extension Agent on county and state policies. Generally, juniors do not go on national trips, unless there is a case where a junior is used to fill a senior team, i.e. no other seniors from that county are available. However, coaches, parents, and the junior member should give this decision great consideration, as the junior would then be subject to the same eligibility restrictions outlined below.

Only the team representing Colorado at the National 4-H Contest at Western Round-up is ineligible for further competition as members of a 4-H team at a 4-H county or state contest. Members may continue to compete, as individuals, in contests that include individual competitors or as members of national teams competing in breed association contests so that they may further develop their skills.

### **Reference Material**

All the information covered in this contest may be found in one or more of the following publications:

- IDET            Illustrated Dictionary of Equine Terms – New Horizons Equine Education Center. Alpine Publications, PO Box 7027, Loveland, CO 80537  
Phone: (800) 777-7257
  
- Lewis            Feeding and Care of the Horse – Lon, Lewis, Williams, and Wilkins. Second Edition. 351 West Camden Street, Baltimore, MD 21201-2436  
Phone: (800) 638-0672
  
- HIH            Horse Industry Handbooks and updates – American Youth Horse Council; 1 Gainer Road, McDonald, NM 88262  
Email: [info@ayhc.com](mailto:info@ayhc.com)  
Phone: (817) 320-2005  
Web: [www.ayhc.com/shop](http://www.ayhc.com/shop)
  
- HS            Horse Smarts – American Youth Horse Council; 1 Gainer Road, McDonald, NM 88262  
Email: [info@ayhc.com](mailto:info@ayhc.com)  
Phone: (817) 320-2005



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Web: [www.ayhc.com/shop](http://www.ayhc.com/shop)

-AQHA AQHA Rulebook; 2019 66<sup>th</sup> Edition, [aqha.com/handbook](http://aqha.com/handbook)

-Parker Equine Science – Rick Parker. Fourth Edition. ISBN-13: 9781111138776; Published January 2012

Grains, forages, and feed preparations used in this contest will be representative of feeds utilized in horse rations.