



Hippology Contest Rules

Contest Superintendents:	Claudia Meeks 4-H Youth Development Arapahoe County 6934 S. Lima Street Suite B Centennial, CO 80112 CMeeks@arapahoegov.com	Mercedes Glenn 4-H Youth Development Douglas County 410 Fairgrounds Road Castle Rock, CO 80104 Mercedes.Glenn@colostate.edu
---------------------------------	--	--

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. 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.
2. Contestants must be at least 14 years of age, but not have reached their 19th birthday on January 1st of the current year.
3. 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 15th of the current year.
4. At the Colorado State 4-H Hippology Contest 4-H members may compete as individuals from counties that do not have full (3-4 members) teams and are eligible for individual awards only. Individuals must be properly entered in the contest.
5. Alternates will be eligible to compete for individual awards.
6. Contestants may not have participated in an official, post-secondary hippology contest nor have been in training in preparation for one of these contests.
7. Teams and individual members of that team, who have competed at the National 4-H Contest (National Western Roundup and Horse Classic), as the official Colorado 4-H representative entry will be allowed to compete as members of teams or as individuals at the state contest and be eligible for prizes/awards. However the team members/individuals which represented Colorado at the National Western Roundup and Horse Classic are considered to be ineligible to represent Colorado again for the at the National 4-H Contest (National Western Roundup and Horse Classic). Should a team with members who have represented Colorado at the National 4-H Contest win state again or place high enough that the opportunity is passed to them, those members may not participate on the team entered in the National 4-H Contest. Members of the team that have not used their eligibility to compete at the Nation 4-H Contest may compete providing the team entered meets the substitution for national contest policy requirements (see State 4-H Policy Document). In the event the team cannot meet the substitution requirements the opportunity to

represent Colorado shall be passed on to the next team that meets the above outlined criteria.

Further, teams or individuals who win a state competition in more than one contest area may continue to compete in the contest area(s) in which they did not represent Colorado at the 4-H National Contest. At County Contests it is at the host county's discretion as to how eligibility is handled. The State Champion Team from the State 4-H Contest is expected and encouraged to represent Colorado 4-H at the National 4-H Contest in January of the following year, in Denver (Western Roundup, if they are eligible) but it is not required. Colorado 4-H members are not eligible to attend the Eastern National Horse contests in Louisville KY. If the State Champion does not choose to compete at the National 4-H Contest, the opportunity will be offered to the second-place team. If the second-place team declines to represent Colorado at the National 4-H Contest, it will then be offered to the third-place team. If the third-place team declines, it will not be offered to any other teams and Colorado will not be represented in that contest. Should the second or third place team choose to accept and go on to represent Colorado State at the National 4-H Contest, the previously outlined ineligibility rules will apply to that team/individuals representing Colorado at the National 4-H Contest for that specific activity.

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 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
4. Coin flip

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 five (5) individuals in the Examination Phase, Station Phase, Judging Phase, and top ten (10) individuals Overall.
2. Each member of the top three (3) teams in the Examination Phase, Station Phase, Judging Phase, and 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.

Protocol for Teams to Compete in National Contests:

Competing in National Contests

The state champion 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/individual (if it is an individual contest such as speech or demo from here on noted as “individual”) 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/individual must designate the two contests they have chosen by July 1st of the year they win the state contest. The coach of the winning team/individual is responsible for notifying the coach of the second-place team/individual, the State 4-H Equine Extension Specialist and the State 4-H Contest Superintendent of their choices by **July 1st**.

The reserve state champion 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/individual is responsible for notifying the coach of the third-place team/individual, the State 4-H Equine Extension Specialist and the State 4-H Contest Superintendent of their contest choices by **July 10th**.

The third high team/individual 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 coaches are welcome to take their teams/individuals 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/individuals 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 Specialist 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 to compete at the Western National Round-up Contest again in the same contest/division. Members may continue to compete, as teams or individuals, in other national contests (such as those hosted by various breed associations etc.) so that they may further develop their skills.

Winning teams participating in the national 4-H contest must include two of the original qualifying team members. Substitute participants must have participated in the Colorado State 4-H qualifying event prior to the National Contest for which they will be participating.

Reference Material

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

-New as of 2023 – EVANS 3rd

The Horse - J. Warrant Evans, et al., 3rd edition. Waveland Press, Inc., 4180 IL
Route 83, Suite 101, Long Grove, Illinois 6004. (www.waveland.com) (847) 634-0081

-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
Phone: (817) 320-2005
Web: www.ayhc.com/shop

-HS Horse Smarts – American Youth Horse Council; 1 Gainer Road, McDonald, NM 88262
Email: info@ayhc.com
Phone: (817) 320-2005
Web: www.ayhc.com/shop

-AQHA AQHA Rulebook; 2020 68th Edition, 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.