

4-H Horse Public Speaking Contest Rules

(updated March 2024)

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CONTESTANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

1. This is an individual contest.
2. Each county or area is invited to enter as many individuals as the county deems appropriate, providing that those individuals have qualified via their county qualifying event in the Horse Public Speaking Contest.
3. Participants may be selected by any procedure that the state deems appropriate.
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 of the current year.
5. Contestant must be at least 14 years of age but not yet have achieved their 19th birthday on January 1 of the year they qualified to compete.
6. Contestants must not have participated in any post secondary (university, college, junior college, or technical school) competitive public speaking contest. Neither can a contestant be a member of a post secondary team undergoing training in preparation for such an event.
7. Individuals, 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 providing they do not do the same demo, speech or topic as they previously presented. However, 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) in the same division/contest.

In the event an individual's speech wins state again the opportunity to represent Colorado shall be passed on to the next individual that meets the above outlined criteria to be eligible.

Further, 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 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 have not already used their eligibility) 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 individual. If the second-place individual declines to represent Colorado at the National 4-H Contest, it will then be offered to the third-place individual. If the third-place individual declines, it will not be offered to any other individuals and Colorado will not be represented in that contest. Should the second or third place individuals 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 individual representing Colorado at the National 4-H Contest for that specific activity.

CONTEST RULES

1. The subject matter must pertain to the horse industry. Speeches not appropriately related to the horse industry can be disqualified at the discretion of the judge(s).
2. No visual aids may be used, including the use of handouts such as bibliographies and pamphlets. Contestants will be disqualified for using any visual aid, including handouts, prior to, during and after the speech.
3. Contestants may use notes. However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judges.
4. A public address system will not be used, but a podium will be provided.
5. During the competition the contestants may introduce themselves by name, county, and speech topic.
6. Speeches should be 7-10 minutes in length. One point will be deducted from the total score for each minute or fraction of a minute under 7 minutes or over 10 minutes by each of three judges for a three points per minute total deduction. After the individual has been introduced by the superintendent, the time will start once the contestant begins to speak.
7. Contestants should cite their major reference materials at the end of the competition. This time will not be counted in the allotted time.
8. Only the judge(s) may ask questions of the contestant. Question time will not be counted in the allotted time. The contestant should repeat the question, then answer it.

9. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing.

10. Ties will be broken by: first, the judges' accumulated delivery score, second, the judges accumulated organization score; and third, on content and accuracy scores.

11. For educational purposes the management may videotape all speeches with individual consent.

SCORING

Judges will consider the questions listed under each section. Points on the score card will be as follows:

A. INTRODUCTION (10 points)

1. Did the introduction serve to create interest in the subject?
2. Was the introduction short and to the point?

B. ORGANIZATION (25 points)

1. Were the main points easy to follow?
2. Were the main points arranged in the best order?
3. Were sentences short, easy to understand?
4. Was the speech interesting?

C. CONTENT AND ACCURACY (25 points)

1. Were facts and information accurate?
2. Was there enough information concerning the subject?
3. Was credit given to sources of information, if appropriate?
4. Was the content appropriately related to the horse industry?

D. STAGE PRESENCE (10 points)

1. Was the speaker neat and appropriately dressed?
2. Was the speaker friendly?
3. Did the speaker talk directly to the audience?
4. Did the speaker look at the audience?
5. Was posture erect, but not stiff?
6. Did the speaker refrain from leaning on podium?
7. Did the speaker seem relaxed and at ease?

E. DELIVERY (15 points)

1. Did the speaker have appropriate voice control?
2. Were all words pronounced correctly?
3. Did the speaker's facial expressions reflect the mood of the speech?
4. If notes were used, was it done without detracting from the speech?
5. Did the speaker seem to choose words at the time they were spoken? (Avoid a memorized or read-type delivery.)

F. GENERAL (5 points)

1. Did the speaker convey to the audience a sense of wanting to communicate?
2. Did speech reflect the thoughts and personality of the speaker?

G. CONCLUSION (10 points)

1. Was the conclusion short and interesting?
2. Did the conclusion properly wrap up the speech?
3. Could the speaker handle questions easily?

AWARDS

1. Awards will be announced. Ribbons to the top five (5) individuals.

EQUIPMENT

1. Contest officials will supply a podium that may or may not be used.

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.

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**Colorado 4-H Horse Public Speaking
Score Sheet**

Contestant					
INTRODUCTION (10 points) Did the introduction serve to create interest in the subject? Was the introduction short and to the point?					
ORGANIZATION (25 points) Were the main points easy to follow? Were the main points arranged in the best order? Were sentences short, easy to understand? Was the speech interesting?					
CONTENT AND ACCURACY (25 points) Were facts and information accurate? Was there enough information concerning the subject? Was credit given to sources of information, if appropriate? Was the content appropriately related to the horse industry?					
STAGE PRESENCE (10 points) Was the speaker neat and appropriately dressed? Was the speaker friendly? Did the speaker talk directly to the audience? Did the speaker look at the audience? Was posture erect, but not stiff? Did the speaker refrain from leaning on podium? Did the speaker seem relaxed and at ease?					
DELIVERY (15 points) Did the speaker have appropriate voice control? Were all words pronounced correctly? Did the speaker's facial expressions reflect the mood of the speech? If notes were used, was it done without detracting from the speech? Did the speaker seem to choose words at the time they were spoken?					
GENERAL (5 points) Did the speaker convey to the audience a sense of wanting to communicate? Did speech reflect the thoughts and personality of the speaker?					
CONCLUSION (10 points) Was the conclusion short and interesting, properly wrap up the speech? Could the speaker handle questions easily?					

