



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Trail Riding Competency Test

Trail Riding
____ Passed
____ Retest

Rider's Name: _____ Age: _____ Email: _____

4-H County: _____ 4-H Club: _____

Rater's Name: _____ Date: _____ Rater's Phone Number: _____

Horse's Name: _____ Coat Color: _____ Sex: ____

Obvious Markings: _____

Directions: To pass this test, the 4-H member must pass for each section of the test. The test is progressive and must be given in order. The 4-H member must receive Met Expectation or higher on each part of the test. If Rider does not pass a part of this test, the test is over. Each requirement cannot be skipped or given in any other order. Tack may vary at the preference of the rider but should be in good repair/condition, properly fit and be safe/suitable for the trail. Any bridle or saddle.

Excellent (E) If applied to specific maneuvers, they were consistently executed correctly and fluidly. If applied to an overall impression, it was correct/present during all parts of the test.

Proficient (P) If applied to specific maneuvers, they were executed correctly most of the time and generally fluidly with minor flaws. If applied to an overall impression, it was present correctly and consistently throughout the test with minor lapses.

Met expectations (ME) If applied to specific maneuvers, they were executed correctly but may be better on one side than the other, or execution was inconsistent. It's clear that the rider can apply the aids correctly. If applied to an overall impression, the basics are present, but elements may have been briefly incorrect or absent during the test. Rider may have needed prompting (not teaching!) from the rater.

Not Yet Proficient (NYP) One or more of these is true to a greater or lesser degree:
Rider is unable to produce the maneuver in one or both directions. Aids are applied but ineffective at producing the desired maneuver. Horse repeatedly balks or misbehaves. Rider asks rater how to execute a maneuver.

Rater: Forms should be filled out the day of the test and submitted to the member's extension office within a week.

Test Conditions: This test must be done outside of the arena, preferably in an open, natural area or trail.

	Rating: E, P, ME, NYP	Rater's Comments
Basic Riding		
A. Mount, dismount without a mounting block. Mount from the off-side, horse stands still to mount (May use anything to aid mounting in the area that is natural)		
B. Demonstrate a balanced, gradual stop from the walk and jog when outside of an arena.		



C. Correct seat, body position and balance at the walk and jog outside of an arena.		
D. Demonstrate a ground tie or hobble with your horse. Rider should walk away 20 feet.		
Horse Rider Combination of Skills		
E. Willingness to negotiate obstacles (navigate and steer around and through a variety) ability to do a basic stop when needed. Demonstrate the ability to walk under a tree limb (can be simulated with a pool noodle or something tree limb like). -Over logs, through mud, over a bridge, around large objects like rocks, etc.		
F. Confidence and ability of horse to approach new things and navigate appropriately. -Strollers, bikes, dogs, dinosaurs, people with backpacks, umbrellas, road signs, swim tubes, etc. -Control of horse and ability to navigate 3 unfamiliar items that might be encountered on a public trail.		
G. Horse can demonstrate a steady reverse, slowly and through small or unsteady areas – relatively straight.		
Horse		
H. Lead from a loose line and horse stops when you stop.		
I. Horse can tolerate a strange horse in their space.		
J. Horse can separate from group safely and ride in any position in a line when in a group.		
K. Horse can tie and stand quietly for a period of time. This can be done with a get down rope or a halter under the bridle.		
L. Horse is healthy, sound, and of good mindset to be outside of an enclosed arena.		