

Individual & Team Presentation Rules & Resources

National 4-H Horse Classic – Western Division

Contestants and Eligibility

1. States may participate in only one event, either Eastern National 4-H Roundup or Western National 4-H Roundup. If a state decides to change whether it will attend the Eastern or Western National Contest from its participation the previous year the Contest Management Committee of both event are to be notified of the decision by April 1 of the current year. All representative teams from a state must attend the same event.
2. Contestants (including team alternates) may participate in only one contest per year at the Classic. After competing in this contest, they are ineligible to compete in the same specific contest again. Contestants must not have competed in this contest in past Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundups in Louisville or the National 4-H Horse Classic - Western Division in Denver.
3. A State/territory/District of Columbia is allowed only one entry in only one division of a contest in a national 4-H competitive event each year. An entry is an individual, in the events where individuals compete against individuals only, or a team in events where total team scores are computed and recognition given to the team. Individuals may be recognized in those events that are primarily team events.
4. Entries not officially entered will not be permitted to participate for any reason.
5. An individual may enter a National 4-H competitive event in a specific program area only once. Participating members of a team entry (even if they are designated alternate by low score) are ineligible to enter the same event again as a part of another team.
6. The eligibility requirements to enter a National 4-H Competitive Event or a Multi-State 4-H Competitive event are:
 - a. Contestant must already have passed his or her 14th birthday, and may not have reached his or her 19th birthday as of January 1 of the year in which the National 4-H Competitive Event is held. However, the State 4-H Leader may grant a special authorization to compete, for youth with developmental disabilities who exceed the upper age limit.
 - b. The January dates for the Western National Roundup event are considered part of the **previous year** for the purpose of allowing all youth to compete in the national events in their last year of eligibility.

7. All contestants must be members of 4-H in the state they are representing during the year in which the National 4-H Competitive Event is held.
8. The contestant(s) or team(s) of contestants must be certified as the official state entry by the State 4-H Leader or by a person designated by the State 4-H Leader. The individual(s) or team(s) may be selected by any procedure the State 4-H Leader believes is appropriate.
9. The contestant, his or her county 4-H staff member, and the State 4-H Leader must certify as follows on the application form or an accompanying memo:
"This contestant has not participated in post-secondary coursework in the subject area of the national 4-H competition, nor has he or she participated in training for post-secondary competition in the subject area of the national 4-H competition."
10. Violation of the above will result in forfeiture of any awards or recognition which have been won in the National 4-H Competitive Event.

Contest Rules

1. The subject matter must pertain to the horse industry. Presentation not appropriately related to the horse industry can be disqualified at the discretion of the judges.
2. Speeches and presentations should be original and constructed and delivered by 4-H'ers. Any form of plagiarism is strictly prohibited. Plagiarism can include, but is not limited to: copying parts of a speech or presentation previously presented by another youth or individual; using text, phrases, photos or diagrams from an article, video, book, movie or other published work without giving credit to the author. Competitor's resource citation should be specific, accurate and honest. If contest officials confirm plagiarism, the contestant will automatically be placed last, with a notation on the scorecard to reflect such infraction.
3. The presentation may be a demonstration or illustrated talk. All references to the term "presentation" in these rules include either demonstration or illustrated talk. A demonstration is defined as a presentation of a step by step procedure with an end product or result. An illustrated talk is defined as a presentation of an idea or topic that uses visual aids to convey the message.

Both presentation forms are acceptable and will be evaluated equally, although the delivery methods are different as defined above. Both should utilize visual aids to help convey the major points of the presentation and more than one type of visual aid is preferable. Visual aids may include, but are not limited to: handouts, poster, props, videos, slides, and computer generated media. No live animals may be used.
4. Contestants may use notes. However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judge(s).

5. A public address system will NOT be used during the contest.
6. Creative audio visual aids may be used, but the contestant must be involved in the making or designing them.
7. During the competition, the contestants may introduce themselves by name, state and presentation topic.
8. Presentations should be 9-12 minutes in length. Three points will be deducted from the total score on each judge's score sheet for every minute (or fraction of a minute) under 9 minutes or over 12 minutes. After the individual has been introduced by the superintendent, the time will start once the contestant begins to speak.
9. Participants must supply their own props. Two tables and chairs will be provided for the presenter's use.
10. Contestants should cite their major reference materials at the end of the presentation. This time will not be counted in the allotted time.
11. Only the judge(s) may ask questions of the contestant. Question time will not be counted in the allotted time. Contestants should repeat the question, and then answer it.
12. No coaching from parents or coaches during the presentation.
13. Once the presentation has started, presenter(s) may not receive assistance from any coach, parent, audience member, or other person, which includes, but is not limited to, the stroking of a key on a computer or other audio visual device. The penalty for violating this rule is disqualification.
14. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing and announced at the coach's meeting.
15. Contestants may use video their OWN presentations. It is the responsibility of the coach/speaker to set up and provide all necessary recording equipment.
16. No videoing or photographing of presentations is allowed during the contest, except by respective coaches or their designees, see rule 15.
17. Improper attire will be a violation and appropriate points deducted on the score card. Improper attire will be determined at the discretion of the judges. Business attire or dress appropriate to the speech is acceptable.
18. Three judges will be used and judges will score each entry independently and assign scores. After all presentations are presented and score are tabulated, judges may confer and discuss evaluations. Each judge assigns his or her final scores and then cumulative final scores are tabulated to determine the final placings. Contest superintendents may review and check tabulation of scores for mathematical accuracy.

D. Stage Presence 10 Points

- Were the presenters neat and appropriately dressed for the subject of the presentation?
- Did the presenter speak directly to and look at the audience?
- Was the presentation too fast or too slow?

E. Delivery 15 Points

- Did the presenter appear to enjoy giving the presentation?
- Did the presenter have good voice control?
- Were all words pronounced correctly?
- If notes were used, was it done without detracting from the presentation?
- Did the presenter seem to choose words at the time they were spoken as opposed to a memorized presentation?
- Did the presenters work together as a team?

F. Effect on Audience 5 Points

- Did the audience show an interest in the presentation?
- Could the audience go home and carry out the idea?

G. Summary 10 Points

- Was the summary short and interesting?
- Was the summary properly wrapped up the presentation?
- Did the summary properly wrap up the presentation?
- Could the presenter handle questions easily?

Awards

1. Awards will be announced on Sunday at the awards ceremony. Ribbons to the top ten (10) individuals.

Entry Information, Hotel Information, General Information

Registration dates and instructions for completing your online registration/entry forms are found on the Western National Roundup website at www.westernationalroundup.org – note that as a result of your online registration, you will be presented with an Official Authorization Form which must be printed and then signed by the respective State 4-H Leader and mailed with full payment to the address on the form.

The headquarters for this event will again be at the Renaissance Denver Hotel, 3801 Quebec Street, Denver, Colorado 80207; (303) 399-7500. Please check the Western National Roundup web site for information on special rates and any room reservation procedure that may be in place this year.

Coach's meetings are typically held on Thursday evening; check the web site for a full schedule, which will be updated regularly.

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