

## Public Speaking 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. Speeches 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. No visual aids may be used.
4. No coaching from parents or coaches during the speech. Once the individual has started their speech, they may not receive assistance from any coach, parent, audience member, or other person. The penalty for violating this rule is disqualification.
5. Contestants may use notes. However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judges.
6. A public address system will NOT be used during the contest, but a podium will be provided.
7. During the competition, the contestants may introduce themselves by name, state and speech topic.
8. Speeches should be 7-10 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 7 minutes or over



- Was the speech interesting?

**C. Content and Accuracy 20 Points**

- Were the facts and information presented accurate?
- Was there enough information presented about the subject?
- Was credit given to the sources of information, if it was appropriate?
- Was the content appropriately related to the horse industry?

**D. Stage Presence 15 Points**

- Was the speaker neat and appropriately dressed?
- Did the speaker talk directly to and look at the audience?
- Was the speaker's posture erect, but not stiff?
- Did the speaker seem relaxed and at ease?

**E. Delivery 20 Points**

- Did the speaker have good voice control?
- Were all words pronounced correctly?
- If notes were used, was it done without detracting from the presentation?
- Did the speaker seem to choose words at the time they were spoken as opposed to a memorized or ready-type delivery?

**F. General 10 Points**

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

**G. Conclusion 10 Points**

- Was the conclusion short and interesting?
- Did the conclusions properly wrap 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.westernnationalroundup.org](http://www.westernnationalroundup.org) – note that as a result of

your online registration, you will be presented with and 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.

**Contest Superintendents:**

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