



## Horse HIPPOLOGY Guidelines

### Questions:

For general questions regarding Western National Roundup, please reach out to the management team at:

**westernnationalroundup@gmail.com or (970) 491-1152.**

For specific questions about the Horse Hippology Contest, contact one of the following superintendents:

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### Entry



1. For a complete list of all rules, please refer to the general rules at:  
<https://co4h.colostate.edu/national-western-roundup/>
2. A State/territory/District of Columbia is allowed only one team in horse hippology comprised of 3-4 members. On teams consisting of four members, all will compete; however, the lowest score will be dropped. For those teams consisting of three members, all members' scores will count in determining individual and team awards
3. 4-H members who had previously participated in the WNR Horse Hippology Contest are not eligible.
4. The individual(s) may be selected by any means appropriate to the state they represent and must be certified as eligible by the State 4-H Leader.
5. 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 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."





## Method of Conduct

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

Individuals competing in the hippology contest should come prepared with a #2 pencil for all phases of the contest. Participants can have a notebook for the judging portion of the contest. Contestants will not be allowed to bring any other supplies into the contest with them.

**1. Examination Phase** - this phase of the contest will include:

1. Written Exam
2. Projected slides which may include but not limited to identification of breed, color, color pattern, activity, proper appointments, anatomy which may include external, skeleton, internal organs, parts of gastrointestinal tract, male and female reproductive organs, detailed anatomy of the foot and detailed lower limbs.

**2. Station Phase** - 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 props or pictures from popular press sources. Content within the stations will be taken from the approved sources listed below. Stations may include, but are not limited to:

- Various types of saddles (actual or pictures) and parts of saddles
- Tack, bits, bridles, horseshoes and parts of shoes
- Tools and equipment, and assembly of specific parts of various pieces of equipment
- Grains and forages used in equine rations, including various forms of methods of preparation
- Internal and external parasites based on actual samples, pictures, life cycle charts and/or damage caused
- Blemishes and unsoundnesses
- Age of equines based on teeth
- Nutrition and health
- Anatomy, which may include external, skeleton and/or internal organs
- Genetics
- Reproduction
- Use of pulse rate, respiration rate, temperature, dehydration, anemia, etc., to assess horse health.
- Measurements such as, but not limited to, wither height, shoe size, girth, collar size, gullet width, seat length of saddle, etc. may be required.





## Method of Conduct, Cont.

3. Judging Phase -contestants will be required to place four (4) classes consisting of two (2) halter or conformation classes and two (2) performance classes. Contestants are responsible for their own writing instruments and notepads for the purpose of taking notes. 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 emergencies, pictorial and/or video classes may be used, in which case they would be especially prepared for the event.
4. Team Problems - 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 a 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 state team upon entrance into the team problem room. Evaluation will be based on the 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 half the possible points for that team 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:

- Balancing a horse's ration.
- Farm management recommendations for specific horse operations (i.e., breeding, training, boarding, nursery, lay-up, etc.).
- Considerations for the establishment of a new horse facility (stable to be used for a specific purpose).
- Recommendations for selecting, locating, and purchasing horses for specific uses.
- Behavior problems - causes, management of and corrections.
- Training and conditioning programs - equipment, schedules, methods, nutrition, problem avoidance.
- Breeding and/or leasing contracts - specific clauses for insurance, liability, payments, care, termination, transport, etc.
- Teaching lessons in horse management.
- Explanation of use or assembly of specific equipment.
- Demonstrate 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.







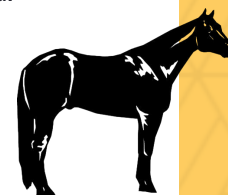
# TIE-BREAKING

All ties overall, individual and team, will be broken using the following sequence:

1. Examination scores
2. Station scores
3. Judging scores

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



- Awards will be presented to the top ten (10) individuals in the Examination Phase, Station Phase, Judging Phase, and Overall.
- Each member of the top ten (10) teams in the Examination Phase, Station Phase, Judging Phase, and in Overall will receive awards.

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

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

- Illustrated Dictionary of Equine Terms - New Horizons Equine Education Center. Alpine Publications, PO Box 7027, Loveland, CO 80537 ~ Phone: (800) 777-7257
- 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
- Horse Industry Handbooks and updates - American Youth Horse Council; 1 Gainer Rd, McDonald, NM 88262 ~ Email: [info@ayhc.com](mailto:info@ayhc.com) ~ Phone: 817.320.2005 ~ Web: <http://www.ayhc.com/shop>
- Horse Smarts - American Youth Horse Council; 1 Gainer Rd, McDonald, NM 88262 ~ Email: [info@ayhc.com](mailto:info@ayhc.com) ~ Phone: 817.320.2005 ~ Web: <http://www.ayhc.com/shop>
- AQHA Rulebook: 2025 73rd edition - <http://aqha.com/handbook> ~ Only show rules will be used (SHW300-SHW712).
- Equine Science – Rick Parker. Fifth edition. ISBN-978-1-305-94972-0; Published 2019
- The Horse – J. Warran Evans, et al. 3rd edition. Waveland Press, Inc., 4180 IL Route 83, Suite 101 Long Grove Illinois 60004. (847) 634-0081

Grains, forages and feed preparations used in this contest will be representative of feeds utilized in horse rations.



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