

# National 4-H Horse Classic – Western Division

## 4-H Horse Public Speaking Contest Rules

Superintendent:

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### I. Eligibility

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 events 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.

- A. 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.
1. Each state is invited to enter one individual.
  2. Individuals may be selected by any means appropriate to the state they represent and must be certified as eligible by the State 4-H Leader.
  3. 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.
- B. Entries not officially entered will not be permitted to participate for any reason.
- C. 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.
- D. The eligibility requirements to enter a National 4-H Competitive Event are:
1. 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.

2. 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.\*

\*The January dates for the Western Horse Classic event are considered part of the previous year for the purpose of allowing all youth to compete in the national horse events in their last year of eligibility.

(Approved by 4-H NPL and Director, Youth Development, F4-HN/CSREES June 1, 2004)

3. 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.
4. 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.” Violation of this will result in forfeiture of any awards or recognition which have been won in the National 4-H Competitive Event.”

- E. All participants must first qualify through the represented state and meet all the state eligibility rules.

### **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, state 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. Contestant should repeat the question then answer it.

9. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing and announced at the coaches meeting.

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.

12. 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 introduction short and to the point?

**B. ORGANIZATION (15 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 speech interesting?

**C. CONTENT AND ACCURACY (20 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 content appropriately related to the horse industry?

**D. STAGE PRESENCE (15 points)**

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

**E. DELIVERY (20 points)**

1. Did speaker have appropriate voice control?
2. Were all words pronounced correctly?
3. Did 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 speaker seem to choose words at the time they were spoken? (Avoid a memorized or read-type delivery.)

**F. GENERAL (10 points)**

1. Did 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 ten (10) individuals.

## **EQUIPMENT**

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

## **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 an Official Authorization Form which must be printed and then signed by the respective State 4-H Director/Leader and mailed with full payment to the address specified on the form.

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

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

Contact information is also on the website and always up to date.