

# Michigan 4-H Youth Horse Program

## Communications Contest – Official Michigan 4-H Rules

### Contest Objective

The objective of the Michigan 4-H Youth Horse Program Communications Contest is to build and strengthen youth skills in presentation and public speaking. Participants in the Public Speaking, Individual Presentation, and Team Presentation contests develop the ability to communicate with clarity and structure while gaining meaningful practice in engaging and influencing an audience. They also demonstrate creativity and originality in their chosen topics, supported by effective use of evidence and reasoning.

### Contest Information

Location: Michigan State University; 474 S. Shaw Lane, East Lansing, MI 48823

***Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. with a prompt contest start of 10:00 a.m.***

Contest areas: Public Speaking, Individual Presentation, and Team Presentation



### Eligibility rule for contestants:

Senior members who have competed in at least one approved and authorized interstate contest (national or regional) in the same contest area, are eligible to compete again in that contest area at the Michigan 4-H Communications Contest, **however, they may not be eligible to go on to national competition, depending on the contest they qualify for at the state level. For example, 4-H members may only participate once at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Round Up in each contest area.**

In addition:

- To participate in a national contest, no contestants may be older than 19 years of age as of January 1 of the contest year, and they must be at least 14 on January 1 of the contest year. (*Eastern National contestants must not have reached their 19<sup>th</sup>* Speeches and presentations should be original and constructed and delivered by 4-H'ers.
- Plagiarism, in any form, is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - Copying from other sources: Copying parts of speeches, presentations, or any other work created by another individual.
  - Misuse of AI (Artificial Intelligence) tools: Using AI tools to generate entire sentences, paragraphs, or significant portions of the work.
  - Improper citation: Using text, phrases, photos, diagrams, or any other material from articles, videos, books, movies, or other published sources without proper attribution to the original author.
- Competitors are required to:
  - Cite sources accurately and completely: All resources used must be cited specifically and honestly.
  - Submit a Works Cited page: A hard copy of the Works Cited/References page must be submitted at check-in.
  - Include essential information: The Works Cited page must include the contestant(s), name(s), the title of their speech or presentation, and be clearly labeled in the header.
- All sources used must be listed, including but not limited to websites, books, articles, interviews, use of AI, and any other relevant materials. 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 Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to write entire sentences, or paragraphs; using text, phrases, photos or diagrams from an article, video, book, movie or other published work without giving credit to the author. A competitor's resource citation should be specific, accurate and honest. Contestants are required to provide a hard copy of their works cited/references at check in. If contest officials confirm plagiarism, the contestant will automatically be disqualified, with a notation on the scorecard to reflect such infraction. If another contestant, coach, or parent can provide proof of plagiarism, they must present their findings, within 48 hours of the conclusion of the contest, to their state program representative. The state representative will then communicate the protest to contest management, and the executive committee will review the protest and make a ruling.

- Contestants may not have participated in an official, post-secondary (university, college, junior college or technical school) Hippology, Horse Bowl, or Horse Judging contest. A post-secondary contest is defined here as an event open to more than one educational institution in which scores are kept and awards are offered.
- Participants in communications contests must submit a title of their speech or presentation along with 1-3 sentences describing their speech or presentation prior to the contest.

### **PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST RULES & RESOURCES**

1. The subject must pertain to the equine industry. Speeches not appropriately related to the equine industry can be disqualified at the discretion of the judges.
2. No visual aids may be used.
3. No coaching from parents or coaches during the speech.
4. Once the individual has started their speech, they may not receive assistance from any coach, parent, audience member, or other person, which includes, but is not limited to, the stroking of any key on a computer or other audio-visual device. 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 event, the contestants may introduce themselves by name, state and speech topic.
8. Three points will be deducted from the total score on each judge's score sheet for every minute (or fraction of a minute) under or over.
  - **Senior speeches should be 7-10 minutes in length.**
  - **Junior speeches should be 4-6 minutes in length.**
  - **Cloverbud speeches should NOT exceed 5 minutes.**
9. Contestants should cite their major references after the conclusion of their speech. This time will not be counted in the allotted time.
10. Only the judge(s) may ask questions of the contestant in the contest. Question time

11. will not be counted in the allotted time. Contestants should repeat the question then answer it.
12. Contestants may use video recorders to tape their own presentations. It is the responsibility of the coach/speaker to provide all necessary recording equipment.
13. No videotaping or photography of presentations is allowed during the contest, except by respective coaches or their designees.
14. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing and will be announced ahead of the contest.
15. 2-3 Three judges will be used, and judges will score each entry independently and assign scores. After all presentations are presented and scores 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.
16. Ties will be broken first by the judges accumulated Delivery score, second by the judges accumulated Presentation Format score and third on Credit and Content score.
17. Improper attire will be a violation and appropriate points deducted on the scorecard. Improper attire will be determined at the discretion of the judges. Business attire or dress appropriate to the speech is acceptable.

### **INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATION CONTEST RULES & RESOURCES**

1. The subject must pertain to the horse industry. Presentations not appropriately related to the horse industry can be disqualified at the discretion of the judges.
2. 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 to those 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, posters, props, videos, slides, and computer-generated media (PowerPoint, websites, etc.). No live animals may be used.

3. 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).

4. A public address system will NOT be used during the contest.

5. Participants must supply their own props. Two tables and chairs will be provided for the presenter's use. Contestants must provide all of their own equipment.

6. Creative audio-visual aids may be used but the contestant must be involved in making or designing them.

7. During the contest, the contestants may introduce themselves by name, state, and presentation topic.

8. Three points will be deducted from the total score on each judge's score sheet for every minute (or fraction of a minute) under or overtime.

- **Senior division presentations should be 9-12 minutes in length.**
- **Junior division presentations should be 6-9 minutes in length.**
- **Cloverbud presentations should NOT exceed 5 minutes.**

9. Contestants should cite their major references after the conclusion of their presentation. This will not be counted in the allotted time.

10. No coaching from parents or coaches during the presentation.

11. Once an individual has started their presentation, they may not receive assistance from any coach, parent, audience member, or other person, which includes, but is not limited to, the stroking of any key on a computer or other audio-visual device. The penalty for violating this rule is disqualification.

12. Contestants may use video recorders to tape their own presentations. It is the responsibility of the team coach/team to provide all necessary recording equipment.

13. No videotaping or photography of presentations is allowed during the contest, except by respective team coaches or their designees.

14. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing and will be announced at the coaches' meeting.
15. Only the judge(s) may ask questions of the contestant in the contest. Question time will not be counted in the allotted time. Contestants should repeat the question then answer it.
  16. Improper attire will be a violation and appropriate points deducted on the scorecard. Improper attire will be determined at the discretion of the judges. Business attire or dress appropriate to the speech is acceptable.
17. Two - three judges will be used, and judges will score each entry independently and assign scores. After all presentations are presented and scores 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.
18. Ties will be broken first by the judges accumulated Delivery score, second by the judges accumulated Presentation Format score and third on Credit and Content score.
  19. The judges will consider the questions listed under each section.

### **TEAM PRESENTATION CONTEST RULES & RESOURCES**

1. The subject must pertain to the horse industry. Presentations not appropriately related to the horse industry can be disqualified at the discretion of the judges.
2. 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 to those 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, posters, props, videos,

slides, and computer-generated media (PowerPoint, websites, etc.). No live animals may be used.

3. This is a Team Presentation where both participants should have an equal role in the presentation.

4. Contestants may use notes. However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestants. This will be at the discretion of the judge(s).

5. A public address system will NOT be used during the contest.

6. Participants must supply their own props. Two tables and chairs will be provided for the presenter's use. Contestants must provide all of their own equipment. Any other equipment needs must be made through special arrangements with contest officials at least two weeks prior to the contest date.

7. Creative audio-visual aids may be used, but the contestant must be involved in making or designing them.

8. During the contest, the contestants may introduce themselves by name, state, and presentation topic.

9. Three points will be deducted from the total score on each judge's score sheet for every minute (or fraction of a minute) under or overtime.

- **Senior team presentations should be 10-15 minutes in length.**
- **Junior team presentations should be 8-13 minutes in length.**
  - **There is no Cloverbud team presentation.**

10. Contestants should cite their major references after the conclusion of their presentation. This will not be counted in the allotted time.

11. No coaching from parents or coaches during the presentation.

\*\*\* Once the team has started their presentation, they may not receive assistance from any coach, parent, audience member, or other person, which includes, but is not limited to, the stroking of any key on a computer or other audio-visual device. The penalty for violating this rule is disqualification. \*\*\*

12. Contestants may use video recorders to tape their own presentations. It is the responsibility of the team coach/team to provide all necessary recording equipment.

13. No videotaping or photography of presentations is allowed during the contest, except by respective team coaches or their designees.

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

15. Improper attire will be a violation and appropriate points deducted on the scorecard. Improper attire will be determined at the discretion of the judges. Business attire or dress appropriate to the speech is acceptable.

16. Only the judge(s) may ask questions of the contestant in the contest. Each team shall be asked the same minimum number of questions. Question time will not be counted in the allotted time. Contestants should repeat the question then answer it.

17. Two - Three judges will be used, and judges will score each entry independently and assign scores. After all presentations are presented and scores 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.

18. Ties will be broken first by the judges accumulated Delivery score, second by the judges accumulated Presentation Format score and third on Credit and Content score.