

# Walla Walla County Horse Medals Program

**Washington State Medals Program** (page 27 of 4-H Horse Contest Guide, PNW574).

The medals program in Washington counties is an optional awards program. The value of a medals program is to establish an educational challenge for advanced riders. Gold, silver, and bronze medals may be awarded to intermediate and senior 4-H youth in a variety of classes including western equitation, English equitation, showmanship, hunt seat equitation over fences, driving, trail, and dressage.

Medals are awarded on a pass/fail basis. Riders can do a pattern correctly but still not receive a medal if they have a sloppy pattern or poor equitation. Awarding a medal is completely at the judge's discretion. When competing for medals, the exhibitor is riding against a standard of excellence.

Standard patterns are available for counties to use on the WSU 4-H Web site. These patterns are recommended for consistency by the PNW horse judges and Washington Equine Committee.

## **Walla Walla County Medals Divisions**

There will be three divisions of Medals Competition: Bronze, Silver, and Gold

Divisions are offered for **Intermediate and Senior "A" only**.

- Western Equitation
- English Equitation
- Reinsmanship

## **Eligibility**

1. Riders must be currently enrolled as an Intermediate or Senior in their county's 4-H program.
2. All riders competing in the medals classes for a medal must have a current Horse Certificate on file at the WSU Extension office and must ride their current project horse.
3. Contestants must earn a bronze medal before they are eligible to compete for a silver medal. A silver medal must be earned to be eligible for a gold medal competition.
4. A rider may only win one bronze medal and one silver medal within each seat and age division. A contestant may win as many gold medals as they are capable of as long as they remain a member of the same age group.
5. A gold medal Intermediate rider will begin at the bronze level when advancing into the Senior age group.

## **Patterns**

- Medals classes are judged on the flawless execution of the designated pattern.
- Contestants who are "off course" will not receive a medal. "Off course" is failure to complete any of the required maneuvers as designated by the pattern in their proper sequence (i.e. a simple lead change where a flying lead change is required) or leaving the boundaries of the course during competition.
- Riders can do a pattern correctly but still not receive a medal if they have a sloppy pattern or poor equitation.
- Correct posture, smooth transitions, effective use of aids, and light hands are emphasized.
- The performance of the horse is not to be considered more important than the methods utilized by the rider in obtaining the performance.
- Medals classes will be judged on a pass/fail basis.

## **Judges**

- The judge hired to judge the show will also be the judge for medals classes.
- The judge will select the pattern to be used for each level from the three standard patterns provided. All contestants will perform the same pattern for their age division.
- The judge will be required to write comments, which will be given to the exhibitor.
- The judge's decision is final.