



Washington State 4-H Equine Presentations Competition Rules

Virtual Contest

Washington State 4-H Equine Presentations Competition Rules

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information or reasonable accommodation should contact their local Extension office at least two weeks prior to the event.

Aligned with National Equine Public Presentations Competition Rules and adapted for virtual delivery.

Washington State 4-H Equine Presentations Competition Rules

Contest Information

Changes for virtual delivery for Washington State 4-H National Equine Presentations are noted in bold red.

1. The Equine Presentations Competition is comprised of three categories: Public Speaking, Individual Presentation, and Team Presentation. Contestants may participate in only one category per year at the Washington State 4-H Equine Presentations Contest.
2. Equine presentations differ from other 4-H public presentations in two ways: the topic/subject must pertain to the equine industry; and, each contest has very defined time constraints and penalties.
Presentations not appropriately related to the equine industry can be disqualified at the judge's discretion.
3. In public speaking, the information is delivered as a speech and no visual aids are allowed. A podium can be used, but it is not required.
4. Contest officials will provide a podium, easels, projector screen, and two tables. Additional equipment (e.g.:projector, etc.) must be supplied by the contestant. A microphone (or other public address system) will not be used in any category.
Does not apply for virtual delivery.
5. Content should be original and constructed and delivered by the 4-H member. Resource citation should be specific, accurate, and honest. 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. If contest officials confirm plagiarism, the contestant will be automatically 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, prior to the end o the contest, to the state 4-H contest coordinator. The state 4-H contest coordinator will then communicate the protest to the appropriate show management and/or State 4-H program leader (or designee) for review of the protest; and make a ruling.
6. 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.
7. The top BLUE ribbon scoring individuals of the Washington State 4-H Equine Presentations Contest qualify to represent Washington State 4-H at the Eastern National 4-H Roundup in Louisville, KY in November of the same year.* After competing in a category at the Eastern National 4-H Roundup, members are ineligible to compete in the same category again. Other national competition opportunities may exist. Please refer to the Equine National Contest Application.

Washington State 4-H Equine Presentations Competition Rules

Contestant Eligibility and Registration

1. Age for competition is determined by October 1st of the current 4-H year. To be eligible for this contest, the 4-H member must be 14 years old prior to October 1st and cannot be 19 years old prior to October 1st.

NOTE: Age for competition at the Eastern National 4-H Roundup is: As of January 1, of the year in which the event is held, contestants must be at least 14 years of age, but not have reached their 19th birthday. Therefore, it is possible that a contestant who is eligible to participate in the state competition is ineligible to advance to the Eastern National 4-H Roundup Competition.

2. Each county may enter up to four senior contestants: one for individual presentation, one for public speaking, and two for team presentation. Individuals may be selected by any procedure the county deems appropriate.
3. All contestants must be enrolled 4-H members in their respective county for the current 4-H year, and in good standing. Eligibility must be certified by county 4-H staff.
4. The Washington rules follow the rules of the “communications contest” for the Eastern National 4-H Round-up. Those rules can be found on the Eastern National 4-H Roundup website.

Judging: Scoring, Ties and Criteria

1. Judges will be chosen at the sole discretion of the state 4-H contest coordinator. Three or four judges will score each presentation independently. After all presentations are complete, judges may confer and discuss their evaluations. Each judge will then assign their final scores. The top three judge’s final scores are combined to determine the final placings. The contest coordinator may review and check tabulation for accuracy.
2. Ties will be broken first by combining the top three judges’ Delivery score; second by the top three judges’ combined Presentation Format score; and third by the top three judges’ combined Credit and Content score.
3. Score sheets and judging criteria are included in this document.
4. Recommended ribbon scoring breakdown is 86 points and above-a blue; 85 points to 70 points a red; and 69 points and below a white

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Washington State 4-H Equine Presentations Competition Rules

Changes listed below for 2024 are reflective that the contest will be done virtually in Washington State.

- The virtual platform used for this contest will be Zoom. This is a WSU generated zoom so contestants **must have a Zoom account** to participate. Visit www.zoom.us to create a free account.
 - Contestants should be familiar with Zoom and keep the constraints of Zoom in mind. For example, the judges must be able to see visual aids/props and the speaker simultaneously. **Practicing on Zoom prior to the state contest is highly recommended.**
 - **Members should be standing for the duration presentation and be completely visible, with the speaker and visual aids visual to the judges simultaneously (new in 2023).**
 - For connectivity purposes, it is recommended that all other devices in the household be turned off and that direct Ethernet connection go from internet to the computer, rather than using the router. County 4-H staff should be able to provide assistance prior to the contest to become familiar with best practices with Zoom.
 - Additional changes/amendments are noted in **bold red** throughout the document as related to virtual delivery.
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Public Speaking

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 any coach, parent, audience member, or other person during the speech.
An audience may observe via Zoom, but will be muted with chat box disabled. If the audience is in the same room as contestant, they must stand behind the contestant and not interact with them.
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. **This also applies to assistance with Zoom issues, such as screen sharing, and other technical challenges.**

Washington State 4-H Equine Presentations Competition Rules

5. Contestants may use notes. However, excessive use of notes may be penalized at judges' discretion.
 6. A public address system (microphone) will not be used during the contest, but a podium will be provided. **This rule is not applicable in a virtual format.**
 7. During the event, contestants may introduce themselves by name, club 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 10 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 will not be counted in the allotted time. Contestants should repeat the question then answer it.
 11. No videotaping or photographing of presentations is allowed during the contest including cell phone video.
 12. Contestant order will be determined by the contest coordinator and communicated in advance via email address and/or phone number provided by county 4-H staff on the registration form.
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Individual Presentation

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" here forward 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 as 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.

Washington State 4-H Equine Presentations Competition Rules

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 (microphone) 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. **Tables and chairs do not apply for virtual presentations.**
6. Contestants must provide all of their own equipment, including projector, etc.
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, club, and presentation topic.
9. Presentations should be 9-12 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 9 minutes or over 12 minutes.
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 any coach, parent, audience member, or other person during the presentation.
An audience may observe via Zoom, but will be muted with chat box disabled. If the audience is in the same room as contestant, they must stand behind the contestant and not interact with them.
12. 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.
This also applies to assistance with Zoom issues, such as screen sharing, and other technical challenges.
13. No videotaping or photographing of presentations is allowed during the contest including cell phone video.
14. Only the judge(s) may ask questions of the contestants in the contest. Question time will not be counted in the allotted time. Contestants should repeat the question, then answer.

Washington State 4-H Equine Presentations Competition Rules

15. Contestant order will be determined by the contest coordinator and communicated in advance via email address and/or phone number provided by county 4-H staff on the registration form.
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Team Presentation

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” here forward 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 as 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 (microphone) 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. **Table and chairs being provided does not apply for virtual presentations.**
6. Contestants must provide all of their own equipment, including projector, etc.
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, club, and presentation topic.
9. Presentations should be 10-15 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 10 minutes or over 15 minutes.

Washington State 4-H Equine Presentations Competition Rules

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 any coach, parent, audience member, or other person during the presentation.
An audience may observe via Zoom, but will be muted with chat box disabled. If the audience is in the same room as contestant, they must stand behind the contestant and not interact with them.
12. 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.
This also applies to assistance with Zoom issues, such as screen sharing, and other technical challenges.
13. No videotaping or photographing of presentations is allowed during the contest including cell phone video.
14. Only the judge(s) may ask questions of the contestants in the contest. Question time will not be counted in the allotted time. Contestants should repeat the question, then answer.
15. Contestant order will be determined by the contest coordinator and communicated in advance via email address and/or phone number provided by county 4-H staff on the registration form.

Public Speaking Contest Scorecard

Name: _____

Title of Speech: _____

Total Points: _____

Rank: _____

	Possible	Points Earned
A. SPEECH FORMAT	20	_____
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Speech followed a logical order▪ Introduction was adequate and drew attention to the topic▪ Main discussion was well organized and adequately covered the chosen topic▪ Summary was brief and clearly reiterated the key points▪ Additional Notes:		
B. KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT MATTER	25	_____
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Facts and information presented were accurate▪ High level of preparation was shown as evidenced by the amount and depth of information provided about the subject▪ Approved practices were discussed▪ Additional Notes:		
C. DELIVERY	25	_____
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Speaker was neat and appropriately dressed. <i>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.</i>▪ Speaker spoke directly to and looked at the judges and maintained strong eye contact▪ Speech pace was consistent and appropriate (not too fast or too slow)▪ Speaker displayed enthusiasm while presenting▪ Speaker had good voice control and quality▪ Words were pronounced correctly and proper word choice was used▪ If notes were used, it was done without detracting from the speech▪ Speaker seemed to choose words at the times they were spoken as opposed to a memorized speech▪ Additional Notes:		

D. CREDIT AND CONTENT **20** _____

- Information was obtained from reputable and/or equine research based information or sources
- Credit was given to the sources of information if it was appropriate
- Content was appropriately related to the equine industry
- Additional Notes:

E. QUESTIONS **10** _____

- Speaker handled questions easily and with confidence
- Speaker was thoughtful in responses and thoroughly answered questions correctly
- Response to questions indicate a deeper knowledge and understanding of the topic
- Additional Notes:

TOTAL POINTS AWARDED: _____ **TIME:** _____

References are not to be included in the time limit.

Time Limits: Each speaker has 7-10 minutes. 3 points will be deducted from the total score for every minute or fraction of a minute under 7 or over 10 minutes.

Minus Time Penalty Points _____

FINAL SCORE:

Judge's Comments:

INDIVIDUAL Presentation Contest Scorecard

Name:

Title of Presentation:

Total Points: _____

Rank: _____

	Possible	Points Earned
A. PRESENTATION FORMAT	15	_____
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Presentation followed a logical order▪ Introduction was adequate and drew attention to the topic▪ Main discussion was well organized and adequately covered the chosen topic▪ Summary was brief and clearly reiterated the key points▪ Additional Notes:		
B. MATERIALS/VISUAL AIDS	15	_____
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Materials and equipment were carefully selected, neatly arranged and well organized▪ Visual aids were of high quality and easily visible▪ Content of the visual aids was pertinent to the topic▪ Additional Notes:		
C. KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT MATTER	25	_____
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Facts and information presented were accurate▪ High level of preparation was shown as evidenced by the amount and depth of information provided about the subject▪ Approved practices were presented or used▪ Additional Notes:		
D. DELIVERY	25	_____
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Presenter was neat and appropriately dressed for the subject of the presentation. 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.▪ Presenter spoke directly to and looked at the audience and maintained strong eye contact▪ Presentation pace was consistent and appropriate (not too fast or too slow)▪ Presenter displayed enthusiasm while presenting▪ Presenter had good voice control and quality		

- Words were pronounced correctly and proper word choice was used
- If notes were used, it was done without detracting from the presentation
- Presenter seemed to choose words at the times they were spoken as opposed to a memorized presentation
- Additional Notes:

E. CREDIT AND CONTENT **10** _____

- Information was obtained from reputable and/or equine research based information or sources
- Credit was given to the sources of information if it was appropriate
- Content was appropriately related to the equine industry
- Additional Notes:

F. QUESTIONS **10** _____

- Presenter handled questions easily and with confidence
- Presenter was thoughtful in response and thoroughly answered questions correctly
- Presenter response to questions indicate a deeper knowledge and understanding of the topic presented

TOTAL POINTS AWARDED: _____ **TIME:** _____

References are not to be included in the time limit.

Time Limits for Individual Presentation: Minimum 9 minutes – Maximum 12 minutes. 3 points will be deducted from the total score for every minute or fraction of a minute under 9 or over 12 minutes.

Minus Time Penalty Points _____

FINAL SCORE: _____

Judge's Comments:

TEAM Presentation Contest Scorecard

Names:

Title of Presentation:

Total Points: _____

Rank: _____

	Possible	Points Earned
A. PRESENTATION FORMAT	15	_____
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Presentation followed a logical order▪ Introduction was adequate and drew attention to the topic▪ Main discussion was well organized and adequately covered the chosen topic▪ Summary was brief and clearly reiterated the key points▪ Additional Notes:		
B. MATERIALS/VISUAL AIDS	15	_____
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Materials and equipment were carefully selected, neatly arranged and well organized▪ Visual aids were of high quality and easily visible▪ Content of the visual aids was pertinent to the topic▪ Additional Notes:		
C. KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT MATTER	25	_____
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Facts and information presented were accurate▪ High level of preparation was shown as evidenced by the amount and depth of information provided about the subject▪ Approved practices were presented or used▪ Additional Notes:		
D. DELIVERY	25	_____
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Presenters were neat and appropriately dressed for the subject of the presentation▪ Presenters spoke directly to and looked at the audience and maintained strong eye contact▪ Presentation pace was consistent and appropriate (not too fast or too slow)▪ Presenters displayed enthusiasm while presenting▪ Presenters had good voice control and quality▪ Words were pronounced correctly and proper word choice was used		

- If notes were used, it was done without detracting from the presentation
- Presenters seemed to choose words at the times they were spoken as opposed to a memorized presentation
- Presenters worked together as a team and contributed equally to the presentation
- Additional Notes:

E. CREDIT AND CONTENT **10** _____

- Information was obtained from reputable and/or equine research based information or sources
- Credit was given to the sources of information if it was appropriate
- Content was appropriately related to the equine industry
- Additional Notes:

F. QUESTIONS **10** _____

- Presenters handled questions easily and with confidence
- Presenters were thoughtful in response (s) and thoroughly answered questions correctly
- Presenters' responses to questions indicate a deeper knowledge and understanding of the topic presented

TOTAL POINTS AWARDED: _____

TIME: _____

References are not to be included in the time limit.

Time Limits for Team Presentation: Minimum 10 minutes – Maximum 15 minutes. 3 points will be deducted from the total score for every minute or fraction of a minute under 10 or over 15 minutes.

Minus Time Penalty Points _____

FINAL SCORE:

Judge's Comments: