



# WASHINGTON STATE 4-H HIPPOLOGY CONTEST RULES

WSU EXTENSION 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

## HIPPOLOGY

Hippology is a Greek word with the root word “hippo” meaning horse and “ology” meaning the study of. Hippology contests have four phases: exam, identification stations, judging, and team problem solving. Contest questions are designed to evaluate 4-H member’s knowledge of a broad range of equine topics. All questions asked in our WA State 4-H Hippology Contest are taken from content within the approved sources (see Page 2).

## OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the Hippology Contest are to provide, in a friendly but competitive setting:

- the opportunity to blend equine science and husbandry with horse judging and public speaking into one activity where 4-H members can apply their acquired knowledge and skill;
- to encourage youth to continue expanding their horse knowledge and participation in various equine events;
- to recognize youth for their comprehension of the many facets of the horse industry; and
- to teach good sportsmanship and encourage leadership.

## CONTESTANT INFORMATION AND ELIGIBILITY

- The state contest is open to enrolled Intermediate and Senior 4-H members in WA State 4-H.
- Contest registration must go through each county’s extension office.
- Each county may register up to four seniors and four intermediates. One registration form per county.
- Counties are encouraged to form teams of four whenever possible. Teams of three are acceptable\*.
- Having a county hippology program is not a requirement for participation. Recognizing a county may have only one or two interested, eligible members, the following provisions are provided:
  - A county may combine with another county (or multiple counties) to form a team. If unable to coordinate with another county, you may register your county’s interested members as individuals. The contest coordinator will form catch teams, if possible, and notify you. If impossible to form a catch team, individuals may compete independently in all phases except team problem solving.
  - All contestants are eligible for overall individual awards.
- Teams/participants may be selected by any procedure a county deems appropriate.
- The first-place senior team earns the opportunity to represent Washington State at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Round Up (ENRU) in Kentucky. The ENRU is historically held over the first full weekend in November. *\*Please be advised that teams of three are allowed to compete at nationals, but contest scores are tabulated in a four-score format. Therefore, teams of four are encouraged.*
- Please be advised of the ENRU age eligibility rules, which are different from those of WA State 4-H. We include this information here to inform expectation for seniors who may have a goal to compete in the ENRU. To clarify, a senior who is 18 on Oct 1 may enroll in WA State 4-H and may compete in our state

contest. However, if the senior then reaches their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday on/before Jan 1, they become ineligible to compete in the ENRU. This may also affect their team's eligibility.

- Please be advised, only the registration fee for the ENRU is paid by the WSU 4-H program. All travel expenses are the responsibility of the member and/or county. Please plan accordingly.
- In the event that any team or team member becomes ineligible or declines to compete at the ENRU, the next highest-ranking team or individual will be offered the opportunity.
- Seniors who qualify for and compete at the ENRU in Hippology cannot participate again in the WA State 4-H Hippology contest. All intermediates, and seniors who have not competed in Hippology at the ENRU, may return.
- Full rules for the ENRU can be found here: <https://www.4hroundup.com/rules>
- Any other eligibility requirements for the WA State 4-H Hippology Contest, such as fees or registration deadlines, will be detailed on the entry form.
- Information about other national contest opportunities (e.g.: AQHA, AHA) is available by request.

## APPROVED SOURCES | STUDY RESOURCES

The list of sources used for all WA State 4-H Knowledge Contests has been condensed to those that are free and/or easily accessible in hopes that addressing accessibility challenges will increase participation in state contests.

**The Approved Source List is available on our [WA State 4-H Horses](https://extension.wsu.edu/4h/projects/animal-science/companion-performance/horse/) page of the State 4-H website:**

<https://extension.wsu.edu/4h/projects/animal-science/companion-performance/horse/> under State and National Contest Resources.

If you need assistance in locating and/or downloading the WA State 4-H horse publications, please contact Kim Baker [kim.baker@wsu.edu](mailto:kim.baker@wsu.edu) or your 4-H Extension office for assistance.

*NATIONAL CONTEST NOTE: 4-H members who wish to expand their knowledge beyond the above offerings and/or who have set a goal to compete at the [Eastern National 4-H Horse Round Up](https://www.4hroundup.com/) may enjoy visiting their website. Click on [Rules for Hippology](#) for current National 4-H Hippology Contest sources and examples of national level materials. <https://www.4hroundup.com/>*

## CONTEST PHASES

A Hippology Contest consists of four phases: Exam (written and slide exam), ID Stations, Team Problem Solving (prepared and impromptu), and Horse Judging.

**Examination Phase** – Approximately 200 points possible, per contestant

The examination phase includes two components, a written exam and a slide exam.

- The written examination includes multiple-choice questions and has a time limit.
  - Senior exams have 50 questions with 30 minutes to complete.
  - Intermediate exams have 25 questions with 20 minutes to complete.
- The slide exam is used to ask questions that pictures are necessary to describe. For example, identification of breed, color, color pattern, activity, proper appointments, etc. All questions are multiple-choice. There is no time limit per slide. The slide facilitator will pause to allow time for contestants to answer before moving to the next slide.
  - Seniors will have 50 slides and Intermediates will have 25.

**Identification Station Phase** – Approximately 200 points possible, per contestant

The ID Station phase consists of a series of 10 stations where contestants will individually respond to the question(s) of the station by writing their answers on a score sheet. Essentially, each station is a matching game. Contestants will match (write the letter) of each answer for each picture or item on their answer sheet. The time allowed at each station will be two (2) minutes.

***A sample ID Station Answer Sheet is included in the Appendix of this document.***

All contestants will start at Station One and work their way individually through the stations at the direction of the timekeeper until all 10 stations are completed.

Examples of stations which may be used include, but are not limited to the following:

- Types of saddles and/or parts of saddles, tack, bits, bridles
- Horseshoes, grooming equipment, horse clothing, and blankets (actual or pictured)
- Grains, feeds, supplements, and forages used in equine rations
- Parasites, life cycle charts, damage caused, etc.
- Disease processes, signs, symptoms, and prognosis
- Vaccinations and/or medications and usage
- Blemishes, unsoundnesses, conformation anomalies
- Anatomy identification, internal and external
- Common and poisonous plant identification, symptoms of poisoning
- Riding discipline information
- Identification of colors, breeds, and types of horses

**Judging Phase** – Approximately 200 points, per contestant

Contestants will evaluate and give their placing on a total of four (4) classes. No written or oral reasons are required in Hippology. (Nor are they required at ENRU.)

Classes may include any of the following:

- Conformation classes, such as Stock Type Halter, Saddle Type Mares, etc.
- Performance classes, such as Western Pleasure, Huntseat Equitation, etc.
- Please note: In the event that live classes cannot be scheduled, photographs or videos may be substituted.
- Scenario classes, such as evaluating feed or equipment for suitability

**Team Problem Solving Phase** – Approximately 200 points, per team

A hippology contest includes two problem solving scenarios: one prepared and one impromptu.

Timing for team problems:

- Prepared team problem allows teams 10 minutes to prepare a response, followed by 7 minutes to deliver their response, with 3 minutes allowed for questions.
- Impromptu allows 7 minutes to prepare & deliver with 3 minutes for questions.

All teams will be presented with the same problem. Each team will have equal time to discuss among themselves the problem, immediately after which they will have to present an oral solution or series of suggested procedures relative to the problem. Each member of each team is encouraged to contribute to the oral presentation.

Evaluation will be based on the understanding of the problem, completeness of 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.

***A sample score sheet is included in the Appendix of this document.***

### Topic examples for Team Problem Solving

- Biosecurity recommendations for horse operations
- Recommendations for selecting/purchasing horses for specific uses
- Behavior problems - causes, management of, and corrections
- Management or training practices
- Evaluating equipment or tack
- Demonstrate skill or ability to use specific equipment or tack
- Design a course to be used in a specific discipline, such as trail

### Problem-Solving Team Instructions

Teams will receive the following instructions with their scenario prompt:

For Prepared Problems:

- You have 10 minutes to consult with your team members and formulate a response. Feel free to use the scrap paper provided to make notes. These notes can be taken into the presentation room and referred to during the delivery of your response to the judge(s).
- You will have 7 minutes to present your answer to the judge(s). At the end of 7 minutes, you will be stopped by the judges, at which time they will ask questions.
- You are not required to use the entire 7 minutes but are urged to discuss the problem fully.

For Impromptu Problems:

- Please read the following problem.
- You have seven minutes in which to prepare and deliver your response.
- The judge(s) will let you know when your time is up.
- You are not required to use the entire seven minutes but are urged to discuss the problem fully.

### AWARDS

Champion and Reserve Champion teams will receive Washington State 4-H Hippology patches.

Rosette ribbons, flat ribbons, and medals will be awarded as follows:

- The top ten overall individual scores (in each age division) will be awarded rosettes.
- In addition, the top three individuals (in each age division) will be awarded medals:  
Gold for top overall score, Silver for second, and Bronze for third.
- High Point ribbons will be awarded for Exam, ID Station, and Judging.
- Each member of the top 5 teams (in each age division) will be recognized with rosette ribbons.

### SCORE CALCULATION and TIE BREAKERS

- Individual Score is the sum of written and slide exams, identification station, and judging scores.
- The Team Score is the sum of all four team member's individual scores, plus the team's problem solving scores (prepared and impromptu added together).
- Overall placing ties will be broken in the following sequence:
  1. Exam score
  2. ID Station score
  3. Judging score
  4. Team Problem Solving score
- 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 required, the scores at each station, in order, may be used.

### Prepared & Impromptu Problem-Solving Score Sheet - SAMPLE

Approx 200 total points are possible: 100 points each (prepared & impromptu)

Evaluation is based on understanding of problem, completeness of logic, coverage of key points, presentation skills, and teamwork.

**Sources cited:** Scenario question(s) will be asked from approved sources only.

<b>Content</b> (50 points possible)	Incomplete 1-25 points	Partial 26-39 points	Well Covered 40-50 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The judge(s) will have read the approved sources and will be hoping to hear as much information about the topic as the team can provide.</li> </ul>			
	Needs Improvement 1 - 10 points	Good 11-18 points	Excellent 19-25 points
<b>Presentation Skills</b> (25 points possible)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Judging criteria is outlined below</li> </ul>			
	Needs Improvement 1 - 10 points	Good 11-18 points	Excellent 19-25 points
<b>Teamwork</b> (25 points possible)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Judging criteria is outlined below</li> </ul>			
<b>TOTAL (100 points possible)</b>			

### JUDGING CRITERIA

#### Presentation Skills

- Voice volume and projection
- Speed, rhythm, inflection
- Articulation and pronunciation
- Refrained from using 'fillers' (ah, like, um)
- Poised, confident, refrained from fidgeting
- Eye contact
- Natural gestures and overall posture
- Introduced topic and individuals
- Logical sequence / easy to follow
- Conclusion was clear and definite

#### Teamwork

- Team members were attentive to one another while speaking
- Team members shared equal parts of the response
- Smooth transition between team members
- Overall team cohesiveness / cooperation
- Completed presentation within time allowed (*not required to use entire 7 min*)

## ID Station Answer Sheet – SAMPLE

### INTERMEDIATE Identification Stations

Washington State 4-H  
Hippology Contest

TOTAL SCORE

CONTESTANT NUMBER

★ **DIRECTIONS:** At each ID Station, choose the best answer for each item or picture shown.  
Write the **LETTER** of your answer on the answer sheet.  
**ONLY LETTERS** will be accepted as answers. Do NOT write words.  
You are encouraged to use capital letters.

1	2	3	4	5
1.	11.	21.	31.	41.
2.	12.	22.	32.	42.
3.	13.	23.	33.	43.
4.	14.	24.	34.	44.
5.	15.	25.	35.	45.
6.	16.	26.	36.	46.
7.	17.	27.	37.	47.
8.	18.	28.	38.	48.
9.	19.	29.	39.	49.
10.	20.	30.	40.	50.
TOTAL CORRECT:	TOTAL CORRECT:	TOTAL CORRECT:	TOTAL CORRECT:	TOTAL CORRECT:

6	7	8	9	10
51.	61.	71.	81.	91.
52.	62.	72.	82.	92.
53.	63.	73.	83.	93.
54.	64.	74.	84.	94.
55.	65.	75.	85.	95.
56.	66.	76.	86.	96.
57.	67.	77.	87.	97.
58.	68.	78.	88.	98.
59.	69.	79.	89.	99.
60.	70.	80.	90.	100.
TOTAL CORRECT:	TOTAL CORRECT:	TOTAL CORRECT:	TOTAL CORRECT:	TOTAL CORRECT:

© CONGRATULATIONS!!  
This completes your ID Station Phase!

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Revised October 2023 by Kim Baker, State 4-H Hippology Contest Coordinator.

Reviewed by Jennifer Leach, Assistant Professor, WSU Extension 4-H Equine Specialist/Cowlitz County 4-H.



WSU Extension programs, employment, and volunteer service are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information or reasonable accommodation should contact their county 4-H staff person, at least two weeks prior to this event.