



Washington State 4-H Hippology Contest Rules

What is Hippology? Hippology is a Greek word with the word root “hippo” meaning horse and “ology” meaning the study of.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the Hippology Contests 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-Hers 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.

Contestants and Eligibility

- All contestants will enter as Individuals. Counties may designate up to four (4) individuals to compete for team awards
 - Each county may send up to eight seniors and eight intermediates to the contest.
 - Each contestant may compete individually or as a team.
 - Individuals may combine from different counties to form a team
- Team Make Up
 - Of the individuals entered above, each county may designate members to form one senior and one intermediate team. Teams will consist of at least three (3) members but not more than four (4) members per team.
 - On teams on which there are four (4) members, all will participate, but the member receiving the lowest overall score will be automatically declared the alternate. The alternate is still eligible for individual awards.
 - Counties may send complete teams or combine to form an intermediate and/or senior team. If an individual enters without a team, the contest coordinator will attempt to form teams for purposes of the team problem solving phase.
- Contestants may be selected by any means appropriate to the county they represent. Contestants must enter in either the intermediate or senior division. Intermediates are those individuals in 6th through 8th grade as of October 1st of the current year. Seniors are 4-Hers in the 9th grade and above, as of October 1st of the current year, but have not passed their 19th birthday by January 1 of the current year. All contestants must be enrolled in 4-H during the current year and eligibility must be certified by a county 4-H staff person.
- The senior winning Hippology Team at the state contest will be invited to represent Washington at the Eastern National 4-H Round-Up in Louisville, KY. They will be ineligible to compete in future Washington State Hippology Contests. In the event that any team members become ineligible, or decline to compete at the Eastern National 4-H Round-Up, the next highest ranking individuals will be offered a place on the team.
- Contestants (including team alternates) on the state winning senior team that goes on to the national contest cannot participate again the state hippology contest. All intermediates may return.
- Other eligibility requirements will be detailed in the entry form to be made available prior to the contest, including but not limited to fees involved or deadlines.

Current State 4-H Hippology Contest Coordinator: Kim Lobb, *Snohomish County 4-H Volunteer*
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The State 4-H Hippology Contest Coordinator is available to answer questions concerning the Washington State 4-H Hippology Contest and / or provide support for promoting Hippology Contests in your county.

Reference Materials

All the information covered in this contest must be found in one or more of the following publications:

- **Equine Science: Basic Knowledge for Horse People of All Ages**
by Jean T. Griffiths; <http://www.horsebooks.com/> or 1-800-952-5813; or ISBN# 978-929164-4-4 to order from your local bookstore. (Source added 2009)
- **The Horse** (2nd edition)
by Evans, Borton, Hintz, VanVleck; W. H. Freeman and Co., 660 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94194; (415) 391-5870
- **Illustrated Dictionary of Equine Terms**
New Horizons Education Center, Inc., Alpine Publications, PO Box 7027, Loveland CO 80537
1-800-777-7257, FAX 970-667-9157
- **Horse Industry Handbook**
American Youth Horse Council, 4093 Iron Works Pike, Lexington, KY 40511-8434; (800) 879-2942 or (605) 259-2742
- **American Youth Horse Council Youth Leader's Handbook**
American Youth Horse Council, 4093 Iron Works Pike, Lexington, KY 40511-8434; (800) 879-2942 or (605) 259-2742
- **Feeding and Care of the Horse** (2nd edition)
by Lon Lewis, 456 pages, Williams and Wilkins, P.O. Box 1496, Baltimore, MD 21298-9724 (800) 638-0672
- **The Coloring Anatomy of the Horse**
by Robert Kainer and Thomas McCracken, Alpine Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 7072, Loveland, CO 80537; (800) 777-7257
- Any grains, forages, and feed preparations used in this contest will be representative of feeds utilized in horse rations.
- Dover Saddlery – Apparel, Tack and Horse Care Items for the English Rider
To request a free catalog, please visit www.DoverSaddlery.com or call 1-888-234-6942
- Smith Brothers – Apparel, Tack and Horse Care Items for the Western Rider
To request a free catalog, please visit www.SmithBrothers.com or call 1-888-677-0450
- All Washington State 4-H Horse Project Publications, as listed in the current EM2778 4-H Projects & Publications. It is understood that this reference source will NOT be used at national level contests. <https://pubs.wsu.edu/ListItems.aspx?CategoryID=282>
- It is further understood that topics covered in the above reference materials may be expanded upon in the Identification Station phase (i.e., an Identification Station may be titled Harness Driving Carts and may exhibit pictures of cards that may not be specifically mentioned by name in an above source, however, harness driving is discussed in detail).

The Contest

Examination Phase – 200 points maximum per individual, 600 points maximum per team.

This phase of the contest may include:

- a written examination (or exams) regarding any number of horse topics
- projected slides may be used and shown to the group to be identified as to breed, color, color pattern, activity, proper appointment, etc.
- The written exam will have a time limit. A typical exam is 50 questions which can be multiple choice, true or false, matching, or putting items in order. When the exam consists of 50 questions, the time limit will be 20 minutes. For exams with more or fewer questions, the time limit will be adjusted accordingly.
- If slides are used, the typical slide show will project 50 images and all 50 questions will be multiple choice. Slides will not be timed and the question on each will be read aloud by the facilitator. We will not “go back” once a slide has passed, but we will wait a reasonable amount of time before advancing to be sure everyone is ready when we do.
- Most slide questions will ask a question within a question: for example, instead of asking “What breed is this?” the question will ask “Which of the following diseases is noted as being specific to this breed?”

Identification Station Phase – 200 points maximum per individual, 600 points maximum per team. This phase will consist of a series of 10 stations or tables where contestants will individually respond to the multiple-choice card at each station that contains all of the correct answer for the station. Not all answers will always be used, but only the choices on the multiple-choice card will be counted as correct answers. The time allowed at each station will be two (2) minutes. All contestants will start at Station One and work their way individually through each station at the direction of the timekeeper until all 10 stations are completed. The stations will be numbered as follows: Station One will be numbered 1-10; Station Two will be numbered 11-20; Station Three will be 21-30, and so on. Two kinds of stations may be used at the contest: some with all pictures and some with real items.

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

- Various types of saddles (actual or pictured) and parts of saddles
- Tack, bits, bridles, horse shoes, grooming equipment, horse clothing and blankets
- Grains, feeds and forages used in equine rations including various supplements
- Internal and external parasites based on actual samples, pictures, life-cycles, damage caused
- Disease processes; signs, symptoms and prognosis
- Vaccinations and/or medications and usage of same
- Blemishes and unsoundnesses; conformation anomalies
- Ages of equines based on teeth and identification of types of teeth
- Common weeds and poisonous plants identification; symptoms of poisoning
- Measurements, such as –but not limited to–wither height, shoe size, girth, collar size, gullet width, seat length of saddle, length and capacity of body parts, and western games arena equipment, dimensions, etc. may be required
- Identify and/or describe the purpose of organs systems within the horse
- Riding discipline information, particular information about harness driving, western games, dressage, equitation over fences, etc.
- Identification of colors, breeds, and types of horses

Judging Phase – 200 points maximum per individual, 600 points maximum per team. Contestants will be required to place a total of four (4) classes. No written or oral reasons are required. USEF rules will be used with the exception that all tack and attire will be considered correct, and all horses under-saddle will be considered sound.

Classes may include any of the following:

- Conformation classes
 - Performance classes
- Examples of classes for both conformation and performance could be Stock Type Halter, Saddle

- Type Mares, Western Pleasure, Huntseat Equitation
- Classes of feeds
- Classes of tack or appointments
- In the event of an emergency where live classes cannot be scheduled, photographs or videos may be substituted.

Individual Problem Solving (*Individual Impromptu*) – 50 points maximum per individual, 150 points maximum per team. Will be used as part of the team score and individual score. Each individual will be presented with a question or an item to demonstrate/discuss. The answer is meant to be presented in an extemporaneous manner.

- An example of a question would be: “What is your favorite color of horse, and why?” The individual would be given 30 seconds to gather their thoughts and begin their answer. It is expected that an answer would take approximately 30 seconds to deliver. Significant variations of time will be penalized.
- An example of an item to demonstrate may be: “Show the judge how to tie a safety knot.” During the demonstration, it would be expected that the individual would verbally describe what they are doing, why it is important, what the item is used for, etc. The time allowed for a demonstration will be commensurate with the task assigned.
- An example of an item to discuss could be: “On the table are several horse products. Pick a horse product and describe its usage.” The individual would be given approximately 30 seconds to gather their thoughts and begin their answer. It is expected that an answer will take approximately 30 seconds to deliver. Significant variations of time will be penalized.

NEW – Impromptu Team Problem – 150 points maximum per team. (*See NOTE).

Only contestants competing for team awards will participate in the Team Impromptu phase. Contestants will participate in this phase as a team. ***This phase is being added to the State Contest to pattern after the Eastern National 4-H Round-Up Hippology Contest as youth who have competed at nationals have found that practice in this area prior would have been beneficial.***

Each team will receive a prompt and have seven (7) minutes to prepare **and** deliver an answer, all in front of the judge(s) in an extemporaneous manner. Evaluation of response is based on understanding of problem, completeness of logic, coverage of key points, presentation skills, and teamwork.

Examples of team impromptu prompts may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Team may be asked to perform a task, such as demonstrating how to wrap legs for specific purposes or assembling tack while describing the process and uses of various parts
- Team may be asked to extemporaneously discuss a scenario, such as outlining barn fire safety precautions or aspects of equine business management
- Team Impromptu preparation **and** presentation both take place in front of the Judges. The team will enter the room with the judge(s) present. The team will be handed a prompt and the seven (7) minute timer will begin immediately. Teams will need to prepare their solution and give their presentation / response during this seven (7) minute period. Teamwork is an important aspect of Team Impromptu scenarios.

Team Problem Solving (*Prepared Team Problem*) – 300 points maximum per team (*See NOTE).

Only contestants competing for team awards will participate in the Team Problem Solving phase. Those individuals will compete in this phase as a team. Each team will have ten (10) minutes to discuss the problem among themselves, making notes as appropriate on their team problem worksheets or the supplied scratch paper. Teams will not have access to the team problem worksheet until the timekeeper is able to start their ten (10) minute time limit. No other written materials are allowed in the team problem solving preparation area. Notes may be used during the team’s presentation but points will be deducted for excessive use. At the completion of the ten (10) minute preparation time, the team will present an oral solution or series of suggested procedures relative to the problem. Each member of each team will contribute to the oral presentation. The oral presentation should not last longer than seven (7) minutes. Evaluation will be based on the overall presentation of the team, their understanding of the problem, the completeness of the response, the probability of success of the solution or procedures, the logic used in making the oral response, presentation skills, and teamwork. The official(s) may ask questions of any or

all of the team members to clarify the presentation. No other person may ask questions. Questions from the official(s) do not impact the seven (7) minute time limit. All teams of each division (intermediate or senior) will be judged by the same judge or team of judges.

Examples of possible team problems might include the following:

- Balancing a horse's ration
- Farm management recommendations for specific horse operations (i.e. breeding, training, boarding, nursery, lay-up, etc.). Considerations for the establishment of a new horse facility (stable to be used for a specific purpose).
- Recommendations for selecting, locating and purchasing a horse for specific uses
- Training and conditioning programs – equipment, schedules, methods, nutrition, problem avoidance
- Breeding and/or leasing contracts – specific clauses for insurance, liability, payments, care, terminations, transportation, etc.
- Demonstrate skill or ability to use specific equipment, i.e. assembling a harness
- How to rehabilitate a neglected or abused horse

***NOTE: The combined totals of Individual Impromptu, Team Impromptu, and Team Problem Solving total 600 points maximum possible per team, equalizing the points possible in all phases, which is consistent with the scoring values of the Eastern National 4-H Horse Round-Up.**

Individual Scores – (650 points possible)

The individual score will be the sum of the written exam, slides (if presented), identification stations, judging, and individual problem solving (Individual Impromptu).

Team Scores – (2400 points possible)

The team scores will be the sum of the top three individuals on the team (drop the lowest score for teams with four members), plus the Team Problem Solving and Team Impromptu Scores.

Tie Breaking

All ties overall, individual and team, will be broken using the following sequence:

- Examination scores
- Identification Station scores
- Judging scores
- Individual Problem Solving (Individual Impromptu)
- Team Problem Solving scores (team only)

Awards

- The top ten (10) overall individual scores, per senior and intermediate divisions, will be awarded rosettes. In addition, the top three individuals will be awarded medals: gold for top score, silver for second, bronze for third.
- The top ten individuals in each phase will be announced but no awards will be presented. Each member of the top five (5) teams, per senior and intermediate division, will be recognized with rosette ribbons
- Each member of the top two (2) teams, per senior and intermediate division, will be recognized with a State Champion Hippology patch (first place teams) or a Reserve State Champion Hippology patch (second place team).
- Individuals not receiving a placing will receive participation ribbons.

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