

# KITTITAS COUNTY 4-H HORSE POLICY

Kittitas County 4-H is an informal, educational program for boys and girls that is designed to teach project and life skills, develop new interests, practice democracy and develop character. Instead of just reading about things, 4-H members learn by actually doing various tasks with their projects.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE 4-H HORSE PROJECT**

1. Learn how to accept responsibility by having a horse to care for regularly.
2. Learn how to feed and care for horses.
3. Learn how to train and handle horses safely.
4. Learn how to take care of equipment.
5. Learn how to cooperate with others by working with other boys and girls in their club.
6. Learn how to keep records and how to use them.
7. Learn how to judge and select horses.
8. Learn how to prepare and give a demonstration so they can show others skills and new ideas that they have learned.
9. Develop appreciation of riding as a safe, healthy, wholesome form of recreation.
10. Develop leadership, self-reliance and sportsmanship through club activities.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

Requirements for the 4-H Horse Project are as follows:

1. 4-H is open to all youth between the ages five (5) and (19) (4-H Age).  
Youth planning on showing a horse at the Kittitas County Junior Horse Fair need to be enrolled in the horse project by February 1<sup>st</sup> of the current 4-H year.

Exception – In animal projects it is left up to the discretion of the leader(s) and parents whether a member can handle such a project. If the leader feels a child is too young, then he/she will be advised to take another project or wait a year before enrolling in an animal project.

2. Age Divisions – 4-H Age Division is determined before October 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

CLOVERBUDS:	5 to 7 years of age
JUNIORS:	8 to 10 years of age
INTERMEDIATES:	11 to 13 years of age
SENIORS:	14 to less than 19 years of age

Cloverbuds may participate in age-appropriate activities and projects. Project recommended for Horse is the Horseless Horse project. Cloverbuds may not participate in competitive activities.

3. The Kittitas County Horse Program will offer five age divisions/sections – Cloverbuds, Novice, Junior, Intermediate and Senior. **NOVICE DEFINITION:** First year horse project members showing may choose to show novice class within their Age Division or the regular class in their age division. Any exceptions to Novice ruling may be appealed, in writing, to the Horse Panel. Novices of all ages are required to wear helmets in Showmanship.
4. Have a horse or pony that they can use as a project, (except when approved for the Horseless Horse Project). Stallions over 12 months of age are not permitted in 4-H classes.
5. Have suitable facilities and equipment for the project.

6. Two 4-H members may jointly care for and show one animal. These two 4-H members may not compete in the same class or lot at an event. A shared project animal is defined as only immediate family members or two non-family members sharing the same animal including care and training responsibilities. A "Shared Animal Project Agreement" contract is to be completed and return to the Extension Office when the Horse Certificate is signed by April 30<sup>th</sup>. This agreement is to be inserted in Record Book with the Horse Certificate.

7. Select one of the following projects:

**Horseless Horse:** (*Youth must be at least 8 yrs. old on or before October 1<sup>st</sup> of current year to ride, handle, or work around equine.*)

- ✓ Develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship, and other desirable traits of character.
- ✓ Develop an understanding of the responsibilities of managing a horse
- ✓ Develop an appreciation of horseback riding as a healthy and wholesome form of recreation
- ✓ Learn skill in horsemanship and an understanding of the business of breeding, raising, and training horses
- ✓ Increase knowledge of safety precautions to prevent injury to themselves, others, and their mounts
- ✓ Promote greater love for animals and a humane attitude toward them
- ✓ Publication EM4715E Horses are Fun

**Horsemanship:** (*For members, junior through senior*)

- ✓ develop understanding of the responsibilities of taking care of equine
- ✓ increase knowledge of safety precautions to prevent injury to themselves, others, and their mounts
- ✓ learn skills in horsemanship and an understanding of horse behavior, competition etiquette, and sportsmanship
- ✓ learn and appreciate the value of all aspects of riding, including performance, western games, dressage, driving, trail riding, and other disciplines of riding
- ✓ learn to ride, train, and handle a horse safely
- ✓ understand horse behavior, colors and markings, proper riding seat, and correct use of the aids
- ✓ learn to catch, groom, practice horsemanship, and handle and ride a horse safely

**Equine Science:**

- ✓ Learn how to apply scientific learning to contexts beyond equine science and/or to raise questions and identify problems to be addressed using scientific inquiry
- ✓ Develop an animal care ethic and learn to select, care for, feed, and provide for the health of an animal
- ✓ Learn about equine science and how it applies to the aspects of STEM science
- ✓ Learn about different aspects of the equine science for career and/or college prep
- ✓ Learn about responsible horse activities related to environment, pasture management, water quality, and other ecosystems
- ✓ Demonstrate an understanding of the components of environmental stewardship as related to equines

**Additional Learning Guides:**

Horse Science, Unit 2 – (CO201- order from [www.4-hmall.org](http://www.4-hmall.org) )

4-H Horse Member Advancement Checklist - (EM2790)

Equestrian Helmet Safety – (EM4849E)

4-H Horse Contest Guide – (PNW574)

Horse Judging Guide – (PNW575)

The 4-H Horse Project – (PNW587)

Beginning Horsemanship – (EM4842E)

4-H Driving Manual – PNW229

Hunt Seat Manual – PNW0488

8. In 4-H, competition is for members rather than parents. All horses are to be cared for and groomed by the exhibitor. In cases where the exhibitors are too young and/or physically incapable of doing the work, assistance by other club members may be provided. These exceptions should be cleared with the club leader or the Division

Superintendent. Parents and leaders cannot assist members during Junior Horse Fair competition, except in safety situations.

9. File a horse identification certificate for each horse being carried as a 4-H Horse Project with the County Extension Office by **5:00 p.m., April 30<sup>th</sup>** to be eligible to exhibit the animal in the Junior Division of the Kittitas County Fair. Certificates need to be signed every year. In the case where a horse, for which a certificate is filed, dies or is injured, making it unable to be shown at the Junior Division Horse Show of the Kittitas County Fair, a horse certificate may be filed on a replacement horse up until **July 1<sup>st</sup>, at 5:00 p.m.** the new certificate should be accompanied by a veterinarian certification that the original horse is injured and/or a letter as to the reason for the replacement. The replacement horse shall be owned or under lease as prescribed by the Kittitas County 4-H Horse Project. **The member can ride in the local Fair, but cannot go on to ride the replacement horse at State Fair. Hardship cases after July 1<sup>st</sup> must ride with their number turned.**

A certificate may be filed on an unborn foal that will be a 4-H Project by listing the name of the dam, sire and date of service.

10. Keep a record of their 4-H Horse Project in a 4-H Record Book.

11. All horses must be owned or leased and cared for by the exhibitor 90 days prior to the Kittitas County Junior Horse Fair. Approved Kittitas County Lease forms must be used. If leased, it shall be leased under the following conditions: There shall be a written lease giving the 4-H member full possession and care of the animal for a period of at least April 30 to October 1. The lease shall be signed by the owner of the horse, 4-H member leasing the horse, a parent of the member, and the leader. A copy of the lease is to be filed with the horse certificate.

12. Members are required to participate in one Kittitas County 4-H Horse Leader sponsored judging event to be eligible to compete at the Kittitas County Junior Horse Fair and complete the 4-H year. There will be three divisions/sections –Junior, Intermediate and Senior for intermediate and senior members to be eligible to judge in the state event, they must judge in two county events completing oral reasons at both.

13. Members are required to give a demonstration in the Horse Project area at the club or county level.

14. The Junior Horse Show of the Kittitas County Fair provides an opportunity for the members to evaluate their progress and accomplishments in the horse project. It should be viewed as more than just another horse show. Members are encouraged to participate in the Kittitas County Junior Horse Fair, but are not required to participate in order to complete their project.

15. Showmanship – 4-H Horse members enrolled in Horsemanship projects are required to participate in at least one county 4-H sponsored showmanship event. All members participating at Kittitas County Junior Horse Fair must participate in at least one showmanship at Kittitas County Junior Horse Fair. Intermediate and Senior members intending to go to State Fair will need to participate in showmanship at the Kittitas County Junior Horse Fair. The member must get permission from both the leader and 4-H Horse Panel to be excused for sufficient reason. Member with a physical, mental, or sensory disability may complete Showmanship at a safer opportunity

16. A green horse will be identified as a horse under 6 years old that has not been shown in a shank bit. An aged green horse will be identified as a horse 6 years old or older that has not been shown in a shank bit.

17. Horses other than green horses shown in a snaffle bit: Please refer to the **“PACIFIC NORTHWEST 4-H HORSE CONTEST GUIDE”** for rules and regulations regarding 4-H policy for Washington 4-H horse programs.

18. “First-year” horse members shall not be allowed to show a mare and foal without prior approval of the 4-H Horse Panel. All members choosing to show a mare and foal will have leader’s approval and must have an approval sheet submitted. All foals being shown must be halter broke and trained to leave mare and at all times must be in hand or in confinement. Mares must be handled by a competent handler. Either the superintendent or the judge (with the judge’s decision overriding in the ring) may excuse a handler for unsafe conditions.

19. All **first year** horse project members are **required** to complete **Level 1, Units #1, 2, and 4** and all **second year** horse project members are **required** to complete **Level 1, Units #3, 5, and 6** of the Horse Quality Assurance and Animal Care program and exhibit the completed form in their record book with the permanent record.

20. All 4-H horse project members are required to include the “4-H Horse Member Advancement Checklist” EM2790 as part of the youth’s project record book. The basic advancement program is divided into nine steps, with all skills required in each step. Each step builds on the previous step; they must be completed consecutively. Youth can practice skills for higher steps while they are working on skills for lower steps. But they cannot complete the higher step until they have qualified for all preceding steps. Most of the information to complete these skills is in extension bulletins listed in EM2778, 4-H Projects and Publications.

The Advancement Program allows young people to work at their own pace and have opportunities for immediate success. As each skill is completed, initial and date the skill. When an individual has completed the skills for each step, he or she qualifies for an advancement certificate for that step.

21. **All** Kittitas County 4-H Horse members, parents, and leaders are **required** to read and sign the Commitment to Excellence form at the beginning of the new 4-H year. Members should keep this signed original in their 4-H Record Books with the horse certificates.

22. Equestrian Helmets. All Washington 4-H members and non-member youths participating in all equine projects and activities must wear American Society Testing Materials (ASTM) and Safety Engineering Institute (SEI) approved headgear when riding or driving. The headgear must have a chin strap and be properly fitted. Additionally, all equestrians (including adults) are strongly encouraged to wear protective headgear at all times when riding or working around horses.

23. All Around Showmanship/Round Robin participation at the Kittitas County Fair is determined by the highest scoring horse or pony per age group. In the event the highest scoring youth cannot participate, the second highest will move into the vacated position.

24. The Hippology team can consist of 8 members per age group, all can compete, but the designated team of four members will be determined by county staff or faculty. Practices will be open to anyone enrolled in 4-H, including juniors.

24. Kittitas County Horse policies supplement Kittitas County 4-H Policy. Differentiation between Horse and Council policies shall be resolved by the County 4-H Council.

25. The intent of horse policy amendments is to improve the youth program for the benefit of all youth members.

- In September it will be announced that anyone having proposed amendments to horse policy should submit said proposal to the Extension Office prior to the October Horse Leaders Panel meeting. This will be the only opportunity every year to submit changes or amendments to Horse Policy.
- First reading of any proposed amendments to the horse policy will be at the October meeting.
- Second reading of any proposed amendments to the horse policy will be at the November meeting.
- Vote on horse policy and any proposed amendments will take place following the second reading.

## **ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED FOR 4-H HORSE CLUB MEMBERS**

1. Two county judging events
2. Spring 4-H Horse show
3. Club-sponsored 4-H horse shows
4. County demonstration contests
5. Kittitas County 4-H Horse Training Day
6. Kittitas County Fair Junior Horse Show
7. Horsemanship & Safety Training Day
8. Monday Night Rides
9. Kittitas County 4-H Horse Pre-show

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR EXHIBITING AT THE KITTITAS COUNTY JUNIOR HORSE FAIR**

1. Must have submitted an up-to-date 4-H Record Book by required date.
2. Must have given a 4-H demonstration during the current 4-H year.
3. Must have been an active 4-H member and have met the 4-H club's requirements for attendance at club meetings.
4. Must have attended and completed at least one Kittitas County 4-H Horse Leader sponsored county.
5. File a horse identification certificate by April 30<sup>th</sup> of current year.
6. Must have attended and participated at a minimum of one of the following events:
  1. Bits & Buckles Fall or Spring Show
  2. 4-H Leaders Show
  3. Training Days
  4. Pre-Fair/July Show

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETING THE 4-H YEAR IN HORSE**

1. Do not miss more than three club meetings per year (Business meeting, not practice or work meetings).
2. Give at least one demonstration in horse.
3. Participate in at least one horse showmanship event.
4. Complete a project to leader's satisfaction.
5. Complete a record book prior to fair.
6. Participate in one Kittitas County 4-H Horse Leader sponsored horse judging event.

Revised 11-09; Approved by Council 4-10

Revised 11-10; Approved by Horse Panel 1-10-11; Approved by 4-H Council 1-25-11

Revised 11-12; Approved by Horse Panel 11-19-12; Approved by 4-H Council 11-27-12

Revised 1-14; Approved by Horse Panel 1-13-14; Approved by 4-H Council 1-28-14

Revised 1-15; Approved by Horse Panel 1-26-15; Approved by 4-H Council 1-27-15

Revised 1-17; Approved by Horse Panel 1-9-17; Approved by 4-H Council 1-31-17

Revised 11-13-17; Approved by Horse Panel

Revised 10-14-19; Approved by Horse Panel

Revised 5-9-22; Approved by Horse Panel

## **Appendix A**

### **KITTITAS COUNTY 4-H JUDGING GUIDELINES**

1. Two judging events will be held in the spring.
2. Each 4-H member must attend one county horse judging event to be eligible to compete at the Kittitas County Junior Horse Fair and complete the 4-H year.
3. Premium points, based on the Danish system, for county judging will be awarded on the individuals highest judging score.
4. Both judging events will have the same number of possible points.
5. To determine final placing in the intermediate and senior divisions, the scores of the two judging events will be added. To qualify for the State judging team, you must attend both judging contests.
6. The county may send up to 10 intermediates and 10 seniors in the Equine Judging contest at the Washington State 4-H Fair. Only intermediate and senior teams are allowed to compete at the state judging competition. All participants must have received a blue or red ribbon placing in the county qualifying event.
7. Members of the intermediate and senior teams eligible to judge at state will be selected as follows:  
Final placing in age division, alternates will be contacted as space is available.  
Must have done oral reasons and at both judging contests.  
Must commit to participate at the State 4-H Fair in Puyallup  
Must complete both of the county judging events
8. State judging team members will be asked to sign a letter of intent to compete at state. The letter will give the date of the state judging in September in Puyallup and will outline activities that will be held over the summer to train participants.
9. To determine the high point judging trophy given at fair, both scores from the county judging events will be added together.
10. Banners for each age division (junior, intermediate and senior) will be awarded to the individuals who have the highest combined scores of the two judging events.
11. Participants are to remember that any talking at the judging events will disqualify them.
12. Oral reasons will be offered at both of the judging events.
13. It is required that judging participants wear boots to enter arena for judging, therefore participants without this type of footwear will only be allowed to judge from the bleachers.

## **Appendix B**

### **Kittitas County 4-H State Fair Qualifying Guidelines**

1. The qualifying show for Washington State 4-H Fair is the Kittitas County Junior Horse Fair.
2. Qualification is based upon an objective standard applied to all entries:  
Blue in Showmanship/Blue in Class,  
Blue in Showmanship/Red in Class,  
Red in Showmanship/Blue in Class,

In the case of more entries qualifying than we have been allotted, placing will determine order, if ties exist using this method they will be broken by using the judging sheets from the qualifying event to determine the qualifying member. These entries will be verified and certified by County Extension staff prior to submission.

These procedures are intended to insure both fairness to the youth members and integrity of the Kittitas County 4-H program in accordance with State and County policy.

The horse shown at the State 4-H Fair must be the same horse shown in the qualifying show and that participated in showmanship at the county level – by the same exhibitor.

In addition to the Kittitas County 4-H State Fair Qualifying Guidelines, Kittitas County will use the following criteria to select State Qualifiers for Performance, Western Game, Harness Driving, and Dressage Divisions.

If a 4-H youth is signing up to qualify in two events and using two different horses, they need to let the Extension Office know which horse they will be using in a showmanship class from the current year 4-H Spring Show or 4-H Horse Pre-Show and which horse they will be using for the showmanship class at the Kittitas County Junior Horse Fair. Each horse must also be entered and compete in the appropriate Performance, Western Game, Harness Driving or Dressage class at the Kittitas County Junior Horse Fair.

Youth that want to participate in multiple sections of State 4-H Fair will choose the section they want to participate in most. Then in the other sections that they qualify in and wish to travel to State 4-H Fair will be on available spots after others have filled that section. If all the State 4-H Fair slots are filled up in the second section that they want to qualify in, they will be signed up as alternates.

#### **Kittitas County Requirements:**

Submit a Competition for State 4-H Fair intent entry form prior to Kittitas County Junior Horse Fair.

#### **Educational Criteria**

- 1) Kittitas County Horse Judging Contest – Top Danish ribbon points from one horse judging event. Danish point system Blue – 3 points; Red – 2 points; White – 0 point.
- 2) Record Book determined up-to-date in July/Aug by the record book Reviewing Committee.
- 3) Must have been an active 4-H member and have met the 4-H club's requirements for attendance at club meetings.

#### **Showmanship Criteria**

Because showmanship is required for each discipline and each age division will only have one showmanship class at the Kittitas County Junior Horse Fair, a member who is trying to qualify more than one horse in more than one discipline will be allowed an extra showmanship event per added discipline and horse.

#### Performance:

- 1) Showmanship ribbon points (refer to following points chart).
- 2) Top 4 scores from performance classes offered at State Fair – Saddle Seat Equitation, Hunter Seat Equitation, Stock Seat Equitation, Bareback Equitation, Discipline Rail Western, Discipline Rail English, and Trail (refer to following points chart). Must be the same horse/rider combination.
- 3) Highest Showmanship points will break a tie.
- 4) The qualifying show for State Fair will be the Kittitas County Junior Horse Fair.
- 5) Youth that have qualified and attending State Fair will be required to attend a mandatory meeting on Monday prior to Labor Day Weekend. Nonattendance will forfeit the right to go to State 4-H Fair and the next alternate will be moved up to the open State Fair slot.

#### Western Games:

- 1) Showmanship ribbon points (refer to following points chart).
- 2) Top 4 placings in four different games. Top times taken and tabulated from Kittitas County Junior Horse Fair. The tabulation will come from those gaming classes which are offered at State Fair – Texas Barrel Race, Pole Bending, Two Barrel Flag Race, Idaho Figure Eight Stake Race, Pole Key Race and International Flags (refer to following points chart). Must be the same horse/rider combination in all gaming classes.
- 3) Highest Showmanship points will break a tie.
- 4) The qualifying show for State Fair will be the Kittitas County Junior Horse Fair.
- 5) Youth that have qualified and attending State Fair will be required to attend a mandatory meeting on Monday prior to Labor Day Weekend. Nonattendance will forfeit the right to go to State 4-H Fair and the next alternate will be moved up to the open State Fair slot.

#### Harness

- 1) Showmanship ribbon points (refer to following points chart).
- 2) Top 2 scores from harness classes offered at State Fair – Reinsmanship, Precision Driving I or Open, and Pleasure Driving (refer to following points chart). Must be the same horse/rider combination.
- 3) Highest Showmanship points will break a tie.
- 4) The qualifying show for State Fair will be the Kittitas County Junior Horse Fair.
- 5) Youth that have qualified and attending State Fair will be required to attend a mandatory meeting on Monday prior to Labor Day Weekend. Nonattendance will forfeit the right to go to State 4-H Fair and the next alternate will be moved up to the open State Fair slot.

#### Dressage

- 1) Showmanship ribbon points (refer to following points chart).
- 2) Top 2 scores from dressage classes offered at State Fair – Dressage, Dressage Seat Equitation, and Hunter Seat Equitation. Must be the same horse/rider combination.
- 3) Highest Showmanship points will break a tie.
- 4) The qualifying show for State Fair will be the Kittitas County Junior Horse Fair.
- 5) Youth that have qualified and attending State Fair will be required to attend a mandatory meeting on Monday prior to Labor Day Weekend. Nonattendance will forfeit the right to go to State 4-H Fair and the next alternate will be moved up to the open State Fair slot.



### Showmanship Points System

Danish Points	
Blue	3 points
Red	2 points
White	0 point

Placing Points	
Grand Champion	12 points
Reserve Champion	11 points
Blue 1 <sup>st</sup>	10 points
Blue 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9 points
Blue 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8 points
Blue 4 <sup>th</sup>	7 points
Blue 5 <sup>th</sup>	6 points
Blue 6 <sup>th</sup>	5 points
Blue 7 <sup>th</sup>	4 points
Blue 8 <sup>th</sup>	3 points
Blue 9 <sup>th</sup>	2 points
Blue 10 <sup>th</sup>	1 point

### Performance, Dressage and Harness Driving Points System

Danish Points	
Blue	3 points
Red	2 points
White	0 point

Placing Points	
Blue 1 <sup>st</sup>	10 points
Blue 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9 points
Blue 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8 points
Blue 4 <sup>th</sup>	7 points
Blue 5 <sup>th</sup>	6 points
Blue 6 <sup>th</sup>	5 points
Blue 7 <sup>th</sup>	4 points
Blue 8 <sup>th</sup>	3 points
Blue 9 <sup>th</sup>	2 points
Blue 10 <sup>th</sup>	1 point

### Gaming Points System

Danish Points	
Blue	3 points
Red	2 points
White	0 point

Placing Points	
Blue 1 <sup>st</sup> Fastest Time	10 points
Blue 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fastest Time	9 points
Blue 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fastest Time	8 points
Blue 4 <sup>th</sup> Fastest Time	7 points
Blue 5 <sup>th</sup> Fastest Time	6 points
Blue 6 <sup>th</sup> Fastest Time	5 points
Blue 7 <sup>th</sup> Fastest Time	4 points
Blue 8 <sup>th</sup> Fastest Time	3 points
Blue 9 <sup>th</sup> Fastest Time	2 points
Blue 10 <sup>th</sup> Fastest Time	1 point