

State 4-H Horse Communications Contest Rules (1/1/2014)

GENERAL RULES:

1. **Eligibility** – Youth can only participate in one division per contest year. Each contestant must be currently enrolled in a 4-H Horse project in the county they represent. Junior contestants are eligible to compete in this contest in subsequent years. Senior contestants are eligible to compete in this contest and in the same division in subsequent years as long as they were not the high individual overall (Public Speaking or Individual Presentation) or a member of the high team overall (Team Presentation). Senior Contestants that were high individual overall in their respective division are not eligible to compete in the same division in subsequent years. The only exception would be if they were also on another champion team the same year. In that case, youth must choose which event they will represent Ohio in at the Eastern National Contest and could repeat the same division of this contest in subsequent years. Senior Contestants that are high individual overall in their divisions are expected to represent Ohio at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup.
2. **Age** – Senior contestants must be 14 years of age, but not yet have achieved their 19th birthday on January 1st of the current year. Junior contestants must be at least 8 years of age and in third grade and under 14 years of age as of January 1st of the current year.
3. **Divisions** – Public Speaking; Individual Presentation; Team Presentation. A “team” will consist of two members.
4. **Speeches** – Speech topics must pertain to the horse industry, be horse related, and be original and factual. Visual aids of any kind will not be allowed (posters, items, equipment, etc).
5. **Individual & Team Presentations** – Two tables and a chalkboard to display posters will be available for contestants. All presentation subjects must pertain to the horse industry, be horse related, and be original and factual. Because of the indoor facilities, presentations must not involve the use of live animals; however, model animals may be used. A LCD projector will be available for PowerPoint or DVD use.
6. **General Rules** – Brief notes may be used if desired; however, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant/team at the discretion of the judges. A public address system will not be used during the contest.
7. **Time** – Speeches should be at least seven (7) minutes and no more than ten (10) minutes in length for seniors; at least four (4) minutes and no more than seven (7) minutes for Juniors. Individual Presentations should be at least nine (9) minutes and no more than twelve (12) minutes in length for Seniors; at least six (6) minutes and no more than nine (9) minutes for Juniors. Team Presentations should be at least ten (10) minutes and no more than fifteen (15) minutes in length for seniors; at least seven (7) minutes and no more than twelve (12) minutes for juniors. **A three (3) point penalty will be imposed for being under the minimum time allowed or over the maximum time allowed per division.**
8. **References** – Contestants should cite their major references at the conclusion of the speech or Individual/Team presentation. Reference time will not be counted in the allotted time.
9. **Questions** – Only the judges may ask questions.
10. **Scoring** – Judges will consider applicable questions listed under each section of the score sheet. Ties between contestants will be broken by: 1) the accumulated delivery score, 2) the accumulated organization score, or 3) the accumulated content and accuracy scores.
11. **Schedule** – Registration for juniors and seniors will be from 8:30 -9:00 am. Contest will begin at 9:00 am. Junior and Senior contests will be held simultaneously in separate rooms.