

# State Horse Judging Contest (1/1/2019)

## General Rules:

1. Registration forms **MUST** be in by the deadline date. Absolutely no late entries will be accepted. Registration forms must be signed by appropriate the Extension professional or FFA instructor to be eligible for competition.
2. If approved by the 4-H educator or FFA instructor involved, adjoining counties may combine their youth to produce a team if either county does not have enough youth to make a team and if these youth have participated in training workouts together.
3. All electronic devices are prohibited and any youth caught using one will be excused from the contest.
4. Contestants will be divided into groups for the contest and will remain with their assigned group throughout the contest and taking of oral reasons. While the contest is in progress, there is to be no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except as directed by the Superintendent or his/her representative. Offending contestants may be disqualified.
5. Contestants will be allowed 15 minutes to judge each class.
6. Hats, flip flops or sandals that do not cover the toe, shorts or any clothing bearing identification of contestant or county affiliation is strictly prohibited. Professional dress pertaining to horse show judging attire is encouraged.
7. Contestants may use clipboards, notebooks, plain paper, score sheets and any material pertaining to horse judging while at the contest. **Please note that this rule differs from national contest rules.**
8. Junior contestants will place the same classes as senior contestants.
  - a. Senior contestants are required to give three to four sets of oral reasons.
  - b. Junior contestants are required to give two sets of oral reasons.
  - c. Two minutes will be allowed to give oral reasons to the judge.
9. Awards will be presented to the top five teams and the top ten individuals.

## Team and Contestant Eligibility:

10. Each county may enter two (2) junior and two (2) senior teams of four (4) contestants. If four contestants are designated, all will participate and the lowest scoring individual will be automatically designated as alternate. The alternate's scores will not be included in team scores but alternates will be eligible for individual awards. The team may be selected by any procedure that the county deems to be appropriate. Team members must be currently enrolled in a 4-H or FFA horse project.
  - a. Junior Contestants must be at least 8 years of age and in third grade and under 14 years of age as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
    1. Junior Contestants are eligible to compete in this contest in subsequent years.
  - b. Senior Contestants must be at least 14 years of age on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year, and not be more than 18 years of age on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
    1. **As this contest determines which contestants will represent Ohio at national contests, ONLY senior 4-H members are allowed to compete in the senior division to comply with national eligibility requirements.**
    2. Senior contestants may be enrolled in or have completed freshman and sophomore level college equine and/or communications courses. However, senior contestants may not be enrolled in or have completed junior or senior level college equine and/or communications courses. In addition, senior contestants are ineligible to participate in the state contest if they are or were a member of an intercollegiate horse judging or communications team.
    3. Champion teams are expected to represent Ohio at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup.
    4. Senior Contestants on the Champion team are not eligible to compete in this contest in subsequent years. The only exception would be if they were also on another champion team or champion speaker(s) in the speaking contest the same year. In that case, youth must choose which event they will represent Ohio in at the Eastern National Contest and could repeat this contest in subsequent years.