

Missouri 4-H State Hippology Contest

General Contest Information

- Missouri 4-H State Hippology Contest is open to all individually enrolled Missouri 4-H members 8-18 years old. There is no limit on the number of members or teams a county may enter in the contest. Youth and coaches must register using 4-H Online.
- Individual entries are welcome and will be eligible to compete for the top individual award. These individual entries will be grouped into a team in order to solve the team problem. This is for experience purposes only and they will not be eligible for the team award. Hippology is a “team event” and a team is defined as not more than 4, but not less than 3 members.
- **AGE BREAKS:** Junior Division 8-13; Senior Division 14-18 as of Dec. 31 of the current 4-H program year.
- Participants and coaches must register through 4-H Online by the set deadline. No late registrations are accepted.
- After registration closes, youth and coaches will receive an informational email with all the details of the contest.
- Missouri 4-H receives registration payments by credit/debit card or check. 4-H Online will receive your payment using credit/debit card. If paying by check, send your payment to your County Extension Office. Check with your county 4-H staff for whom you should make the check payable to.
- No refund will be granted.
- Lunch will be provided for all contestants, coaches, and workers that register.
- While the contest is in progress, there shall be no conferring between the contestants, or between contestants and anyone else except as authorized by the contest superintendent or their representatives.
- Any Missouri 4-H member that has competed at the National Hippology Judging Contest will ONLY be able to compete at the Missouri State Contest as an Individual. They will be eligible for Individual Awards; however, their scores will not be able to compete for any Team Awards. This includes a team total score or the Missouri All-Star Team.

Contest Components

- The contest will consist of four components:
 - **Test phase:** Questions may be multiple-choice or true false. Contestants may be required to look at slides and/or objects and identify certain facts (for example: color

- of the horse, blemishes, markings). 40 minutes allowed for test phase. Up to 50 questions for juniors and 100 questions for seniors.
- **Stations:** There may be 5-10 stations for a total of 100 points. Each station requires the contestant to look at a group of objects and be able to identify what it is and may be required to tell its purpose. Stations might include various types or parts of saddles, tools and equipment, grains or forages, internal or external parasites, blemishes or unsoundness, ages of equine teeth, breeds, colors, markings, reproduction, genetics, or health of a horse.
 - **Judging Phase:** Contestants will place up to two halter and two performance classes. Depending on resources available, only one halter and one performance class may be judged. No oral reasons. 10 minutes will be given for each class.
 - **Problem Solving:** All teams will be presented with the same problem. Each team will have equal time to discuss the problem among themselves, immediately after which they will have to present an oral solution or series of suggested procedures relative to the problem. Teams will have 10 minutes to prepare and 10 minutes to present (7 minutes to deliver and 3 minutes for questions). No pre-printed materials will be allowed. 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 officials may ask questions of any or all of the team members to clarify the presentation. Examples of team problems might include:
 - Balancing a horse's ration.
 - Farm Management recommendations for specific horse operations.
 - Considerations for the establishment of a new horse facility.
 - Recommendations for selecting, locating, and purchasing horses for specific uses,
 - Behavior problems-causes, management of and corrections.
 - Breeding and/or leasing contracts-specific clauses for insurance, liability, payments, care, termination, transport, etc.
 - Teaching lessons in horse management to a group of 9-11 year old beginner 4-H'ers.
 - Explanation of use or assembly of specific equipment will be considered.
 - Demonstrate skill or ability to use specific equipment.
 - Team problem scores will not be included in determining the rank of individuals in the contest but will be added to the team scores of the other three phases to determine overall team standings.

Team or Individual Determination

- All individuals competing in the State 4-H Hippology Contest (Junior OR Senior division) must be registered in one of two ways:
 1. Under a “County Team” (as defined below) **OR**
 2. As an “Individual Contestant”
- Upon registration, participants will select either “compete as an individual” or “compete on a team.” If the team option is picked, they’ll need to specify their team name and coach’s name. A team code for scantron use will be assigned to their team.
- **“COUNTY TEAM” is defined as the formation of a team based on the members primary county of 4-H enrollment or an adjoining county/counties where members are enrolled (primary county).**
 - The primary county must be designated and used to create a county team. Team members are determined by their primary county of enrollment. Teams may be formed from the primary county or a county that directly touches or adjoins the primary county.
 - *Example – a “Linn County” team consisting of 2 contestants from Linn County, 1 contestant from Sullivan County, and 1 contestant from Grundy County would be permissible.*
 - Teams can have up to four (4) individuals. Team scores are determined by the top three (3) individual scores of a designated county team as defined above.
 - SPIN (Special Interest) club members are invited to compete but must be individually enrolled in Missouri 4-H. The primary county of enrollment will be used to determine your team eligibility.
- Multiple teams can exist from one county, there is no limit to the number of teams a county can bring, as long as each team follows the definition of a “county teams’ as explained above.
- Coaches must work with the 4-H State Agriculture Educator to confirm team rosters and team code prior to the contest.
 - If an extenuating circumstance occurs, a team member may be substituted by another team member prior to the start of the contest, but no additional members can be added after the registration deadline.

Scoring

- Overall individual scores are composed of points from the test phase, stations, and judging phase.
- Team scores are determined by the top three (3) individual scores of a designated county team as defined above. Team scores will include team problem scores.

- Tie-Breaking – All ties overall, individual, or team, will be broken using the following sequence:
 - Examination Scores
 - Station Scores
 - Judging Scores
 - 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 needed, the scores at each station, in order may be used.

State Awards and National Recognition

- Prizes are TBA closer to the contest date and are dependent on funding.
- Top 3 teams and top 5 individuals will be recognized in each of the Junior and Senior divisions. Team and individual awards and recognition on specific contest components are dependent on funding.
- The top 10 of the 8-10-year-old participants will be recognized. Those individuals are still eligible for awards in the Junior (8-13) division.
- National Contest Qualifications
 - The top senior team will have the opportunity to represent Missouri nationally at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup in Louisville, KY. The team will also have the opportunity to compete at the American Quarter Horse Congress in Ohio at their discretion.
 - An All-Star Team will be formed and have the opportunity to represent Missouri nationally at the All American Quarter House Congress in Ohio.
 - The All-Star Team is made up of, at minimum, the four (4) highest placing youth (team or individual contest enrollment) from the senior division at the state contest that ARE NOT already participating on a county team going to a national contest. If one of those four youth is unable to attend the national contest, the next highest scoring youth that is not already participating nationally with a county team, will be contacted and so on down the scores until each of the slots are filled. The parents/guardians/coaches of the 1st and 2nd highest placing individuals will be asked to serve as the coach for the team. If they are unable to do so, the other parents/coaches/guardians will be asked.
 - The Missouri 4-H State Office will register and pay entry fees for each team for their respective national contests.
- If a county team qualifies for a national contest, that national contest team roster can only consist of those youth that completed the state contest.