

Missouri 4-H State Horse Judging Contest

General Contest Information

- Missouri 4-H State Horse Judging Contest is open to all individually enrolled Missouri 4-H members 8-18 years old. There is no limit on the number of members a county may enter in the contest. Youth and coaches must register using 4-H Online.
- **Age Breaks:** Junior Division 8-13; Senior Division 14-18 as of Dec. 31st of the current 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 information email with 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 Horse 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.

Team vs. Individual Determination

- All individuals competing in the State 4-H Horse Judging 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 member’s 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. The top THREE final scores on contest day will comprise the total team score.
 - If there are more than four (4) individuals working with a group, we recommend that a second team be created so that everyone can participate on a team.
 - 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 team” 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.

Contest Components

- The contest will consist of two (2) components:
 - **Placing Classes** – Approximately eight (8) classes of four individuals will be judged. There will be approximately four (4) halter classes and approximately four (4) performance classes. If suitable horses are available, the halter classes will consist of stallion, gelding, and mare classes. Approximately 15 minutes will be allowed for contestants to judge the classes, make observations, take notes, and fill out their cards.
 - **Oral Reasons** – Juniors will deliver one (1) set and Seniors will deliver two (2) sets. All contestants will give set of reasons on a halter class; seniors will deliver an additional set on a performance class. Two minutes will be allowed to give oral reasons to

judges. Contestants shall be notified prior to each class whether or not reasons will be required.

Rules

- A small clipboard and/or notebook and pencils with erasers are essential tools for this contest. The use of notes or any other resources are prohibited during the contest.
- Horses will not be handled by the contestants, but time will be provided in halter classes for close inspection and to observe the horses at a walk and trot.
- All tack and attire will be considered legal providing it is used properly.
- Official placings will be given at the conclusion of the contest prior to results.

Scoring

- Overall individual scores are composed of points from halter placing classes, performance placing classes, and reasons.
- Team scores are determined by the top three (3) individual scores of a designated county team as defined above.
- Tie-Breaking – All ties overall, individual, or team will be broken using the following sequences –
 - If tied for a division award in Halter or Performance, the contestant/team having the highest reason score in that division will be listed first.
 - If ties for an award in reasons, the contestant/team having the lowest placing score on the reasons' classes will be listed first.
 - If tied for an individual/team overall award, the contest/team having the highest overall reasons score shall be listed first.

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 and reasons are dependent on funding.
- The top 10 of the 8-10-year-old participants will also 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 Round-Up 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 Horse 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/guardians/coaches 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.