

4-H Horse Public Speaking Contest Rules

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Horse Public Speaking contest provides an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H horse projects to demonstrate their knowledge of equine-related subject matter while improving their public speaking skills. This is a competitive contest where attitudes of friendliness and fairness prevail. The horse public speaking contest is an educational experience for participants and spectators, and provides skills that will be used in many settings.

1. Individuals will compete in their 4-H age divisions
2. There is no registration limit on how many individuals can compete from a county in the public speaking contest

Contest Rules

1. The subject matter must pertain to the horse industry. Speeches not appropriately related to the horse industry can be disqualified at the discretion of the judges.
2. No visual aids may be used.
3. No coaching from parents or coaches during the speech. Once the individual has started their speech, they may not receive assistance from any coach, parent, audience member, or other person. The penalty for violating this rule is disqualification.
4. Contestants may use notes. However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judges.
5. A public address system will NOT be used during the contest, but a podium will be provided.
6. During the competition, the contestants may introduce themselves by name, state and speech topic.
7. Speeches should be 7-10 minutes in length for the senior division, 6 – 8 minutes for intermediates, and a minimum of 5 minutes for juniors.
 - A. Three points will be deducted from the total score on each judge's score sheet for every minute (or fraction of a minute) under 7 minutes or over 10 minutes for senior division.
 - B. Juniors and intermediates will not have a penalty for going over their time limit (up to 10 minutes) but will be penalized 3 points for every minute or fraction of a minute below the designated time limit.
 - C. After the individual has been introduced by the superintendent, the time will start once the contestant begins to speak.
8. Contestants should cite their major reference materials at the end of their speech. This time will not be counted in the allotted time.
9. Judges will ask their questions first, and then the audience members may be given the opportunity to ask additional questions. Judges will not take the questions and answers during the audience time into consideration. Question time will not be counted in the allotted time. Contestants should repeat

the question, and then answer it.

10. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing and announced at the coach's meeting.
11. No videotaping or photographing of presentation is allowed during the contest. A videographer will be provided by the contest. If one is not available it will be announced at the coach's meeting and other arrangements can be made.
12. Improper attire will be a violation and appropriate points deducted on the score card. Improper attire will be determined at the discretion of the judges. Business attire or dress appropriate to the speech is acceptable.
13. Three judges will be used and judges will score each entry independently and assign scores. After all presentations are presented and score are tabulated, judges may confer and discuss evaluations. Each judge assigns his or her final scores and then cumulative final scores are tabulated to determine the final placings. Contest superintendents may review and check tabulation of scores for mathematical accuracy.
14. The judge's scores are final; however ties will be broken by the following order: 1) judges' accumulated delivery score 2) by the judges' accumulated organization score and 3) on the contest and accuracy scores.
15. The judges will use the attached scorecards. Contestants should review them carefully and understand how they will be scored throughout their presentation.

AWARDS

The top individual in each age division will receive an award.

Utah 4-H Horse Classics

Name _____ County/State _____

Speech Title: _____

4-H HORSE PUBLIC SPEAKING SCORE SHEET		
	SCORE	COMMENTS
Introduction 10 pts. 1. Did the introduction serve to create interest in the subject? 2. Was introduction short and to the point?		
Organization 15 pts. 1. Were the main points easy to follow? 2. Were the main points arranged in the best order? 3. Were sentences short, easy to understand? 4. Was speech interesting?		
Content and Accuracy 20 pts. 1. Were facts and information accurate? 2. Was there enough information concerning the subject? 3. Was credit given to sources of information, if appropriate? 4. Was content appropriately related to the horse industry?		
Stage Presence 15 pts. 1. Was speaker neat and appropriately dressed? 2. Was the speaker friendly? 3. Did speaker talk directly to the audience? 4. Did speaker look at audience? 5. Was posture erect, but not stiff? 6. Did speaker refrain from leaning on podium? 7. Did speaker seem relaxed and at ease?		
Delivery 20 pts. 1. Did speaker have appropriate voice control? 2. Were all words pronounced correctly? 3. Did speaker's facial expressions reflect the mood of the speech? 4. If notes were used, was it done without detracting from the speech? 5. Did speaker seem to choose words at the time they were spoken? (Avoid a memorized or read-type delivery).		
General 10 pts. 1. Did speaker convey to the audience a sense of wanting to communicate? 2. Did speech reflect the thoughts and personality of the speaker?		
Conclusion 10 pts. 1. Was the conclusion short and interesting? 2. Did the conclusion properly wrap up the speech? 3. Could the speaker handle questions easily?		
Ideal times Junior: Minimum 5 minutes in length Intermediate: 6 – 8 minutes in length Senior: 7 - 10 minutes in length (-3 points per minute over or under)	TOTAL _____ TIME _____ PLACING _____	

JUDGE: _____