

## North Dakota State 4-H Horse Public Speaking Rules



### General Information

The North Dakota 4-H horse public speaking contest is designed to encourage youth to discuss something related to horses and the horse industry. **No visual aids are to be used in this contest.** This program is designed to give 4-H'ers experience in the preparation and delivery of a horse-related speech. This contest requires 4-H'ers to recognize, organize and present information on a horse-related topic. The timed speech must be orderly and thorough. This contest fosters confidence in youths' ability to present information in a logical and concise manner, building their public speaking skills. 4-H'ers must acquire the ability to speak convincingly in public, expressing ideas effectively with poise and confidence. Furthermore, by participating in this contest, youth will increase their level of equine knowledge. Besides becoming responsible and educated horse people, this contest helps youth build strong leadership skills, and gain valuable communication and decision-making skills.

The winning 4-H senior individual will have a choice to represent North Dakota at the Western National Roundup 4-H horse public speaking contest in Denver, Colo.

### Objectives and Outcomes:

- Stimulate learning in equine science and the horse industry
- Youth develop positive interests and attitudes about equine science and related careers
- Youth gain a base of knowledge of equine science projects
- Youth will utilize skills and abilities to solve everyday situations
- Reward 4-H members for knowledge gained in a subject matter area
- Provide a competitive setting where attitudes of friendliness and fairness prevail
- Participants will process information, analyze complex problems and make informed decisions regarding current equine health, safety, welfare, ethics and other equine industry-related issues
- Youth develop teamwork, self-confidence, public speaking and decision-making skills
- An increased number of participants seek higher education opportunities and careers related to animal or equine science

### Contact:

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## Preregistration Required

1. Registration will go through 4H-Online.
2. Register by **late registration date to avoid extra charges**. Changes and substitutions may be made at registration on the day of the contest.
3. **Lunch is provided**; add the number of lunches needed for coaches/chaperones/etc.
4. **Registration cost: \$5\*** per individual/team. *\*Costs are subject to change based on expenses that year and the area where contest is hosted*

Make checks payable to **4-H Foundation** and send to:

NDSU, ATTN: Holly Halvorson, Dept. 7280 FLC 219. PO Box 6050, Fargo, ND 58108.

## Lodging

If a host hotel is secured, those details will be shared prior to the contest.

**The deadline for the winning state 4-H horse public speaking team to decide to go to nationals: July 1**

## Contestants and Eligibility

1. Contestants must be enrolled in North Dakota 4-H (4honline) as a **full-time member** in the county they represent. **Short-term 4-H members are not eligible to compete at the state level.**
2. Participants may enter as an individual or as a team. A team consists of two members.
3. Contestants in the **senior** division must be 14 to 18 years old as of Dec. 31, 2020. The **junior** division is for members 8 years of age before Sept. 1, 2020, to age 13 as of Dec. 31, 2020.
4. Individuals with disabilities are invited to request reasonable accommodations to participate in NDSU-sponsored programs and events. To request accommodations, please contact Holly Halvorson at 701-231-7251 or [Holly.Halvorson@ndsu.edu](mailto:Holly.Halvorson@ndsu.edu) two weeks prior to the contest to make arrangements.
5. 4-H members are not eligible for this contest if:
  - a. They have judged at the national 4-H horse public speaking contest
  - b. They have participated in official post-secondary (university, college, junior college or technical school) competitive events of a similar nature in the same subject matter area. Neither can they be a member of a post-secondary team undergoing training in preparation of an event.

## Contest Divisions

Each age division is considered a separate contest and youth may enter one of the following divisions:

- ✿ **Junior 4-H division:** Youth 8 years of age before Sept. 1, 2020, to age 13 as of Dec. 31, 2020
- ✿ **Senior 4-H division:** Youth age 14 to 18 as of Dec. 31, 2020, and enrolled in North Dakota 4-H as a full-time 4-H member (not a short-term member)
  - ✓ The senior first-place individual overall in the state 4-H public speaking contest has the option to represent North Dakota at the Western National Roundup contest in Denver, Colo. The team is awarded \$200 from the North Dakota 4-H Foundation to help with travel expenses. Contestants already must have passed their 14th birthday and may not have reached their 19th birthday as of Jan. 1 of the year in which the national 4-H competitive event is held. However, the state 4-H leader may grant a special authorization to compete for youth with developmental disabilities who exceed the upper age limit.
  - ✓ **To request funding for the national 4-H public speaking contest**
    - The Extension agent in the county of the representative team will need to write a formal letter to the North Dakota 4-H Foundation director, Penny Dale, ([Penny.dale@ndsu.edu](mailto:Penny.dale@ndsu.edu)) and copy the state 4-H animal science specialist at [LeighAnn.Skurupey@ndsu.edu](mailto:LeighAnn.Skurupey@ndsu.edu) on the email as well. Request funds for \$200. **Include:** who the 4-H Foundation should write the check to, where to mail the check, the names of those competing on the team, and the name and date of the national event.
- ✿ County agents and coaches are responsible for determining the age and member eligibility of participants in the state 4-H contest from their respective clubs.

## Dress Code

Participants shall follow the 4-H dress code: 4-H members must be dressed neatly and wear a solid white, yellow, gray or green shirt with the 4-H emblem on the front. **County names or other affiliation should not be worn at the state contest to avoid bias.** The clover may be imprinted, screened or attached with an adhesive (if clovers are pinned to the shirt, use multiple pins and place pins discreetly underneath the chevron). Failure to comply will result in the deduction of **25 points** from the individual or team score. 4-H members are asked to stay in official dress until completion of awards.

## Number of Teams

Should the contest grow quicker than expected, counties may be limited to one team or individual per age division to conduct the contest in a reasonable time frame. If your county has more than one team, register them and we will follow up if necessary to reduce the number of teams.

## Contest Guidelines

4-H Western National Roundup rules will apply. Local managers may modify rules and procedures as needed to conduct the event in the allowed time.

1. No electronic devices (phones, tablets, computers, etc.) will be allowed during the contest.
2. 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 judge(s).
3. **No visual aids**, including handouts such as bibliographies or pamphlets, **may be used**. Contestants will be disqualified for using any visual aid, including handouts, prior to, during and after the speech.
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. Speeches should be original and constructed and delivered by 4-H'ers. Any form of plagiarism is strictly prohibited. Plagiarism can include copying parts of a speech or presentation previously presented by another youth or individual, and using text, phrases, photos or diagrams from and articles, videos, books, movies or other published work without giving credit to the author. Competitors' resource citation should be specific, accurate and honest. If contest officials confirm plagiarism, the contestant automatically will be placed last, with a notation on the scorecard to reflect such infraction.
6. A public address system will not be used in the contest.
7. During the competition, the contestants may introduce themselves by name, county and speech topic.
8. Speeches should be **seven to 10** minutes in length for the **senior** division or **three to five** minutes for the **junior** division. Three points will be deducted from the total score on each judge's score sheet for every minute (or fraction of a minute) less than seven minutes or more than 10 minutes for seniors. One point will be deducted from the total score on each judge's score sheet for every minute (or fraction of a minute) less than three minutes or more than five minutes for juniors. After the individual or team has been introduced by the superintendent, the time will start once the contestant(s) begin(s) to speak.
9. Contestants should cite their major reference materials at the end of the presentation. This time will not be counted in the allotted time.
10. Only the judge(s) may ask questions of the contestant. Question time will not be counted in the allotted time. Contestant should repeat the question and then answer it.
11. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing and announced at the beginning of the event.
12. No coaching from parents or coaches is allowed during the presentation. Once the individuals have 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.
13. The judge's scores are final.
14. Ties will be broken by first the judges' accumulated delivery score, second by the judges' accumulated organization score and third on content and accuracy scores.
15. Judges will consider the questions listed under each section of the following scorecard.

## Officials

1. **Moderator:** The moderator helps line up the next presenter/speaker to keep the contest running smoothly and efficiently. This individual allows the judge time to evaluate and make comments before the next participant begins.
2. **Judge:** A judge can be anyone with a strong background in the subject matter of the equine industry. The judge will evaluate the participants based on the scorecard criteria, being fair and consistent across all participants.
3. **Timekeeper:** The timekeeper will monitor elapsed time for each timed event and will indicate to the moderator when time has expired.

## Awards

Ribbons will be given to the top five individuals in each division.

## Equipment

Equipment that is needed must be brought by the contestant.

## Horse Public Speaking Scorecard

### Introduction (10 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ Points

- Did the introduction serve to create interest in the subject?
- Was introduction short and to the point?
- Was a catchy title used?

### Organization (15 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ Points

- Were the main points easy to follow?
- Were the main points arranged in the best order?
- Were sentences short, easy to understand?
- Was the speech interesting?

### Content and Accuracy (20 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ Points

- Were facts and information accurate?
- Was enough information concerning the subject provided?
- Was credit given to sources of information, if appropriate?
- Was content appropriately related to the horse industry?

### Stage Presence (15 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ Points

- Was the speaker neat and appropriately dressed?
- Was the speaker friendly?
- Did speaker talk directly to the audience?
- Did speaker look at the audience?
- Was posture upright but not stiff?
- Did speaker refrain from leaning on podium or desk?
- Did speaker seem relaxed and at ease?

### Delivery (20 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ Points

- Did the speaker have appropriate voice control?
- Were all words pronounced correctly?
- Did speaker's facial expressions reflect the mood of the speech?
- If notes were used, was it done without detracting from the speech?
- Did speaker seem to choose words at the time they were spoken? (Avoid a memorized or read-type delivery)

### General (10 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ Points

- Did speaker convey to the audience a sense of wanting to communicate?
- Did speech reflect the thoughts and personality of speaker?

### Conclusion (10 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ Points

- Was the conclusion short and interesting?
- Did conclusion properly wrap up the speech?
- Could the speaker handle questions easily?

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Points