

NEW JERSEY STATE 4-H EQUESTRIAN OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES

The Equestrian of the Year contest is an ambassador program which encourages 4-H'ers to become well-rounded individuals with a comprehensive background in the horse field. Emphasis is placed on participation in the educational equine events such as Horse Bowl, Horse Judging and Hippology; public speaking skills through county, state and the Equine Presentation contests; leadership proficiency by participation in State Horse Project Teen Council (HPTC) and county-level teen leadership programs; community service projects; and other equine related activities.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

As the ambassador of the NJ 4-H Horse Program, responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- One year term
- Initiative to run and organize projects
- Ability to get to functions (have transportation)
- Attend and assist at next Equestrian of the Year competition
- Be available to attend county award programs (talk or present awards) or other significant events
- Chair HPTC: a.) Recruit membership for HPTC; b.) Conduct meetings & business of HPTC via electronic means, or other; c.) Conduct a community service project with HPTC
- Serve as youth rep on Horse Project Advisory Council (HPAC)
- Responsible for "youth page" in state horse program electronic news letter
- Coordinate necessary responsibilities for runners-up
- Represent the NJ 4-H Horse Program in the NJ Dept of Ag./Equine Advisory Board Equestrian of the Year Contest; **MAY NOT REPRESENT ANY OTHER GROUPS**
- Pass title on to next incoming Equestrian of the Year
- Serve as advisor to next incoming Equestrian of the Year

1st Runner-Up

- Active role in HPTC
- Help recruit HPTC 4-H members
- Assist Equestrian of the Year as directed
- Serve as 1st vice chair of HPTC
- Attend functions in the capacity of Equestrian of the Year if so directed
- Represent 4-H in NJ Dept of Ag./Equine Advisory Board Equestrian of the Year Contest if Equestrian of the Year is ineligible or unable to attend

2nd Runner-Up

- Active role in HPTC
- Help recruit HPTC & 4-H members
- Assist Equestrian of the Year as directed
- Serve as 2nd vice chair of HPTC
- Attend functions in the capacity of Equestrian of the Year if so directed

3rd Runner-Up

- Active role in HPTC
- Help recruit HPTC & 4-H members
- Assist Equestrian of the Year as directed
- Serve as secretary of HPTC
- Attend functions in the capacity of Equestrian of the Year if so directed

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. All counties are invited to enter one (1) candidate in the NJ State 4-H Equestrian of the Year Competition. County offices are asked to inform Linda Horner, state contest co-chair, of their county contest winners' names and contact information after the completion of their contests. Candidate must be aware of the required responsibilities and time commitments involved with the acceptance of the titles Equestrian of the Year, 1st, 2nd & 3rd runners-up.
2. Candidates must have been enrolled in a New Jersey 4-H Horse, Horse Science or Model Horse project during the current year in the county they are representing and be a club "Member In Good Standing," with an up-to-date record book as of August 1 of the current year. Record books are to be checked on a county level.
3. Candidate is enrolled in grade 10 - 12 as of September 2011.
4. Candidate has given at least one (1) State 4-H Equine or State Public Presentation within the last three years (2010, 2011, 2012). ***Candidate is automatically disqualified if presentation criterion is not met.***
5. Entry forms and application instructions are available on the state 4-H Web site, at www.nj4h.rutgers.edu/horses/equestrianoftheyear/.
6. Entries must be postmarked between June 18 and 28, 2012. They must be accompanied by an entry fee of \$30.00. Checks should be made payable to "SC 4-H Horse Leaders Assoc." No additions may be made to resume after June 28th. Original entry form, resume, story, and event permission form must be sent to Candy Church, 90 Goldfinch Drive, Hackettstown, NJ 07840-3022. Candidate must sign last page of resume in blue ink. Do not fold the application.
7. ***A completed 4-H event permission form must accompany all entries. Entries submitted without this form will not be accepted.***
8. The winner of the state contest will represent the 4-H Horse Program in the NJDA/EAB equestrian contest if he or she meets the following criteria set by that contest:
 - A. Is between the ages of 15-19 as of Jan. 1, 2013.
 - B. Is a resident of the State of New Jersey.If the state 4-H winner does not meet the NJDA/EAB criteria, the 1st runner-up will represent 4-H in the NJDA/EAB contest. These criteria will apply down the line to all runners-up. If none of the runners-up qualify, then 4-H will not have representation in the contest.
9. Award to the winner and ribbons to all participants.

EQUESTRIAN OF THE YEAR CONTEST REQUIREMENTS

1. ***Written Resume & 4-H Story*** - Judges will be sent contestant's resume and story before the contest for review. RESUMES MUST BE TYPED or done on the computer using the current resume template - (If typed - please, no fancy font or font smaller than size 10). Five points will be deducted from general instruction category if not typed. No extra pages.
2. The ***Individual Interview*** will be a maximum of 15 minutes per contestant. Each judge will ask

one question and the contestant can reply with a short 2 to 3 minute answer. The judges will then be given 5 minutes to score and make comments on their sheets. Spectators are not permitted during the Individual Interview. Contestants will be notified of their interview time.

3. In the *Stage Presentation*, each contestant will give a **3 to 5 minute talk** on the following topic:

**“In your opinion, what defines a true “horseman” or “horsewoman?”
What does the NJ 4-H Equine Program offer that helps young people
reach that goal?”**

4. No use of visual aids will be allowed. Two (2) points will be deducted from the score for each minute or part of a minute a presentation is under three (3) minutes in length or over five (5) minutes in length. Contestants with presentations over 6 minutes in length will be interrupted.
5. After the presentation, each contestant will answer one impromptu question. The impromptu question will be horse, horse industry or 4-H related. The answer to the question should be 1 to 2 minutes in length. The maximum amount of time for each contestant in the stage presentation phase is 7 minutes. Another 5 minutes will be allotted for the judges to mark their score sheets, make comments, and for the next contestant to get ready on stage. The stage presentation phase is open to the public.
6. Competitors may wear riding or business attire for both the individual interviews and the stage presentation. At the awards presentation on August 24, 2012 during opening ceremonies of the NJ State 4-H Championship Horse Show, contestants are to be suitably attired, similar to what was worn during the competition on August 18th. Equestrian of the Year participants riding in the Mounted Drill Team Exhibition may wear their drill team attire. **CANDIDATES ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR THEIR COUNTY SASHES, MEDALS, ETC. AT BOTH PHASES OF THE CONTEST.**
7. Exceeding the time limits in any phase of the competition will result in a two (2) point penalty per minute or part of. Refer to rule #4 above.
8. Each judge will evaluate every contestant separately. The scores from the judges will be added together and divided by the number of judges to give a final average score for each contestant. There will be a minimum of three (3) judges.

County: _____.

NEW JERSEY 4-H EQUESTRIAN OF THE YEAR
Entry Form

Name: _____.

Birth Date: _____

Grade as of September 2011: _____

Phone Number: _____

I verify that the above 4-H'er is a "Member in Good Standing" and meets the criteria for the above event.

4-H Agent/Program Associate Signature

Date

Attach the completed and signed event permission form, the entry fee of \$30.00, and the original resume and story to this entry form, and send to the address below. Entries must be postmarked between June 18 and 28, 2012. Checks are to be made out to the SC 4-H Horse Leaders Assoc.

State Equestrian of the Year Contest
c/o Candy Church
90 Goldfinch Drive
Hackettstown, NJ 07840-3022

NOTE: No faxed copies will be accepted.

Both sides of this form must be completed by all youth participating in overnight activities, field trips, events requiring group transportation, and any other events sponsored through the 4-H Youth Development Program where it is deemed necessary by the adults (paid 4-H staff and/or registered 4-H volunteer leaders) responsible for the youth participants. The form should be submitted prior to the event and kept by the chaperone for at least 90 days after the event. The form has five parts: (1) information about the participant and activity, (2) parental permission and liability release, (3) medical emergency authorization and health information, and (4) behavior agreement and (5) photo policy. *Be sure to complete all four parts and sign where requested!*

Information about the Youth Participant and Activity

Name of youth participant: _____ Birth date: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: (____) _____ 4-H county: _____ Grade: _____

Name of parent/guardian: _____

Name of activity/event: **2012 State 4-H Equestrian of the Year Competition**

Name of 4-H group sponsoring or participating in this event: **Rutgers Cooperative Extension-4-H Youth Development Department**

Location of event: **RCE of Monmouth County, 4000 Kozloski Road, Freehold, NJ**

Date and time of participation of individual named above: **Competition Phase, August 18, 2012-Individual Interviews begin 9:30 a.m. – Awards Presentation August 24, 2012-During NJ State 4-H Championship Horse Show Opening Ceremony**

Parent Permission and Release of Liability

I hereby give my son/daughter named above permission to participate in the event listed. Although Rutgers Cooperative Extension and its chaperones will use the utmost precaution in guarding the health of the above participant and preventing accidents, I release them from any liability in case of illness or injury as a result of this activity. Furthermore, I release the owner and driver of the car transporting my child to and from the event, from any liability in case of illness or injury.

Signature of parent or guardian _____

Medical Emergency Authorization and Health Information

In case of sudden illness or an accident to the above named participant requiring immediate treatment or surgery while he/she is a participant in this activity, I authorize the 4-H chaperone(s) to take such action as seems appropriate to protect the health and physical well-being of the above participant. This authority extends to any physician(s) and/or surgeon(s) selected by the chaperone(s) to perform medical and/or surgical procedures including examinations and tests necessary to preserve the health and physical well-being of the above named participant. All efforts will be made to contact the parent(s) or guardian(s) in case of emergency.

Name of parent/guardian	Phone number	Name of additional emergency contact	Phone number
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The following information is provided as an aid to the chaperone(s) in dealing with the well-being of the participant. The participant has the following health conditions: (include allergies, handicaps, diabetes, pregnancy, asthma, medications needed, etc.).

Health conditions: _____

Medications/Instructions: _____

Health Insurance: Company: _____ Group #: _____ ID #: _____

Signature of parent or guardian _____

Behavior Agreement

The 4-H Code of Conduct outlined below is in effect for all youth activities involving Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the Department of 4-H Youth Development. It applies to all participants in 4-H activities, with participants defined as 4-H members of any age or grade, all other registered youth and adults, and all other individuals who take part and/or attend 4-H events.

Participants who fail to adhere to the 4-H Code of Conduct may be subject to a range of disciplinary actions. Immediate corrective action will be taken to ensure the safety and welfare of all participants at the event. Additional disciplinary action may be taken upon further investigation of the infraction or incident. Participants in county events shall be subject to policies developed at the county level. Participants in state and national events shall be subject to the policy and process outlined in the "Disciplinary Procedure/Action for State or National Events."

If an individual continually disrupts the group or engages in illegal behavior, he or she will be given an opportunity to discuss the problem with the chaperones before more drastic action is taken. If, after discussion, the behavior continues, or in the opinion of the chaperones it would be detrimental for the individual to continue with the group, he or she will be sent home **at the participant's expense**.

4-H Code of Conduct

1. The health, safety, and welfare of others must be respected at all times.
2. Appropriate language and behavior are expected at all times. Profanity, foul or abusive language, inflammatory statements, derogatory comments, or physical altercations toward any group or individual are not permitted.
3. Participants are expected to be present and participate at all scheduled program activities. Participants are required to wear nametags when dispensed.
4. All participants are expected to be on the site of the event at all times. Unauthorized use of vehicles during an event is prohibited.
5. Participants are responsible for following the instructions of all 4-H staff and event chaperones.
6. All behavior or language of a sexual nature at 4-H events is inappropriate and unacceptable. Dignified and respectable behavior is expected at all times.
7. Curfew hours must be strictly followed.
8. Behavior during unscheduled free time is subject to the supervision of 4-H staff and chaperones.
9. Dress code standards previously set for the event must be met by all participants (i.e., no sexually suggestive, culturally insensitive, tobacco or alcohol industry sponsored shirts, inappropriately cut shirts, shorts, pants or skirts, etc.).
10. Possession, distribution, or use of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is prohibited. Prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications may be dispensed by adult chaperones only with written authorization provided by the parent/guardian on the 4-H Event Permission Form for Youth filed for the event.
11. With the concern for the well being of self and others, smoking and the use of other tobacco products is prohibited.
12. Care and respect for property, personal and institutional, is expected at all times. Theft, possession of missing property or damage to property is prohibited.
13. Unauthorized possession, distribution or use of weapons, ammunition or fireworks is prohibited.
14. Honesty is expected at all times from 4-H members. Dishonesty, cheating, plagiarism and forgery are inappropriate actions.

I HAVE READ the **Behavior Agreement** and **4-H Code of Conduct** above and discussed it with my son/daughter. I understand and agree to the conditions set forth. I accept the cost and responsibility of having my son/daughter returned in the event it is necessary.

Signature of participant in event

Date

Signature of parent or guardian

Date

Photo Policy: At many 4-H events, photographs are taken of 4-H members and their families. Sometimes these pictures are used to tell people about 4-H. Pictures may be sent to newspapers or used for brochures, displays, or web pages. Photos placed on websites will not be accompanied by any personal information about the youth in the photo. If you do not wish to have an individual picture used for promotional purposes, please check the box below and make an effort to avoid opportunities to be in photos.

No, do not use my individual picture for any purpose.

By Keith Diem, Ph.D., Extension Specialist in Educational Design, 1990. Revised August 2003, RNS.

**RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
N.J. AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY
NEW BRUNSWICK**

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2012 NEW JERSEY 4-H EQUESTRIAN OF THE YEAR CONTEST *CHECKLIST*

- ___ Candidate has received and read the rules, regulations and requirements for the contest.
- ___ Candidate meets the criteria for the contest and is a “Member in Good Standing.”
- ___ Candidate has typed the resume or used a computer and signed the resume in blue ink.
- ___ Do not add pages or delete any part of the application.
- ___ Candidate has filled out and signed the 4-H event permission form for youth. Parent or guardian signature also required.
- ___ Entry form signed by 4-H Agent/Program Associate.
- ___ \$30.00 entry fee included. (Checks made out to: SC 4-H Horse Leaders Assoc.)
- ___ Please do not fold the application.
- ___ Entry form, resume, entry fee, permission form mailed to:
State Equestrian of the Year Contest
c/o Candy Church
90 Goldfinch Drive
Hackettstown NJ 07840-3022
- ___ Entry postmarked between June 18 and 28, 2012. (No faxed copies will be accepted.)

Questions, call Candy Church (908-684-5502) or Linda Horner (609-465-5115 ext. 606) prior to Friday, August 18, 2012.