

MICHIGAN 4-H COMMUNICATION CONTEST RULES

The 4-H Communications Contest is held annually on the campus of Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. For more information please contact Taylor Fabus at 517-353-1748, FAX 517-353-1699 or email at tenlenta@msu.edu

Entries should be completed and turned into your County 4-H staff. County staff will then forward all registration materials and entry fees to the State Equine Extension Educator. Staff and members are responsible for accurate and correct entries.

Ages are determined by the age the participant is on January 1 of the contest year. Counties submitting entries in the various contests are responsible for furnishing older teens and/or adults to help with the various contests.

Event Objectives

1. To develop the public speaking and demonstration skills of 4-H members
2. To give 4-H members a venue to share their public speaking and demonstration skills.
3. To qualify young people for national 4-H public speaking and demonstration events (through placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd at this state event.)

Rules common to all contest areas

1. Contestants must be 8, but not have reached his or her 19th birthday as of January 1 of the year in which this event is held. The contests will be divided into Junior (8 to 13 years) and Senior (14-19 years) divisions in each contest area.
2. All contestants must be members of 4-H in the county that they register through.
3. Michigan 4-H contestants must **not have participated in any post-secondary coursework in the subject area.**
4. Eligibility rule for Senior contestants who qualify for national competition: Individuals and teams who receive 1st-3rd in the Senior Division public speaking, individual or team demonstration are eligible to represent Michigan 4-H at either the Eastern National 4-H Horse Round-up in Louisville, KY or All American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, OH. 4-H members may only participate once at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Round Up in a given contest area. Contestants may participate in only one contest per year at the Roundup.
5. Teams or individuals qualifying for out-of-state competitions that have an open roster slot may have the opportunity to extend an invitation to an individual competitor (must have competed at the current year's state-level Michigan 4-H Communications Contest to be eligible) from another county to join their team for the out-of-state competition. Any substitutions must be approved by State Extension Educator.

Public Speaking Rules

1. The subject 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.
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. Microphones will not be used during the contest, but a podium will be provided.

6. During the event, the contestants may introduce themselves by name, county and speech topic.
7. Speeches should be 7-10 minutes in length. 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.
8. Contestants should cite their major references after the conclusion of their speech. This time will not be counted in the allotted time.
9. Only the judge(s) may ask questions of the contestant in the contest. Question time will not be counted in the allotted time. Contestants should repeat the question then answer it.
10. Contestants may use video recorders to tape **their own presentations**. It is the responsibility of the coach/speaker to provide all necessary recording equipment. No other videotaping or photographing of presentations is allowed during the contest.
11. Two-Three judges will be used and judges will score each entry independently and assign scores. After all presentations are presented and scores 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 placing. Contest superintendents may review and check tabulation of scores for mathematical accuracy.
12. Ties will be broken first by the judges' accumulated delivery score, second by the judges' accumulated organization score and third on content and accuracy score.
13. Improper attire will be a violation and appropriate points deducted on the scorecard. Improper attire will be determined at the discretion of the judges.
14. The judges will consider the questions listed under each section. The points on the score card will be as follows:

PUBLIC SPEAKING SCORESHEET	Description (+)	<<Check one box >>				Description (-)
Category						
<u>Introduction</u>						
Short and to the point?	clearly stated					unclear
Introduction create interest in the subject?	peaked sincere interest					uninspired
Score (out of 10):						
<u>Organization</u>	Description (+)	-	-	-	-	Description (-)
Main points easy to follow?	clearly stated					unclear
Main points arranged in the best order?	logical arrangement					disorganized
Speech interesting?	engaging					
Score (out of 15):						
<u>Content & Accuracy</u>	Description (+)	-	-	-	-	Description (-)
Facts and information correct?	adequate & correct					questionable
Enough information concerning the subject?	loosely related					all supporting information
Credit given to appropriate sources?	adequate & correct					questionable
Content related to horse industry?	not related					all equine related information
Score (out of 30):						
<u>Delivery & Stage Presence</u>	Description (+)	-	-	-	-	Description (-)
Neatly and appropriately dressed?	neat and presentable	-	-	-	-	too casual or inappropriate
Talk directly to and look at audience?	considerable eye contact					lacked engagement
Good posture? Not leaning on podium?	confident posture					poor posture
Speaker relaxed and at ease?	relaxed and comfortable					nervous/awkward
Word Choice & Voice Control	clear & succinct					awkward/confusing
Did the speaker refrain from using notes?	used notes					no notes used
Score (out of 25):						
<u>General & Conclusion</u>	Description (+)	-	-	-	-	Description (-)
Convey a sense of wanting to communicate?	engaging	-	-	-	-	lacked enthusiasm
Conclusion short & interesting?	clear & succinct					awkward/confusing
Conclusion adequately wrap up the speech?	main points revisited					confusing
Speaker handle questions easily?	confident					confused
Score (out of 20):						
TOTAL SCORE (100):	0					

Individual Demonstration/Presentation Rules & Resources

1. The subject must pertain to the horse industry. Presentations not appropriately related to the horse industry can be disqualified at the discretion of the judges.
2. The presentation may be a demonstration or illustrated talk. All references to the term “presentation” in these rules include either demonstration or illustrated talk. A demonstration is defined as a presentation of a step by step procedure with an end product or result. An illustrated talk is defined as a presentation of an idea or topic that uses visual aids to convey the message. Both presentation forms are acceptable and will be evaluated equally, although the delivery methods are different as defined above. Both should utilize visual aids to help convey the major points of the presentation and more than one type of visual aid is preferable. Visual aids may include but are not limited to: handouts, posters, props, videos, slides, and computer generated media (PowerPoint, websites, etc.). No live animals may be used.
3. Contestants may use notes. However excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judge(s).
4. Microphones will NOT be used during the contest.
5. Participants must supply their own props. Tables and chairs can be provided for the presenter’s use. **Contestants must provide all of their own equipment.**
6. Creative audio-visual aids may be used but the contestant must be involved in making or designing them.
7. During the contest, the contestants may introduce themselves by name, county and presentation topic.
8. Presentations should be 9-12 minutes in length. Three points will be deducted from the total score on each judge’s score sheet for every minute (or fraction of a minute) under 9 minutes or over 12 minutes.
9. Contestants should cite their major references after the conclusion of their presentation. This will not be counted in the allotted time.
10. No coaching from parents or coaches during the presentation.
11. Contestants may use video recorders to **tape their own presentations**. It is the responsibility of the team coach/team to provide all necessary recording equipment. No other videotaping or photographing of presentations is allowed during the contest.
12. Only the judge(s) may ask questions of the contestant in the contest. Question time will not be counted in the allotted time. Contestants should repeat the question then answer it.
13. Two-Three judges will be used, and judges will score each entry independently and assign scores. After all presentations are presented and scores 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 placing. Contest superintendents may review and check tabulation of scores for mathematical accuracy.
14. Ties will first be broken by the judges’ accumulated delivery score, second by the judges’ accumulated organization score and third on content and accuracy score.
15. The judges will consider the questions listed under each section. The points on the score card will be as follows:

INDIVIDUAL DEMO SCORESHEET	Description (+)	<<Check one box>>				Description (-)
Category						
<u>Introduction</u>						
Short and to the point?	clearly stated					unclear
Introduction create interest in the subject?	peaked sincere interest					uninspired
Score (out of 10):						
<u>Organization</u>	Description (+)	-	-	-	-	Description (-)
Only one main point demonstrated?		-	-	-	-	
Speech relate directly to each step being shown?	clearly stated					unclear
Steps shown correctly with thorough explanation?	logical arrangement					disorganized & unclear
Could the audience see each step?	clearly visible					difficult to see/follow
Materials & equipment neatly arranged & organized?	high quality & organized					unorganized & sloppy
Visual aids used appropriately?	used & improved topic					not used or hindered speech
Score (out of 25):						
<u>Content & Accuracy</u>	Description (+)	-	-	-	-	Description (-)
Facts and information correct?	adequate & correct					questionable
Enough information concerning the subject?	loosely related					all supporting information
Credit given to appropriate sources?	adequate & correct					questionable
Content related to horse industry?	not related					all equine related information
Score (out of 30):						
<u>Delivery & Stage Presence</u>	Description (+)	-	-	-	-	Description (-)
Neatly and appropriately dressed?	neat and presentable	-	-	-	-	too casual or inappropriate
Talk directly to and look at audience?	considerable eye contact					lacked engagement
Good posture? Not leaning on podium?	confident posture					poor posture
Speaker relaxed and at ease?	relaxed and comfortable					nervous/awkward
Word Choice & Voice Control	clear & succinct					awkward/confusing
Were use of notes distracting?	distracting					no notes used
Score (out of 20):						
<u>Effect on Audience & Summary</u>	Description (+)	-	-	-	-	Description (-)
Create a sense of interest with audience?	engaging	-	-	-	-	lacked enthusiasm
Could the audience go home and carry out the idea?	yes, without more info					would need more info
Summary adequately wrap up the speech?	main points revisited					confusing
Speaker handle questions easily?	confident					confused
Score (out of 15):						
TOTAL SCORE (100):	0					

Team Demonstration/Presentation Rules & Resources

1. The subject must pertain to the horse industry. Presentations not appropriately related to the horse industry can be disqualified at the discretion of the judges.
2. The presentation may be a demonstration or illustrated talk. All references to the term “presentation” in these rules include either demonstration or illustrated talk. A demonstration is defined as a presentation of a step by step procedure with an end product or result. An illustrated talk is defined as a presentation of an idea or topic that uses visual aids to convey the message. Both presentation forms are acceptable and will be evaluated equally, although the delivery methods are different as defined above. Both should utilize visual aids to help convey the major points of the presentation and more than one type of visual aid is preferable. Visual aids may include but are not limited to: handouts, posters, props, videos, slides, and computer generated media (PowerPoint, websites, etc.). No live animals may be used.
3. This is a Team Presentation where both participants should have an equal role in the presentation.
4. Contestants may use notes. However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestants. This will be at the discretion of the judge(s).
5. Microphones will NOT be used during the contest.
6. Participants must supply their own props. Tables and chairs can be provided for the presenter’s use. Contestants must provide all of their own equipment (a projector & laptop will be available).
7. Creative audio-visual aids may be used, but the contestant must be involved in making or designing them.
8. During the contest, the contestants may introduce themselves by name, state and presentation topic.
9. Presentations should be 10-15 minutes in length. Three points will be deducted from the total score on each judge’s score sheet for every minute (or fraction of a minute) under 10 minutes or over 15 minutes.
10. Contestants should cite their major references after the conclusion of their presentation. This will not be counted in the allotted time.
11. No coaching from parents or coaches during the presentation.
12. Contestants may use video recorders to tape their own presentations. It is the responsibility of the team coach/team to provide all necessary recording equipment. No other videotaping or photographing of presentations is allowed during the contest.
14. Only the judge(s) may ask questions of the contestant in the contest. Each team shall be asked the same minimum number of questions. Question time will not be counted in the allotted time. Contestants should repeat the question then answer it.
15. Two-Three judges will be used, and judges will score each entry independently and assign scores. After all presentations are presented and scores 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 placing. Contest superintendents may review and check tabulation of scores for mathematical accuracy.
16. Ties will be broken first by the judges’ accumulated delivery score, second by the judges’ accumulated organization score and third on content and accuracy score.
17. Judges will consider the questions listed under each section. The points on the score card will be as follows:

TEAM DEMO SCORESHEET	Description (+)	<<Check one box >>				Description (-)
Category						
<u>Introduction</u>						
Short and to the point?	clearly stated					unclear
Introduction create interest in the subject?	peaked sincere interest					uninspired
Score (out of 10):						
<u>Organization</u>	Description (+)	-	-	-	-	Description (-)
Only one main point demonstrated?		-	-	-	-	
Speech relate directly to each step being shown?	clearly stated					unclear
Steps shown correctly with thorough explanation?	logical arrangement					disorganized & unclear
Could the audience see each step?	clearly visible					difficult to see/follow
Materials & equipment neatly arranged & organized?	high quality & organized					unorganized & sloppy
Visual aids used appropriately?	used & improved topic					not used or hindered speech
Score (out of 25):						
<u>Content & Accuracy</u>	Description (+)	-	-	-	-	Description (-)
Facts and information correct?	adequate & correct					questionable
Enough information concerning the subject?	all supporting information					loosely related
Credit given to appropriate sources?	adequate & correct					questionable
Content related to horse industry?	all equine related					not related
Score (out of 30):						
<u>Delivery & Stage Presence</u>	Description (+)	-	-	-	-	Description (-)
Neatly and appropriately dressed?	neat and presentable	-	-	-	-	too casual or inappropriate
Talk directly to and look at audience?	considerable eye contact					lacked engagement
Good posture? Not leaning on podium?	confident posture					poor posture
Speaker relaxed and at ease?	relaxed and comfortable					nervous/awkward
Word Choice & Voice Control	clear & succinct					awkward/confusing
Were use of notes distracting?	no notes used					distracting
Did both presenters work as a team?	time shared evenly					one dominated
Score (out of 20):						
<u>Effect on Audience & Summary</u>	Description (+)	-	-	-	-	Description (-)
Create a sense of interest with audience?	engaging	-	-	-	-	lacked enthusiasm
Could the audience go home and carry out the idea?	yes, without more info					would need more info
Summary adequately wrap up the speech?	main points revisited					confusing
Speaker handle questions easily?	confident					confused
Score (out of 15):						
TOTAL SCORE (100):	0					