

## Macomb County 4-H Horse & Pony Project Clothing & Footwear

### Footwear

Feet should always be covered.

Boots are the required form of footwear when showing horses. The one exception to this rule is costume class where in addition to boots, athletic and other tied shoes are also acceptable forms of footwear. When not in the arena, shoes should cover the feet securely. Bare feet, flip-flops and sandals pose a safety hazard because they don't protect the feet. Loafers and other slip-on shoes are a hazard because they can come off the foot easily.



### Clothing

Standard clothing for showing in the ring is English or Western apparel. Mid-drifts, cleavage and buttocks should be covered and undergarments tucked in. T-shirts should not have slogans or advertisements that have sexual connotations or refer to drugs, alcohol or illegal activities. Have spare clothing available in case what you are wearing is not acceptable and you need to change.

In costume classes, the first priority is safety for both the horse and the participant. If riding, participants need to be able to get on and off the horse safely. Costumes should be rated G or PG. Costumes rated PG-13, R and X are unacceptable at 4-H activities.

Fashion changes rapidly and not all fashions are flattering. Youth view fashion differently than adults, and even individuals in the same age group vary in the degree to which they embrace a fashion trend. Moreover, whether fashion is appropriate depends on the situation or setting. What may be acceptable at home may not be acceptable at school or church. What is viewed as okay when hanging out with friends may not be okay when participating in structured programs such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts or 4-H.

The bottom line is that not everyone has the same standards and attitudes towards clothing. There are some general standards on which most can agree but there will always be details about which we have to agree to disagree.