

4-H HIPPOLOGY CONTEST
GENERAL RULES AND INFORMATION
2024-2025
TEXAS 4-H ROUNDUP



Date: Thursday, June 6, 2025

Time / Location: Hildebrand Equine Complex

OBJECTIVE

The Hippology contest provide youth with the opportunity to blend the knowledge and skills acquired in horse judging, horse bowl, demonstrations, public speaking, showing and practical horse experience into one activity. Encourages a 4-H member to expand their knowledge and comprehension of equine science, comprehensive knowledge of the horse industry and management practices. To encourage youth to continue expanding their understanding, knowledge, and participation in equine science. To teach good sportsmanship through a friendly and competitive environment.

TEAM AND CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY

1. The contest is an Invitational (does not require you to qualify at a District level contest)
2. Contest open to any eligible 4-H member in 9-12 grades, Senior 4-H Age Division as of 9/1/2024.
3. Teams consist of three or four members. In teams in which there are four members, all will compete, but the member receiving the lowest overall score will be automatically declared the alternate. The scores of the alternate will not be included in any of the team totals but will be considered in making all individual awards. Teams consisting of three members will have no alternate and all members' scores will count in determining individual and team awards.
4. Teams or individuals who have competed in the National 4-H Horse Classic – Western Division, which is the designated National 4-H Contest for Hippology Contest are not eligible to compete in State 4-H Roundup.

CONTEST METHOD OF CONDUCT

1. The contest will be divided into three areas: identification slide show, written test, and knowledge station. Contestants will be divided into groups and have time limits for each station area.
2. The contest will be conducted using a scantrons Universal Form D Version 2 - Form #705D-2 (Hippology form 2)
3. While completing the competition, there will be no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except as directed by contest officials. Contestants will be allowed specific time limits to complete each individual competition class. In addition, no technology devices including cell phones, smart watches, etc.
4. Contestants will need to bring a No. 2 pencil for the scantron and a clip board. The contestants may bring NO books, notes, pamphlets, or other reference material into the contest area. Contest officials reserve the right to check all contestant's notepads or clipboards to make sure they are blank just prior to the contest. Violators are subject to contest dismissal.



5. Contestants are not to pick up or touch any item that is being identified or evaluated in the individual knowledge station classes, unless otherwise directed by contest officials.

CONTEST CLASSES

The following is a list of common skill-a-thon classes. Please note that actual classes may deviate from this list in an effort to keep current with a rapidly changing livestock industry. All pictures, equipment items, retail meat cuts, feed samples, judging classes, and quizzes will be developed using resources obtained from Texas A&M University and West Texas A&M University.

The following is a list of common Hippology classes. Please note that actual classes may deviate from this list in an effort to keep current with a rapidly changing horse industry.

1. Examination Phase -- approximately 200 points -- this phase of the contest will include:

- a. Written Exam
- b. Projected slides to be identified as to breed, color, color pattern, activity, proper appointments, etc.
- c. Anatomy which may include external, skeleton, internal organs, parts of gastrointestinal tract, male and female reproductive organs, detailed anatomy of the foot and detailed lower limbs.

2. Station Phase -- approximately 200 points -- this phase will consist of a series of stations or tables where all contestants will respond to the requirements of the station. Stations may include pictures from popular press sources, however the content within the stations will be taken from the approved sources listed below. Members will be allowed 2.5 minutes at each station. Stations may include, but are not limited to:

1. Various types of saddles (actual or pictures) and parts of saddles
2. Tack, bits, bridles, horse shoes and parts of shoes, Tools and equipment, and assembly of specific parts of various pieces of equipment Grains and forages used in equine rations including various forms of methods of preparation
3. Internal and external parasites based on actual samples, pictures, life cycle charts and/or damage caused
4. Blemishes and unsoundnesses
5. Age of equines based on teeth
6. Nutrition and health
7. Genetics
8. Reproduction
9. Use of pulse rate, respiration rate, temperature, dehydration, anemia, etc., to assess horse health.
10. Measurements such as, but not limited to, wither height, shoe size, girth, collar size, gullet width, seat length of saddle, etc. may be required.

3. Judging Phase -- 100 points -- contestants will be required to place two (2) classes consisting of one (1) halter or conformation classes and one (1) performance classes. Contestants are responsible for their own writing instruments and notepads for the purpose of taking notes. There will be no prohibition against contestant use of pre-printed materials during the judging portion, including but not limited to rule books, judging manuals, and score sheets. Every effort will be made to use the same horses as are being used in the judging contest, with the placing to be simultaneous with contestants in the judging contest, with the same official placings and cuts as apply to the judging contest. In extreme emergency, pictorial and/or video classes may be used, in which case they would be especially prepared for the event.

4. Team Problems -- approximately 100 points -- all teams will be presented with the same problem(s). Each team will have equal time to discuss among themselves the problem, immediately after which they will have to present an oral solution or series of suggested procedures relative to the problem. Teams will have 10 minutes to prepare and 10 minutes to present. No pre-printed material will be allowed during the 10-minute preparation period. Each member of the team is encouraged to contribute to the oral presentation, and contestants must introduce themselves and their state team upon entrance into the team problem room. Evaluation will be based on the



understanding of the problem, completeness of the response, the probability of success of the solution or procedures, and the logic used in making the oral response. The official may ask questions of any or all of the team members to clarify the presentation. If notes are used during the team problem the highest score that may be received is 25 points of the possible 50 points for that problem. If teams go over the 10-minute time limit there will be a penalty of three points per minute overtime.

Examples of the possible team problems might include:

- a. Balancing a horse's ration.
- b. Farm management recommendations for specific horse operations (i.e., breeding, training, boarding, nursery, lay-up, etc.).
- c. Considerations for the establishment of a new horse facility (stable to be used for a specific purpose).
- d. Recommendations for selecting, locating, and purchasing horses for specific uses.
- e. Behavior problems - causes, management of and corrections.
- f. Training and conditioning programs - equipment, schedules, methods, nutrition, problem avoidance.
- g. Breeding and/or leasing contracts - specific clauses for insurance, liability, payments, care, termination, transport, etc.
- h. Teaching lessons in horse management.
- i. Explanation of use or assembly of specific equipment.
- j. Demonstrate skill or ability to use specific equipment.

Team problem scores will not be included in determining the rank of individuals in the contest, but will be added to the team scores of the other three phases to determine overall team standings.

TIE-BREAKING

All ties overall, individual and team, will be broken using the following sequence:

1. Examination scores
2. Station scores
3. Judging scores

AWARDS

Individual and team awards will be given in all divisions.

Top 5 teams overall

Top 5 individuals overall

Top 3 teams and top 3 individuals will be recognized during the Thursday Evening Assembly. The placings will be announced at that time.

NATIONAL CONTEST *(See 2022-2023 Texas 4-H Roundup Guide for complete details)*

The first place senior level team qualifies to advance to the 2024 Western National Roundup Hippology contest at the Western National Roundup in Denver, CO.

The second place senior level team qualifies to advance to the 2024 All American Quarter Horse Congress, in Columbus, OH.

The third place senior level team qualifies to advance to the 2024 Southern Regional Horse Championships.

There will be no changes from the qualifying order.



RESOURCES – NEW RESOURCE LIST!!!

REFERENCE MATERIAL All the information covered in this contest may be found in one or more of the following publications:

Reference
AQHA Rulebook
Equine Science: Basic Knowledge for Horse People of All Ages - Jean T. Griffiths ISBN# 978-1-929164-42-4
Feeding and Care of the Horse (2nd Edition) by Lon D. Lewis, Anthony Knight, Bart Lewis, Corey Lewis ISBN-10: 0683049674
Horse Industry Handbook – by the American Youth Horse Council
Horse Smarts – American Youth Horse Council; 1 Gainer Rd. https://www.ayhc.com/product-page/horse-smarts
Youth Leaders Manual – by the American Youth Horse Council
Texas 4-H Horse Show Rules
The Horse (2nd Edition) by Evans, Borton, Hintz, Van Vleck
Youth and Collegiate Horse Judging Leader Guide (AS 1-2.120)
Youth and Collegiate Horse Judging Manual (AS 3-2.051)
The Coloring Atlas of Horse Anatomy by Thomas O. McCracken and Robert A. Kainer ISBN-13: 9781617812408

CONTEST SCHEDULE

**7:30 AM – 8 AM –
8:30 am**

**Team Check In
Contest Rotation to Start**

**Senior
Slide Show Test (50 Slides = 100 points)
Judging Classes (2 classes = 100 points)
Written Test (100 Questions=100 points)
Stations (10 Stations/10 questions each=100 points)**

Individuals Released

Teams prepare for Team Question (100 points)

4 pm awards



