

# Lake County 4-H Horse Program



## *Policies and Procedures*

## Preface

The 4-H Program provides an opportunity for youth to participate in activities designed to improve citizenship, sportsmanship, horsemanship, discipline, and responsibility, while creating an atmosphere for learning and building friendships. 4-H membership in the Horse Program is available to all youth, ages 8-18, without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, handicap, or national origin. Activities offered through the 4-H Horse Program provide physical, mental, social, and emotional growth experiences. The Lake County 4-H Horse Program offers competitive and non-competitive learning activities as part of a balanced non-formal educational program.

## Contact Information

The 4-H Horse Program is managed and operated by the Lake County Extension Service. The Lake County 4-H Agent oversees the program and is responsible for the programs content and execution. The 4-H agent is assisted by the 4-H program assistant who helps with registration and record keeping, and by the Livestock Extension Agent who provides subject matter expertise.

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## Requirement for Participation in the 4-H Horse Program

All youth participating in the 4-H Horse Program must either be enrolled in a chartered 4-H Club or registered as a Member-At-Large through the 4-H Office (see the 4-H office for member at large requirements).

4-H is a youth development organization, not a horse show organization. As such good sportsmanship and the development of life skills will be valued above competitive results. There are many exhibiting opportunities for youth enrolled in the 4-H Horse Program. These opportunities are not limited to horse shows. Each opportunity is associated with its own requirements for participation and deadlines for enrollment. *It is not the responsibility of the 4-H leader, 4-H agent, or parent to make sure that these requirements and deadlines are met, but that of the 4-H member.*

### Requirements for Participation in Horse Shows

1. Members must be between 8-18 years of age as of September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current 4-H year to participate in any horse project (this includes miniature horses). Youth who have already completed high school are not eligible regardless of age.
2. All 4-H enrollment paperwork must be completed prior to any horse show registration being accepted.
3. In order to show at the Spring Qualifier Show, Area D, State, or Regionals project horses must be owned or leased prior to the December deadline (see current calendar) with the project animal registration form being turned in prior to the December deadline.
  - a. Leased project horse registration must include a certified and notarized lease agreement
  - b. Dual leasing is allowed with permission from the State 4-H Office
4. Members must attend a minimum of 50% of their club meetings during the 4-H year. This requirement may be greater in your club.
5. Members must present a demonstration on a 4-H project that they are currently enrolled in (does not have to be horse). Demonstrations may be given at the club level, but all members are encouraged to participate in County Events.
6. Members must complete a 4-H Horse Project Record Book prior to moving on to the Area 4-H Horse Show. The deadline for record book submission varies annually, please see the current calendar. Late books will not be accepted.
7. Members must participate in at least one of the following Non-Horse Show 4-H activities prior to the Spring Horse Show registration deadline.
  - a. 4-H Camp
  - b. County Council Meeting
  - c. County Events
  - d. Share the Fun
  - e. 4-H Kick-Off Party
  - f. County Council Christmas Party
8. Members must attend the annual Mandatory Horse Exhibitor Meeting. Safety, showing requirements, and policies will be discussed at the Mandatory Horse Exhibitor Meetings. These meetings will be offered twice in January and/or February (see current calendar for dates). All 4-H youth who wish to participate at the Spring Horse Show, Area D, State, or Regionals must attend one of the mandatory meetings with their parents. Those with a legitimate reason for

not being able to attend must contact the 4-H agent prior to 5pm on the day of the meeting to set up an alternative.

9. Your club may add additional requirements that must also be met in order to show.

### **County Horse Shows**

The Lake County 4-H Horse Program sponsors two county horse shows: The Fall Show, which is held in October or November, and the Spring Qualifier Show which is held in March or April. All County Shows will follow the rules of the Florida 4-H Horse Show Rulebook.

#### *Rules to Note*

- Members are not allowed to ride horses except in designated areas
- Only 4-H youth are permitted to ride at horse shows, lunging in a halter by an adult is allowed
- The show committee reserves the right to cancel or combine classes
- Refunds will be issued if a class is canceled by the committee or if the exhibitor provides a written doctors or vets note. No refunds will be issued at the show.
- The show committee must be alerted of any tack changes five classes prior
- No limit is placed on the number of classes a 4-H member and project animal may show at the county level. However, if the horse shows signs of distress or fatigue the grievance committee and/or judge may dismiss it from further showing
- Exhibitors may not enter the same class twice, regardless of horse/rider combination
- Good sportsmanship, considerate treatment of animals, and courtesy to officials and other participants and spectators is expected of all exhibitors and spectators. Should a lapse occur, the person in question may be disqualified and/or asked to leave the show grounds. All entry fees will be forfeited.
- The decisions of the judge and of the grievance committee are final. The grievance committee shall be comprised of the 4-H Agent, the Livestock Agent, one adult volunteer, and one youth member.

#### *Additional Rules for the Spring Qualifier Show*

- Riders may show more than one horse, including non-project horses, but only the declared project horse can move on to Area D and this horse must have shown at the Spring Qualifier in order to advance.
- Substitutions of horses prior to Area D are permitted only if a veterinarian certifies that the horse is physically unsound. Approval of the 4-H Agent is required for any substitution. No substitutions are allowed beyond area.

#### *Trail Classes:*

Western trail is not offered in the walk-trot division at the county level but the pattern may call for a combination of walk/trot or walk/trot/canter.

#### *Walt/Trot Eligibility:*

Riders who wish to compete in walk trot classes may not have loped/cantered in any class prior. Walk/trot eligibility is based on the horse/rider combination. More experienced riders may choose to return to the walk/trot division for up to one 4-H year provided the horse that they are riding has not been loped/cantered by them in any prior shows. This allows youth showing green horses the opportunity to show in suitable classes.

***Walk/Trot at the Speed Show***

Youth may choose to enter any of the speed classes as a Walk/Trot class provided they are walk/trot eligible. They must indicate their intention prior to the start of the class. Walk/trot participants will not be separately judged and breaking into a canter will result in a disqualification.

**Fall and Spring English/Western Shows – Class Listings*****In-Hand Division***

1. Grooming and Conditioning
2. Mares at Halter
3. Geldings at Halter
4. All Divisions Showmanship 8-13
5. All Divisions Showmanship 14-18
6. Mini In-hand trail

***English Division***

7. W/T English Equitation
8. W/T Hunter Under Saddle
9. JR English Equitation
10. SR English Equitation
11. JR Hunter Under Saddle
12. SR Hunter Under Saddle
13. Saddle Seat and Gaited Pleasure
14. Jump Warm Up

15. JR Hunter Hack
16. SR Hunter Hack
17. JR Equitation over Fences
18. SR Equitation over Fences

***Western Division***

19. W/T Western Horsemanship
20. W/T Western Pleasure
21. JR Western Horsemanship
22. SR Western Horsemanship
23. JR Western Pleasure
24. SR Western Pleasure
25. JR Ranch Riding
26. SR Ranch Riding
27. JR Western Trail
28. SR Western Trail

**Fall and Spring Speed Shows – Class Listings**

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. JR Keyhole</li> <li>2. SR Keyhole</li> <li>3. JR Stake Race</li> <li>4. SR Stake Race</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. JR Pole Bending</li> <li>6. SR Pole Bending</li> <li>7. JR Barrel Race</li> <li>8. SR Barrel Race</li> </ol> |
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## Horse Show Awards

### County Show Awards

Points will be calculated using the below table and the high point earning horse/rider combo in each age division will be recognized the week following the show. Award winners will be contacted by phone and their accomplishments will be shared in the next 4-H FYI.

Points are calculated on a graduated scale based on the number of entries in a class with a maximum of 6 points awarded to the first place competitor in a class of six or more entries.

### End of the Year Awards

The Lake County 4-H Horse Program participates in the 4-H Award Ceremony each summer. Youth are rewarded for their accomplishments throughout the 4-H Year. Awards will be given to exhibitors with the most points accumulated at the Fall, Spring, and Area Horse Shows in the following areas:

#### *In Hand Division*

- JR and SR Grand Champion
- JR and SR Reserve Champion

#### *English Division*

- JR and SR Grand Champion
- JR and SR Reserve Champion

#### *Western Division*

- JR and SR Grand Champion
- JR and SR Reserve Champion

#### *Speed Division*

- JR and SR Grand Champion
- JR and SR Reserve Champion

#### *Overall High Point*

- JR and SR

#### *Rookie of the Year*

In addition, all participants who meet at least four of the six below requirements will be recognized with a *Horse Project Spirit Award*:

- Participated in both county level shows
- Competed in Hippology, Quizbowl, or Horse Judging
- Participated in the Horse Skill-a-thon
- Attended at least one 4-H County Level Educational Activity
- Presented at County Events
- Received a Blue Award on their 4-H Horse Project Record Book

## Competitive Horse Related Activities Not Requiring Ownership/Lease of a Horse

Demonstrations, public speaking, skill-a-thon, horse judging, hippology, and quizbowl are all competitive events not requiring the ownership or lease of a horse. Lake County Requirements for participation in these events are as follows:

1. The member must meet all general requirements for participation in the horse program
2. The member must meet all district, regional, or national requirements for participation in a specific competitive event.
3. In the case where participation is limited, the coach will choose competitive team members based on participation (50%), performance in practice (25%), and performance in a mock contest (25%)

**Horse Judging:** In Horse Judging, youth learn to evaluate a horse's form as it relates to function, and compare it to the ideal as well as to other horses. The added benefit is that it gives youth the opportunity to sharpen their decision making skills and their ability to defend those decisions. The State 4-H Horse Judging Contest is held in Gainesville in the covered arena at UF's Horse Teaching Unit. First and second place teams in State 4-H Horse Judging will earn the right to compete at the Regional competition (sites vary each year throughout the southeast). The first place team at the State contest is also eligible to compete at Eastern Nationals in Louisville, KY in November. Further horse judging opportunities around the state include the State Fair Horse Judging Contest and the State Horse Judging School.

*Practice Begins:* Fall

*Ages:* Seniors (14-18 as of September 1) younger youth are encouraged to participate but are not able to compete at state.

**Hippology:** Hippology is an activity that can enhance learning for 4-H members by letting them exhibit their knowledge and understanding of equine science and husbandry in a competitive setting. The term "Hippology" comes from the Greek "hippo", meaning horse, and "ology", meaning "the study of". Participants will be able to demonstrate their experience and knowledge gained in horse judging, quiz bowl, speeches, and practical horse management. Phases of the contest include a written exam, identification of items shown on slides, placing and/or ID of feedstuffs or feed tags, judging, ID stations, and team problems. The State Hippology Contest is held in Orlando at the Orange County Extension Office. First and second place teams in the State 4-H Hippology Contest will earn the right to compete at the Regional competition (sites vary each year throughout the southeast). The first place team at the State contest is also eligible to compete at Eastern Nationals in Louisville, KY in November.

*Practice Begins:* Spring

*Ages:* Intermediates (11-13) and Seniors (14-18) as of September 1, however, only Seniors are able to advance past the state level.

**Quiz Bowl:** This double elimination quiz bowl contest offers horse club members the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and earn the right to represent Florida at the regional and national competition.

*Practice Begins:* Spring

*Ages:* Intermediates (11-13) and Seniors (14-18) as of September 1, however, only Seniors are able to advance past the state level.

## Horse Sponsorship Program

To help support the Lake County 4-H Horse Program, members are asked to seek donations from businesses/individuals at the beginning of each 4-H year. In appreciation of the donations, the businesses/individuals are given space in the Lake County 4-H/Rotary Horse Show and Lake County 4-H Qualifier Horse Show sponsorship books.

In this space, individuals/businesses can choose to promote their business or write a personal message. The amount of space they receive in the sponsorship book is based on the amount of their donation.

Donation Amount = Space Provided

\$15 = Business Card

\$30 = ¼ Page

\$50 = ½ Page

\$100 = Full Page

Members, who participate in at least one 4-H horse activity, will receive 25% of the money they collect back as a credit to help support their own project. This credit will be managed by the 4-H Association and may be applied towards registration in 4-H events, shows, and camps. Members are encouraged to raise as much money as possible, as this is the only form of sponsorship the Lake County 4-H Horse Program provides.

## The Lake County Horse Advisory Board

The Lake County Horse Advisory is a part of the county extension program. The advisory is organized for the purpose of providing advice and assistance with the planning, legitimization, implementation, accountability and advocacy of 4-H horse program outcomes. The Horse Advisory is NOT a policy making body, even though they provide valuable input. The Horse Advisory's role is to advise, assist and support the county 4-H agent. The Horse Advisory serves as an intermediary between the various county horse clubs and the 4-H agent, offering ideas and opinions that will lead the continued positive development of the Lake County 4-H Horse Program. Meetings are open to leaders and parents of horse club participants. Each club, with a minimum of three members participating in the horse program, must have an adult representative at each horse advisory meeting. In non-horse clubs, those having two or less participants, the parents of horse participants are responsible for knowing and understanding horse related information. Advisory attendance is encouraged to these individuals.

The Lake County 4-H Horse Advisory meets twice a year. Additional meetings may be called if necessary. The meetings are held at the Lake County Extension Office.