

Massachusetts 4-H Horse Program Hippology Contest Rules

OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the Hippology contest is to provide, in a friendly but competitive setting, an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H to demonstrate the breadth of their knowledge and understanding of equine science and management, and in particular, the practical application of this knowledge and skill. It is hoped that this contest will generate new friendships and be a rewarding experience for the contestants.

WHAT IS A HIPPOLOGY CONTEST

Hippology is the study of horses. A hippology contest is comprised of 4 phases that are used to test the overall horse knowledge of participants. The 4 phases of a hippology contest include a written exam, slide identifications, stations and horse judging. These 4 phases are described in more detail under THE CONTEST section.

CONTESTANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

Any 4-H member requiring an accommodation at a Massachusetts 4-H horse event must contact the State 4-H Equine Science Coordinator in advance of the event to discuss appropriate accommodations.

At the County Level

1. Juniors are youth ages 8 – 13 as of January 1 of the competition year.
2. Seniors must be at least 14 years old but not have reached their 19th birthday as of January 1 of the competition year.
3. A novice division may be offered for 4-H juniors and seniors that are new to competing in the contest. Individuals in the novice division will not be eligible to compete at the state contest but will be judged and placed in the novice division.
4. Juniors and seniors compete individually at the County level.
5. A cloverbud division may also be offered at the county level for youth ages 5 - 7. Cloverbuds should participate in a non competitive learning activity that will introduce them to the contest.
6. All contestants must be members of 4-H in the county they are representing during the year in which this event is held.
7. Counties may choose to hold their county contests at any time during the year, although most counties hold their contests in the late fall or winter months.
8. Teams for the state contest may be selected by any procedure which a county deems appropriate, however most counties hold a county level contest to determine who will be on the state team.

At the State Level

1. Juniors compete as a county team at the state contest. Junior county teams consist of four members plus 1 alternate who have been previously selected by their county. In teams in which there are four members, all will compete. Alternates may also attend and participate in the contest but their scores will not be used in computing the results for their county. In cases where a county team has fewer than 4 members, all efforts will be made to place an alternate from another county on that team to comprise a team of 4 contestants.
2. Seniors compete individually at the state contest. Seniors who have previously competed in the National 4-H Horse Roundup in hippology are ineligible to participate in the state contest, but are encouraged to attend and assist with the state contest.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Reference Material: All the information covered in this contest may be found in one or more of the following publications (*indicates sources used for seniors only):

*NEWHOR - Illustrated Dictionary of Equine Terms, New Horizons Education Center, Inc.
Alpine Publications
PO Box 7027, Loveland CO 80537
Phone – 1-800-777-7257 FAX – 970-667-9157

*EVANS 2nd - The Horse(2nd Edition) by EVANS, BORTON, HINTZ, VAN VLECK
W.H. Freeman and Company
660 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94104.
(414) 391-5870

*Jean T. Griffiths
EQUINE SCIENCE: BASIC KNOWLEDGE FOR HORSE PEOPLE OF ALL AGES
www.HorseBooksEtc.com or 1-800-952-5813

*KAINER - The Coloring Atlas of Horse Anatomy
Dr. Robert Kainer and Dr. Thomas McCracken
Alpine Publications Inc.
P.O. Box 7027, Loveland, Co 80537
1-800-777-7257

*Lewis 2nd - Feeding and Care of the Horse(2nd edition)
Lon D. Lewis, Williams and Wilkins
P.O. Box 1496, Baltimore, MD 21298-9724
Phone Number-(800)-638-0672

AYHC 1st - Horse Industry Handbook-by the American Youth Horse Council
The Equine Collection – Dept. AYHC
P.O. Box 1539 Fort Lee, NJ 07024-1539
Phone – 800-952-5813 FAX – 201-840-7242

AYHC - Youth Leaders Manual-by the American Youth Horse Council
The Equine Collection – Dept. AYHC
P.O. Box 1539 Fort Lee, NJ 07024-1539
Phone – 800-952-5813 FAX – 201-840-7242

4-H Horse Program Series - Horses and Horsemanship and Horse Science
Ray J. Antoniewicz
National 4-H Council
7100 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Massachusetts 4-H Horse Show Rulebook

Dover Tack Catalog www.doversaddlery.com

Smith Brothers Tack Catalog www.smithbrothers.com

THE RULES

1. Contestants are not allowed to leave the contest area once the contest has started.
2. Contestants are not allowed to have any form of electronic device on them during the contest. This includes cell phones, ipods, pagers, etc.
3. During the contest there is to be no talking. If a contestant has a question they should raise their hand and wait for the room monitor to come to them.
4. Contestants must stay with their group at all times. Failure to be with your group at the beginning of a phase will be cause for elimination from that phase.
5. Contestants are not allowed to touch any of the station items.
6. Contestants should clearly mark all of their answers on their answer sheet.
7. Contestants may use pencils or black or blue ink only.

THE CONTEST

Every effort should be made to offer each of the 4 phases at the county level and state level contest. Be sure to use only the junior sources for the junior contest. Each phase of the contest should be worth 100 points for seniors and 50 points for juniors and should take approximately 25 minutes to complete.

The 4 Phases

1. Examination Phase

This phase of the contest will include a written exam. The written exam should consist of a variety of true or false, multiple choice, fill in the blank and matching questions. The exam for juniors should consist of 50 questions and for seniors should consist of 100 questions. Each question should be worth 1 point.

The exam may include the following:

- a. Anatomy which may include external, skeletal internal organs, parts of gastrointestinal tract, male and female reproductive organs, detailed anatomy of the foot and detailed anatomy of the lower limbs.
- b. Origins or other information on specific breeds.
- c. Tack, bits, bridles, and other appointments used with horses
- d. Nutritional information of grains and forages
- e. Internal and external parasites life cycles and/or damage caused
- f. Blemishes and unsoundnesses
- g. Definitions of equine terms
- h. Additional items as necessary

2. Slide Identification Phase

This phase of the contest includes identification of projected slides. In this phase, a slide is shown and a question is asked in regards to what is pictured on the slide. The person asking the questions may present two to four options of what the correct answer is (instructing contestants to circle A, B, C or D or fill in bubbles next to the letter for their answers). It is recommended that juniors are tested on 25 slides and seniors are tested on 50 slides. Each slide should be worth 2 points.

Slides may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Identification of breeds
- b. Colors and color patterns
- c. Activity
- d. Proper appointments
- e. Additional items as necessary

3. Station Phase

This phase will consist of a series of stations or tables where at each, all contestants will respond to the requirements of the station. Each station or table should have 10 items and an answer key. The answer key may have 10 – 13 answers on it with the 10 correct answers and a few additional answers that are incorrect. Answers should be listed alphabetically on the answer sheet to assist the contestants in finding the answers. The items should be numbered 1 – 10 and the answers should be labeled A – J (or A – M if 13 answers are used). It is recommended that only 1 person be at a station at a time. Contestants should stand with their backs to the station until the time keeper signals them to begin. Seniors should be allotted 2 minutes per station and juniors should be allotted 3 minutes per station. It is recommended that juniors be tested on 5 stations and seniors be tested on 10 stations. Each question should be worth 1 point.

Examples of stations may include identification of:

- a. Tack, bits, bridles, horse shoes and parts of shoes.
- b. Tools and Equipment, and assembly of specific parts of various pieces of equipment.
- c. Grains and forages used in equine rations including various forms and methods of preparation
- d. Internal and external parasites based on actual samples, pictures, life cycle chart and/or damage caused
- e. Blemishes and unsoundnesses
- f. Ages of equines based on teeth
- g. Horse health.
- h. Measurements such as, but not limited to, wither height, shoe size, girth, collar size, gullet width, seat length of saddle, etc. may be required.
- i. Additional items as necessary

4. Judging Phase

Contestants will be required to place two classes consisting of conformation and/or performance classes. Whenever possible, live judging classes should be used. Video and/or movie classes may be used if live horses are not available. In extreme cases, pictorial classes may also be used. The score for the 2 classes will be added together to determine the final score. For juniors, this final score will then be divided by 2 to make this phase worth 50 points. For seniors, the full final score will be used.

Refer to the Horse Judging Contest Rules and Procedures for more information about horse judging.

AWARDS

1. At the County level contest, awards will be presented to the overall winners from the junior and the senior competition. It is recommend to award at least to 5th place, but you may place to 10th place.
2. At the State level contest, awards will be presented to the top ten junior teams in each category, and to the top ten individuals in the Senior competition.

Tie Breaking

All ties will be broken using the following sequence:

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

If further tie breaking is needed, the scores at each station, in order may be used.

RUNNING THE CONTEST

Contest Location

Finding a central location with many rooms available is best for hippology (example schools, churches or community centers). More room availability usually reduces contest time. Ideally each age division will have a separate room for stations. If rooms are not an issue, then testing may be in separate rooms as well. Judging is usually done in the same room for all age divisions. Slides may be done in the same room provided junior sources are used for the junior portion. A separate grading area is needed where all of the scoring will take place. A holding area is needed for parents & spectators. Contest officials should do their best to ensure that contestants are doing their own work & audience, parents or leaders are not in a position to accidentally assist.

Personnel needed to run contest:

1. Contest coordinator with no other job than solving & answering questions
2. Master score keeper to organize final scores & calculate high point awards
3. As many test, station, slide & judging graders that you can get (more makes contest get over faster)
4. All tests, judging, slides & stations should be double graded (unless using scan-tron type devices or computerized grading) to ensure no mistakes are made. Verifier & original grader **should not** be from same county.
5. Station monitor for announcing time limit for each station
6. Slide operator to run slide portion
7. Possible test reader for contestants requiring assistance
8. Test area personnel to handle any problems, hand out tests & collect tests – without helping with answers to test
9. Video operator for judging portion and collect scores
10. Hall monitors for keeping traffic moving between each portion of hippology & directing to rooms
11. 2 registration table personnel prior to start of contest

Equipment needed to run contest:

1. Judging Video
2. Judging cards
3. Judging slide ruler for scoring classes
4. TV & video player
5. Projection device if using PowerPoint for slides
6. Projection screen (optional)
7. Station score sheets for contestants – with at least 10 answer keys
8. Written tests for contestants – with at least 10 answer keys
9. Stations (Jr & Sr age divisions)
10. Extra pencils for contestants in case they don't have one
11. Registration sheets for each county
12. Stop watch for time keeper (stations & team problem)
13. Calculators for graders
14. Tables for stations to sit on
15. Tables & chairs for testing area
16. Tables & chairs for grading & scoring area
17. Red pencils for scoring & grading

When tabulating final scores: Remember to weight each portion (test, stations, judging) equally. For example: if test is 50 questions then each question should be worth 2 points for total of 100. If 2 classes are judged then total points (2X50 pts each = 100). If there are 10 stations, each station is worth 10 points for total of 100. If there are 25 slides then each slide would be worth 4 points for a total of 100.

EXAMPLE OF HOW TO MAKE A HIPPOLOGY STATION

Requirements:

1. Station title that accurately represents subject matter of station
2. Pictures or diagram labeled with # 1-10
3. Answer choices labeled appropriately for age division. Jr age division should have 10 – 12 answer choices (10 correct and if 12, 2 incorrect) labeled A-J (or A – L if 12). Sr age division should have 13 choices (10 correct & 3 incorrect) labeled A-M.

Juniors should be tested on 5 stations and seniors should be tested on 10 stations.

Stations that have not been previously seen by contestants should be used for contests. (Ideas for getting stations: clip picture from magazines, copy pictures from books or print pictures from websites). Clear pictures that are in color and are large are easier to see.

Number items on the picture 1-10 or have multiple pictures labeled 1-10. Label clearly, & label in some semblance of order (clockwise, left to right, top to bottom). Make sure that if you are using arrows, they are pointing to a specific area on the picture and it is clearly marking just that spot. If you are bringing actual items, try to tape the number to the item to prevent the number from moving or shifting to a different place.

Sample Station Phase Answer Sheet

Contestant # _____

Score _____

Station 1

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Station 2

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Station 3

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Station 4

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

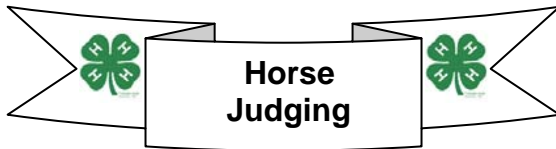
Sample Slide Answer Sheet

Contestant # _____

Score _____

- 1. A B C D
- 2. A B C D
- 3. A B C D
- 4. A B C D
- 5. A B C D

Sample Judging Card Answer Sheet



Circle Your Placing

Contestant Number

Class Name

Score

1	2	3	4
1	2	4	3
1	3	2	4
1	3	4	2
1	4	2	3
1	4	3	2
2	1	3	4
2	1	4	3
2	3	1	4
2	3	4	1
2	4	1	3
2	4	3	1
3	1	2	4
3	1	4	2
3	2	1	4
3	2	4	1
3	4	1	2
3	4	2	1
4	1	2	3
4	1	3	2
4	2	1	3
4	2	3	1
4	3	1	2
4	3	2	1