SC 4-H Horse Program Communications Contest
Rules and Regulations

Contest Eligibility

1. Junior and senior 4-H members may compete in any or all of the following speech contests: public speaking, individual presentation and team presentation. Each of these three contests must have the topic be centered around a horse-related/equine industry topic. Youth are considered a junior if they are age 9 through 13 as of January 1 of the 4-H year; seniors are 14 through 18 as of January 1 of the current 4-H year.

2. Youth must participate in a county or regional qualifying event before competing at the State Communications contest.

3. The top two individuals/teams in each of the three senior-level communications contests may be invited to participate in the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championship.

Public Speaking Contest

1. The subject must pertain to the equine industry. Speeches not appropriately related to the equine 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 is allowed.

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. A public address system 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.

11. No videotaping or photographing of presentations is allowed during the contest except by respective coaches or their designees.

12. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing and will be announced prior to the start of the event.

13. Each judge will score the entries 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 placings.

14. Ties will be broken first by the judges’ accumulated delivery score, second by the judges’ accumulated organization score and third on the content and accuracy score.

15. Improper attire will be a violation and appropriate points deducted on the scorecard. Improper attire will be determined at the discretion of the judges. Business attire or dress appropriate to the speech is acceptable.

16. The judges will consider the questions listed under each section. The points on the score card will be as follows:

   A. Introduction 10 points
   1. Did the introduction serve to create interest in the subject?
   2. Was the introduction short and to the point?

   B. Organization 15 points
   1. Were the main points easy to follow?
   2. Were the main points arranged in the best order?
   3. Were the sentences short and easy to understand?
   4. Was the speech interesting?

   C. Content and Accuracy 20 points
   1. Were the facts and information accurate?
   2. Was there enough information concerning the subject?
   3. Was credit given to the sources of information, if it was appropriate?
   4. Was the content appropriately related to the equine industry?
D. Stage Presence  15 points
1. Was the speaker neat and appropriately dressed?
2. Did the speaker talk directly to and look at the audience?
3. Was the speaker’s posture erect, but not stiff?
4. Did the speaker refrain from leaning on the podium?
5. Did the speaker seem relaxed and at ease?

E. Delivery  20 points
1. Did the speaker have appropriate voice control?
2. Were all the words pronounced correctly?
3. If notes were used, was it done without detracting from the speech?
4. Did the speaker seem to choose words at the time they were spoken as opposed to memorized or ready-type delivery?

F. General  10 points
1. Did the speaker convey to the audience a sense of wanting to communicate?
2. Did the speech reflect the thoughts and personality of the speaker?

G. Conclusion  10 points
1. Was the conclusion short and interesting?
2. Did the conclusion properly wrap up the speech?
3. Could the speaker handle questions easily?

Individual Presentation Contest

1. The subject must pertain to the equine industry. Speeches not appropriately related to the equine 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. No coaching from parents or coaches during the speech is allowed.

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. A public address system will not be used during the contest, but a podium will be provided.

6. Participants must supply their own props. Two tables and chairs will be provided for the presenter's use. Contestants must provide all of their own equipment.

7. Creative audio visual aids may be used but the contestant must be involved in making or designing them.

8. During the event, the contestants may introduce themselves by name, county and speech topic.

9. Speeches 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.

10. Contestants should cite their major references after the conclusion of their speech. This time will not be counted in the allotted time.

11. 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.

12. Contestants may use video recorders to tape their own presentations. It is the responsibility of the coach/speaker to provide all necessary recording equipment.

13. No videotaping or photographing of presentations is allowed during the contest except by respective coaches or their designees.

14. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing and will be announced prior to the start of the event.

15. Each judge will score the entries 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 placings.

16. Ties will be broken first by the judges’ accumulated delivery score, second by the judges’ accumulated organization score and third on the content and accuracy score.

17. Improper attire will be a violation and appropriate points deducted on the scorecard. Improper attire will be determined at the discretion of the judges. Business attire or dress appropriate to the speech is acceptable.
18. The judges will consider the questions listed under each section. The points on the score card will be as follows:

A. Introduction 10 points
1. Did the introduction serve to create interest in the subject?
2. Was the introduction short and to the point?

B. Organization 25 points
1. Was only one main idea demonstrated?
2. Did the discussion relate directly to each step as it was shown?
3. Was each step shown just as it should be done in an actual situation or was a thorough explanation given?
4. Could the audience see each step and/or visual aid?
5. Were the materials and equipment carefully selected, neatly arranged and well organized?
6. Were visual aids used if and when they were needed?
7. Were the key points for each step stressed?

C. Content and accuracy 25 points
1. Were the facts and information presented accurate?
2. Was there enough information presented about the subject?
3. Were approved practices used?
4. Was credit given to the sources of information, if it was appropriate?
5. Was the content appropriately related to the horse industry?

D. Stage presence 10 points
1. Were the presenters neat and appropriately dressed for the subject of the presentation?
2. Did the presenter speak directly to and look at the audience?
3. Was the presentation too fast or too slow?

E. Delivery 15 points
1. Did the presenter appear to enjoy giving the presentation?
2. Did the presenter have good voice control?
3. Were all words pronounced correctly?
4. If notes were used, was it done without detracting from the presentation?
5. Did the presenter seem to choose words at the time they were spoken as opposed to a memorized presentation?

F. Effect on Audience 5 points
1. Did the audience show an interest in the presentation?
2. Could the audience go home and carry out the idea?

G. Summary 10 points
1. Was the summary short and interesting?
2. Were the key points briefly reviewed?
3. Did the summary properly wrap up the presentation?
4. Could the presenter handle questions easily?

Team Presentation Contest

1. Each presentation consists of two members for this contest.

2. This is a Team Presentation where both participants should have an equal role in the presentation.

3. The subject must pertain to the equine industry. Speeches not appropriately related to the equine industry can be disqualified at the discretion of the judges.

4. 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.

5. No coaching from parents or coaches during the speech is allowed.

6. Contestants may use notes. However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judges.

7. A public address system will not be used during the contest, but a podium will be provided.

8. Participants must supply their own props. Two tables and chairs will be provided for the presenter’s use. Contestants must provide all of their own equipment.

9. Creative audio visual aids may be used but the contestant must be involved in making or designing them.

10. During the event, the contestants may introduce themselves by name, county and speech topic.
11. Speeches 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.

12. Contestants should cite their major references after the conclusion of their speech. This time will not be counted in the allotted time.

13. 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.

14. Contestants may use video recorders to tape their own presentations. It is the responsibility of the coach/speaker to provide all necessary recording equipment.

15. No videotaping or photographing of presentations is allowed during the contest except by respective coaches or their designees.

16. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing and will be announced prior to the start of the event.

17. Each judge will score the entries 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 placings.

18. Ties will be broken first by the judges’ accumulated delivery score, second by the judges’ accumulated organization score and third on the content and accuracy score.

19. Improper attire will be a violation and appropriate points deducted on the scorecard. Improper attire will be determined at the discretion of the judges. Business attire or dress appropriate to the speech is acceptable.

20. The judges will consider the questions listed under each section. The points on the score card will be as follows:

   A. Introduction 10 points
   1. Did the introduction serve to create interest in the subject?
   2. Was the introduction short and to the point?

   B. Organization 25 points
   1. Was only one main idea demonstrated?
   2. Did the discussion relate directly to each step as it was shown?
   3. Was each step shown just as it should be done in an actual situation or was a thorough explanation given?
4. Could the audience see each step and/or visual aid?
5. Were the materials and equipment carefully selected, neatly arranged and well organized?
6. Were visual aids used if and when they were needed?
7. Were the key points for each step stressed?

C. Content and accuracy 25 points
1. Were the facts and information presented accurate?
2. Was there enough information presented about the subject?
3. Were approved practices used?
4. Was credit given to the sources of information, if it was appropriate?
5. Was the content appropriately related to the horse industry?

D. Stage presence 10 points
1. Were the presenters neat and appropriately dressed for the subject of the presentation?
2. Did the presenters speak directly to and look at the audience?
3. Was the presentation too fast or too slow?

E. Delivery 15 points
1. Did the presenters appear to enjoy giving the presentation?
2. Did the presenters have good voice control?
3. Were all words pronounced correctly?
4. If notes were used, was it done without detracting from the presentation?
5. Did the presenters seem to choose words at the time they were spoken as opposed to a memorized presentation?
6. Did the presenters work together as a team?

F. Effect on Audience 5 points
1. Did the audience show an interest in the presentation?
2. Could the audience go home and carry out the idea?

G. Summary 10 points
1. Was the summary short and interesting?
2. Were the key points briefly reviewed?
3. Did the summary properly wrap up the presentation?
4. Could the presenters handle questions easily?