

# **South Carolina Horse Judging Invitational**

*Hosted by SC 4-H Horse Program and SC Quarter Horse Association*

## **Contest Rules and Regulations**

### **Objectives**

- To train 4-Hers in evaluating conformation and performance of horses in a variety of breeds and disciplines
- To teach the correct terminology when describing these horses and to train them to defend their decisions through the presentation of oral reasons
- To develop self-confidence, decision making and organization skills through the process of placing classes and presenting oral reasons

### **General Information**

1. Contest will be held at the South Carolina Equine Park in Camden, SC on May 25, 2019. The contest check-in will be at 7:30 am, orientation is at 7:45 am and the contest will begin at 8:00 am.
2. The awards program will be held at the conclusion of the contest.
3. All entries must be completed online by May 3, 2019. No late entries will be accepted. Corrections and substitutions will be accepted the day of the contest.
4. There will be a \$10 registration fee for each contestant. Registration should be made online with a credit/debit card.
5. Direct questions to Katie Shaw at berry7@clemson.edu or Kristine Vernon at kvernon@clemson.edu.

### **Contestant Eligibility**

1. The contest is open to South Carolina 4-H members and non-members.
2. Youth can register as South Carolina 4-H members or non-members but not both. Each group will be divided in three age divisions: Cloverbud, Junior and Senior.
3. Teams may consist of three or four members. In teams where there are four members, all will compete, but the member receiving the lowest overall score will be dropped from the final tally for the team total. This individual will still be eligible for individual prizes. Teams consisting of three members will have no score dropped and all members' scores will count for individual and team awards. If a county does not have enough participants to make a full team, individuals are welcome to compete.
4. Teams may be selected by any means appropriate to the county, club or barn that they represent. Youth may compete on another county's/club's/barn's team only if there are insufficient numbers of youth to make a team within their own. Please list all counties/clubs/barns that make up the team on these mixed club teams.
5. **Junior Division** – Junior 4-H members must be at least 9 years but not yet 14 years of age as of 1/1/19.

6. **Senior Division** – Senior 4-H members must be at least 14 years but not yet 19 years of age as of 1/1/19.
7. **Cloverbud Division** – Cloverbud 4-H members must be at least 5 years but not yet 9 years as of 1/1/19.
8. Any youth who has previously participated in the Eastern (or Western) National 4-H Horse Roundup as a team member or alternate is NOT eligible to compete at the SC State 4-H Horse Judging Contest.

### **The Contest**

1. The contest will consist of 4-6 halter and 4-6 performance classes. All classes will be comprised of four horses, which will be designated as 1, 2, 3, or 4.
2. All horses will be judged as sound in halter classes; performance classes will be judged as they go regarding to soundness. All tack and attire will be considered legal.
3. Conformation classes that may be included in the contest are:

Quarter Horse	Morgan
Stock Type	Hunter in Hand
Hunter Type	Walking Horse
Arabian	Pony Breeds (hunter or stock)
4. Performance classes that may be included in the contest are:

Western Pleasure	Pleasure Driving
Reining	Saddle Seat Equitation
Western Riding	Saddlebred Three Gaited (Trotting)
Hunter Under Saddle	Pleasure
Hunt Seat Equitation	Country English Pleasure
Western Horsemanship	Plantation English Pleasure
Hunter Hack	Walking Horse
5. Final placings will be determined by a panel of official judges. One of these will be deemed the Referee Judge, who will be responsible for determining the cuts. Oral reasons officials should also be present to observe the classes.
6. Hats are prohibited during the contest.
7. No cell phones or electronic devices are permitted during any phase of the contest. While the contest is in progress, there shall be no conferring among contestants or anyone else except as directed by Contest Officials. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification. All questions should be directed to group leaders. The contest coordinator shall have full authority to disqualify contestants violating this rule.
8. Contestants will be given fifteen minutes to judge non-reason classes and seventeen minutes for reason classes. Cards will be taken up at the conclusion of each class. Maximum points will be 50 for each class placing and 50 for each set of reasons.

9. Juniors, Seniors, and Cloverbuds will judge the same classes. All contestants will be required to give reasons. Juniors give two sets of reasons – one halter and one performance. Seniors will give four sets of reasons – two halter and two performance. Cloverbuds will give one set of reasons but may use notes during their reasons. Classes that will require oral reasons will be announced. Contestants should prepare for all classes as if they are potential reasons classes, and contestants will be notified as soon as possible as to which classes are reasons classes.
10. All contestants may use a clipboard and/or notepad of their choice. Horse judging guides, notes and other judging information is allowed during the judging phase and while preparing oral reasons. **NOTES ARE NOT PERMITTED WHEN PRESENTING ORAL REASONS** (except Cloverbuds). Each contestant must bring their own writing instrument(s).
11. Contestants have two minutes to present their oral reasons to the judge. Contestants should not use notes or read their oral reasons (except Cloverbuds).
12. Ties for team or individual awards will be broken by the following sequence:
  - a. Team or individual with the highest oral reasons score will be first.
  - b. If still tied, the team or individual with the highest placing in reasons classes will be first.
  - c. If still tied, the team or individual with the highest single reason score will be first.
  - d. If still tied, the youngest contestant or team with youngest member shall be first.

### **Awards**

1. Awards will be presented at the conclusion of the contest once tabulations are complete.
2. All participants will receive Danish ribbons based on performance.
3. 4-H members and non-members of the top 5 Junior and Senior teams will receive awards.
4. The top ten individuals in the 4-H and non-member Junior and Senior Divisions will receive awards.
5. Cloverbuds will receive a participation ribbon.
6. The top 8 highest 4-H member Senior Individuals will be eligible to compete in the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships. Youth will be assigned to a team based on SC 4-H Horse Program management decision. Contracts must be signed and adhered to in order to participate at Southern Regionals (SR). Being a top 8 4-H member individual at the state contest does not automatically allow participation at SR if the contract and practice schedule has not been adhered to by participating youth.
  - a. Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup Horse Bowl Contest participants will be chosen at the discretion of the SC 4-H Horse Program management team based

on performance and preparedness/practice leading up to the competition.

- b. The SC 4-H Horse Program management team will choose individuals based on their performance preparing for and competing in the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships and Eastern Nationals 4-H Horse Roundup (ENRU) to represent South Carolina at the ENRU in Louisville, KY.

