

## **EQUISMARTZ COMMUNICATIONS CONTEST**

### **STATE CONTEST:**

The State 4-H Horse Communications Contest will be held as part of The Equismartz events on a date and location established by the State Youth Animal Science Team. Teams for Team Presentations must be county teams or can be from neighboring counties as long as a particular county does not have enough members to make up a two person team and the teammates have practiced together at the county level. Dual-enrollment is not required for composite teams in Communications, if there is not another individual in the Unit that wants to do a Team Presentation.

### **AWARDS:**

Ribbons will be awarded to the top ten placings in each division and contest.

### **ELIGIBILITY:** (all communications contests)

1. Units should encourage all 4-H members to study and compete on an open participation basis.
2. Each contestant must be an enrolled, eligible member of Virginia 4-H and enrolled via the 4HOnline enrollment system.
3. Enrollment will be verified via the 4HOnline enrollment system.
4. Contestants must qualify by competing at a Unit or higher level (i.e., District Contest) in the same contest year as EquiSmartz. Youth are allowed to compete at **ANY** unit or district contest within the state of Virginia (Zoom options available). If youth cannot attend a unit or district contest, please contact Katherine Carter ([meadows@vt.edu](mailto:meadows@vt.edu)) or Hunter Liles ([huntl97@vt.edu](mailto:huntl97@vt.edu)) for alternative options to qualify.
5. Senior contestants are those 14-18 years of age on or before January 1<sup>st</sup> of the contest year. Juniors are age 9 as of September 30<sup>th</sup> of the contest year, and no older than 14 as of Jan. 1 of the contest year. This age eligibility conforms to the National 4-H Horse Contest Rules and Regulations. (Seniors may be turning 19 by Dec. 31 of the contest year, but cannot be age 19 on Jan. 1 of the contest year.)
6. The senior winning team/individual in each contest at EquiSmartz will be invited to represent Virginia at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup Contest in Louisville, KY, with the top two teams/individuals being invited to participate at the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championship Contest. Upon participation at the National contest the youth will be ineligible to compete in that team/individual contest again.
7. Contestants may use video recorders to tape their own presentations. It is the responsibility of the coach/speaker to provide all necessary recording equipment. No videotaping or photographing of other presentations is allowed during the contest, except by 4-H officials, respective coaches or their designees.
8. Ties will be broken first by the judges' accumulated Delivery score, second by the judges' accumulated Presentation Format score and third on Credit and Content score.
9. 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.

## **TEAM PRESENTATION CONTEST**

**OBJECTIVES:** The primary objective of the Team Presentation contest is to provide, in a friendly but competitive setting, an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of a specific equine-related topic, and present that topic to an audience. It is hoped that this contest will generate new friendships and be a rewarding experience for the contestants.

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES:**

1. Working orders will be drawn and posted in advance of the contest. Working order may be changed to accommodate 4-H members when conflicts arise with other 4-H contests coinciding.
2. May be a demonstration or illustrated talk. Both presentation forms are acceptable and will be evaluated equally, although the delivery methods are different. 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. A team will consist of two members. Team work should be demonstrated.
4. Subject must pertain to the Equine industry. (No live animals or additional people may be used.)
5. The following equipment will be provided for the contestants use: one table, one easel, one screen, and one power cord. Contest management will also provide a projection device for PowerPoint presentations, however it is at the competitor's risk if the provided equipment fails to connect or work with the competitor's computer before or during their presentation. The competitor may choose to use their own equipment (projector, cables, and computer). A clicker to forward the slides will NOT be provided.
6. See the scorecard posted for consideration and points.
7. Ten to 15 minutes will be allowed for each Senior Team Presentation. Juniors (ages 9-13) will have a time limit of 4 to 8 minutes.
8. Time Penalties: Three points per judge is subtracted for each minute or fraction of a minute over or under the time limits.
9. Contestants may use notes. Excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judges.
10. Contestants should cite their major references after the conclusion of their presentation. This will not be counted in the allotted time.

## **EQUISMARTZ INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATION CONTEST**

**OBJECTIVES:** The primary objective of the Individual Presentation contest is to provide, in a friendly but competitive setting, an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of a specific equine-related topic, and present that topic to an audience. It is hoped that this contest will generate new friendships and be a rewarding experience for the contestants.

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES:**

Same rules as for Team Presentations Contest.

Exceptions:

1. This is an individual contest.
2. See the scorecard for this contest.
3. Presentations should be 9-12 minutes in length for Seniors
4. 5-7 minutes for junior presentations

## **EQUISMARTZ PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST**

**OBJECTIVES:** The primary objective of the Public Speaking contest is to provide, in a friendly but competitive setting, an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of a specific equine-related topic, and present that topic to an audience. It is hoped that this contest will generate new friendships and be a rewarding experience for the contestants.

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES:**

Same rules as for Presentations Contest.

Exceptions:

1. This is an individual contest.
2. See the scorecard for this contest.
3. Seniors should be 7-10 minutes in length.
4. Juniors should be 3-6 minutes in length.
5. No visual aids may be used.