

EQUISMARTZ COMMUNICATIONS CONTEST

STATE CONTEST:

The state EquiSmartz Communications Contest will be scheduled during the spring of each year. Entry forms and other contest information will be sent out in advance and posted on the [Virginia 4-H Horse Program website](#). Teams must be county teams or can be from neighboring counties as long as a particular county does not have enough members to make up the two person team and the teammates have practiced and competed together at the county level.

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 horse members to study and compete on an open participation basis. Unit members may be selected by contests or by any method acceptable and designated by leaders and approved by the Extension units.
2. Each contestant must be a bonafide 4-H Club Horse Project Member in Virginia, and eligible per each respective unit Extension Agent.
3. *(new for 2022)* Contestants must qualify by earning a blue ribbon at the Unit or higher level (i.e., District Contest) in the same contest year as EquiSmartz with the same talk/presentation that will be given at EquiSmartz. Any scholarships must be arranged for at the local level. Juniors and Seniors will be judged in separate contests.
4. Senior contestants are those 14-18 years of age on or before January 1st of the contest year. Juniors are age 9 as of September 30th 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.)
5. 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 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 future team/individual contest.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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 4-8 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.
11. Questions will be asked by judges only.

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.

ELIGIBILITY:

Same as for Team Presentations Contest

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.

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.

ELIGIBILITY:

Same as for Presentations Contests

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.