

# **Virginia 4-H Horsemanship Skills Program Level 3 & 4**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

1. **What is the purpose of levels 3 & 4?**
  - a. Both level 3 and 4 were designed to be more advanced.
  - b. Level 3 is designed to assess the knowledge of the youth being tested on various topics of equine.
    - i. 50 question written test
    - ii. Practical which will include 9 stations that will include live horses and equipment.
  - c. Level 4 is designed to assess the youth being tested on advanced riding skills for their specific discipline.
  
2. **Who can be tested on levels 3 & 4?**
  - a. Any **SENIOR** who has successfully completed and passed levels 1 and 2.
  - b. You must pass level 3 to move on to level 4.
  
3. **Are levels 3 & 4 required to show at the state level?**
  - a. No. These are advanced levels and are offered as an optional opportunity to advance in the Virginia 4-H Horsemanship skills program.
  
4. **What happens once youth have passed levels 3 & 4?**
  - a. The youth never have to test any horsemanship skills level again on any new horse.
  - b. The youth will receive a certificate of completion and a professional letter congratulating them on this accomplishment.
  
5. **Where can I be tested on levels 3 and 4?**
  - a. Both levels will be offered at the State Show.
  - b. Level 3 will have an additional testing date in the spring of each year.
  
6. **Who will evaluate levels 3 and 4?**
  - a. Level 3 will be evaluated by industry professionals and appointed state 4-H volunteers.
  - b. Level 4 will be evaluated by our state horse show judges in each discipline.
  
7. **Do I need a horse for level 3 and 4?**
  - a. No. Horses will be provided at each level 3 testing date.
  - b. You will use your own horse for level 4 at the state show.

**8. If a rider does not complete a full level on their first attempt, do they have to be re-tested on the entire level or can they just retest the skills they missed?**

- a. The rider will have to be retested on the entire level.

**9. Can I become a level 3 and 4 trained evaluator?**

- a. No.
- b. Level 3 evaluators will be industry professionals and appointed volunteers.
- c. Level 4 will only be the state show judges.

**10. Can I host a level 3 and 4 evaluation?**

- a. No. Level 4 will only be available at the state show. Level 3 will be offered at the state show and one other time.

**Additional things to keep in mind**

1. The skill levels of the Horsemanship Skills Program are progressive in nature. Consequently, a rider cannot attempt level four until they have passed level three.
2. Trained evaluators for level 1 and 2 are not eligible to evaluate level 3.
3. No spectators will be allowed for level 3.
4. Spectators will be allowed to watch from a distance for level 4.
5. Level 3 participants need to follow the State horse show dress code for their appropriate attire for their discipline.
6. Appropriate show attire for your discipline is required for level 4.

**\*\*\*** 2018 is a pilot year for Levels 3 and 4. Small numbers of youth will be accepted at each testing.

**\*\*\*** October 1, 2018 all horsemanship skills exemptions and grandfather rules will be void. Every youth will have to pass levels 1 and 2 for each new horse. Once they pass levels 3 and 4 they will no longer have to test levels 1 and 2 for any new horse.