

# VA 4-H HORSE PROGRAM



## March Essentials



*EquiSmarz* is just around the corner, April 1-3! The [entry deadline](#) is **March 14**. The [Virginia Horse Festival schedule](#) is online now so encourage friends and family to come experience a weekend of fantastic horse education and entertainment!



**Horsemanship Skills 3&4** is in the works! Here is what you need to know. First, it is not required! The only [Horsemanship Skills](#) that are required to participate in District Shows and the State Show are Levels 1&2. Horsemanship Skills 3&4 are designed for those who want to go above and beyond the minimum requirements and accomplish a higher degree of horse knowledge and skills. The testing will be open to Senior Level 4-H members. We hope to have the testing ready for the 2016 State Show. Level 3 will be an advanced knowledge and skills based test. Some skills that could be tested include taking TPR, leg wrapping, advanced showmanship and horse care. Only upon passing Level 3 will 4-Hers be able to move on to Level 4. Testing will be discipline specific by their respective judges at the State Show for Level 4. Special awards will be presented to those who complete Levels 3 & 4. We hope that Senior 4-Hers will be excited and ready to take on this new achievement challenge. More information will be forthcoming as the committee continues to formulate plans. Email [Leona](#) for questions!

### Flu/Rhino Vaccinations

USEF has adopted a new rule requiring proof of the Flu/Rhino vaccine within 6 months of showing. For this year's [State Show](#) we will highly recommend but not require that horses and ponies follow this USEF rule.

Beamer says "Yay - summer is coming!" and reminds you to spring your clocks forward on March 13th for Daylight Savings Time!



Be sure to sign up on the [4-H State Horse Listserve](#)

### SAVE THE DATE

- Mar. 12 - [Northern District Horse Contests](#)
- Mar. 14 - [EquiSmarz™ entry deadline](#)
- April 1-3 - [EquiSmarz contests](#)
- April 9 - [ND Dressage Qualifying Clinic](#)
- May 1 - Horse Declaration Forms Due
- May 14 - [ND 4-H Open Qualifying Show](#)
- May 15 - [ND 4-H Open Qualifying Show & Skills](#)
- May 21 - [ND 4-H Open Qualifying Show](#)
- May 21/22 - [SEDR2 Qualifying Horse Show](#)

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

We encourage our 4-Hers to pursue reaching out to their local communities. Here are some ideas to pursue:

- [Help families in Appomattox Co.](#) from VA Tornado damage in February
- [Horse Rescue facilities](#)
- [Therapeutic Riding Centers](#)

### HORSE SHOW HERO

Seeking donations successfully

**DO - Know what you're asking for!** The more information you are able to give, the more willing donors are to give. Tell them about you and the Horse Show Hero Program, 4-H and the State Show!

**DO - Know who you are asking!** Whether its friends, family members or a local business, make sure you know something about them, who they are and what they do!

**DO - Have a positive attitude!** Let people know how much their donations will help you and the 4-H Horse Program

**DO - Think outside the box!** Have some fun with it!

**DON'T be afraid of rejection!** You won't get a donation from everyone. Thank them for their time and move on!

**DON'T be overly formal!** The potential donors are all real people, if you come off as too formal, it might sound untrue to them. Have some fun with it; let them get to know you.

If you need some talking points, email [Leona](#) for more info.

[HORSE SHOW HERO FORMS](#)

Photo submitted by Celeste Crisman

 Thank you leaders and parent volunteers for making this world a better place for our kids to enjoy with horses!

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