

Equine Advisory Council Membership Guidelines

- **EAC Purpose:**

- To explain and support policies established by the larger 4-H Program, and Virginia Cooperative Extension.
- To review, oversee and implement the educational programs and contests unique to the 4-H Horse Program.
- To review, update and revise any new curriculum or resource materials.
- To recommend policies and rules regarding selection of teams to represent Virginia at Regional and National Competitions
- Deliver and receive information through its representatives to and from the respective District Horse Councils, units and clubs.

- **Membership:**

- **Volunteer Members** – Up to four (4) voting members from each District, chosen by their Horse Council. These should be enrolled 4-H volunteers/leaders who are active on the district level with programming (ie, contests, camps, etc.) and be affiliated with clubs that take part in a variety of district and state events. Representatives should not be from the same club, and ideally, come from different club focus interests, such as primarily a riding club or an educational contest club. Term should be no less than two consecutive years and may be reappointed by each District Horse Council following the Bylaws and Constitution of that Horse Council. Districts may want to elect alternates for these positions.
- **Extension Agents** – Two (2) voting members. Agents should have interest/expertise in the horse field and regularly assist with 4-H Horse programs. Extension Agents are voting members. Appointments are selected by the preceding Extension Agent that wishes to step down or by the Youth Animal Science Specialist or Associate. Term should be no less than two consecutive years.
- **At-Large Members** to be appointed by the Youth Animal Science Specialist or Associate. These should be individuals who can provide historical insight and make considerable and unique contributions to the Horse Program. At-Large Members are voting members with the exception of the Youth Animal Science Specialist and Associate. The Specialist and Associate may cast a vote only in the case of tie. Term of At-Large Members should be no less than two consecutive years.

- **Responsibilities of Members:**

- To represent the units and clubs in their District by being a communication channel
- To report to the EAC of district activities and carry back to their districts any new information, changes in policies, etc.
- To serve on subcommittees, and assist with State Programs or events such as EquiSmartz, State Show, the 50-Mile Ride, Horse Camps, Ambassador programs, etc. and/or to help in identifying volunteers from their respective Districts.
- To vote on all matters brought before the committee. A simple majority of members shall be required to pass any motion.
- Any member failing to attend two annual meetings in a row may be replaced by their respective District Horse Council or upon appointment for At-Large Members.
- Members must notify their District Horse Council of their attendance at the time of the requested annual EAC meeting RSVP date. If a member cannot be present at the Annual Meeting, their District Horse Council may appoint a member to sit in place of their membership.