

Judging Team Guidelines

Purpose

The Williamson County Hoopicks 4-H Horse Judging Team is formed to educate and encourage young people in the horse industry. We will be learning to evaluate horses, horsemanship skills, and general performance. Team members will gain self-confidence in setting goals and priorities, note taking, making decisions, solving problems, and communicating clearly. Most importantly, we will be learning how to work together as a team. Good sportsmanship is essential in life and it will be required as part of our team focus.

Team Members and Contests

Successful team members are: Willing to work, willing to learn, willing to be good listeners, willing to be organized, willing to sacrifice individual time for the team, willing to prioritize their day to day activities in order to judge. Every youth interested in horse judging will be included as part of our team regardless of experience or background. Members do not need to own a horse to join the team. Members will be required to attend 75% of club meetings, participate in all fund raising efforts, and maintain passing grades in school.

We will have the opportunity to travel to many competitions throughout the year with the goal of representing Williamson County at the 4-H District 8 contest. We will attend as many contests as possible to offer many learning experiences to each 4-H member.

In a contest you will usually judge eight classes from the following possibilities: halter, showmanship, English pleasure, English equitation, western pleasure, western horsemanship, western riding, trail, reining, and calf roping. You will usually judge 4 halter classes and 4 performance classes. Classes are made up of 4 horses. Your goal is to match the judges' official placings for each class. Oral reasons are the speech you make to an individual judge that explains how you determined your placings. Once a contest has begun, you may not speak to any other contestants until you have completed your oral reasons and left the contest area. Your judging manual goes over specifics and your coach, club manager, and team mates will help you to know what to expect before your first contest experience.

There are two age divisions: Juniors (13 and Under) and Seniors (14 and Over). Age is determined as of January first of the current year or as of September first of the 4-H club year. Certain contests may offer a Sub-Junior (9-10) age division and an adult division for coaches and parents to test their skills.

A contest team is composed of four individuals. In the scoring process, the scores of the four individuals are tabulated. The top three scores of the team members are compiled and compared to other teams entered in the contest. The fourth score is dropped for contest standings. Teams may participate with three team members, however, this means that all scores count and none will be dropped. Thus, all teams with four members would have an advantage over those with three members.

In any situation that we may travel with more or less than even multiples of four youth, a decision will be made for team assignments according to, but not limited to attendance, attitude, participation, past performance, and potential performance with other team members. Contests are designed to accommodate both teams and individual participants. Awards are given for top scoring individuals as well as top scoring teams.

At most contests we will be able to take every youth interested in attending, as long as they maintain good standing as a member of Hoofpicks 4-H Club. Certain contests limit the number of youth that can participate. These contests will be marked with an "*" on the yearly calendar. At the few contests that limit entries, the available team positions will be open. Again, which four youth make the team will be based on the same factors as stated above.

Practices

Attendance is strongly encouraged at all practices. Your success is determined by the effort that you put into learning and participating. If you miss any practices, you are encouraged to find out what you may have missed and if there have been any changes to the practice or contest schedule. Repetition and consistency will result in success over time for the team.

Practices will be held monthly and composed of several activities. This year, we have the opportunity to practice with Afton Batchelor, an active and successful member of the A&M Horse Judging Team. She is especially accomplished in giving oral reasons and will help every team member to build confidence in giving oral reasons to verbally defend your class placings. We will be setting up practice classes of horses to judge that will simulate an actual contest situation. We will visit area horse shows and stables when possible. We also will watch videos and get together for classroom instruction. Practices are fun, educational, and great bonding experiences for the team members.

What to bring

Each team member needs to always bring the following to all practices and contests: Hoofpicks Judging Manual, (if you lose your manual, your replacement cost is \$5.00), any handouts or additional materials provided by the club for study, a pad for taking notes, at least two #2 pencils, a sharpener, and a clipboard case with a built in handle to carry these around (purchased from Wal-Mart). Being prepared is essential and will reflect in your success.

Attire

The attire required for all contests will be western style boots, western style khaki pants, belt, and team shirt. The team shirt will be an oxford type, long sleeve, and pastel colored. All new team members will be responsible for purchasing a shirt and turning it into your club manager for monogramming. The club will pay for monograms. Please make sure that your shirt is clear of any seams and pockets in the upper left corner for proper monogramming. Your team clothing should be freshly starched or pressed, boots shined and hair neatly groomed. You must wear your shirt tucked in neatly and a belt is required. Appearance is very important at these contests. Please remember and be proud that you are representing your club.

Attire for practices and travel will be discussed and decided upon by the team members. At all times, appropriate attire will be similar to school dress code. Please be aware of the weather ahead of time and be prepared.

Conduct and Travel

Texas 4-H is approved by the Texas Education Agency as an extracurricular activity. Appropriate conduct similar to that of any UIL school trip is required at all times. You are representing 4-H as well as your club and your parents at all functions. You are expected to be polite and respectful. You must stay together as a group. If you need to leave the group for any reason, it will be with a partner and only after you let your club manager or an adult chaperone know. Please do not wander off! We need for you to help by being responsible. It's possible that you may have some individual free time on these trips, but it isn't guaranteed.

A travel itinerary will be provided for each trip and will be followed as closely as possible. The team is expected to travel, have meals, and stay together as a group. Carpooling will be arranged. It's especially important for the team to be together during contest results and awards. This is a great opportunity to listen and learn what the officials have to say. The trips are a lot of fun and team spirit grows as members get to know each other through traveling together.

Expenses

Judging team members are expected to participate in all Hoofpicks fund raising efforts. The club pays contest entry fees for team members that confirm participation prior to entry deadlines. Members that decide they want to go after the deadline may still be allowed to go, depending upon each contest late registration policy, but will be expected to pay any late registration fees. The club pays hotel expenses based on occupancy of four team members and one adult chaperone. The club will not pay for phone calls or video/game rentals. Please ask before you use these services. Parents are encouraged to attend contests to support their youth and work with each other to share carpool and hotel expenses whenever possible. Parents may make these arrangements on your own or caravan with the team.

The travel itinerary should indicate most expenses. Each team member will need money for gas, all meals, snacks, any entertainment, or souvenirs. A typical budget of \$35 for an overnight trip Friday evening to late Saturday should cover \$10 gas expense for carpooling and around \$7 per meal. Members are encouraged to bring your own snacks and drinks along.

Calendar of Contests 2004-2005 Season

October 9,2004-Heart of Texas Fair and Rodeo, Waco, TX

December 4,2004-Harris County, Montgomery

January 8,2005-Johnson County, Alvarado

January 15,2005-Montgomery County, Conroe

*February 5,2005-Ft. Worth Livestock Show, Senior Team Only

February 19,2005-San Antonio Livestock Show

February 26,2005-San Angelo Livestock Show

March 11,2005-Houston Livestock Show, Friday, school excused absences

March 26,2005-Tarrant County Horse-O-Rama

*April 9,2005-District 8 Contest, Stephenville, 1 Senior & 1 Junior Team

*June 6-10,2005- Texas 4-H Round Up at A&M, Senior Team only if we place in District

*July 1st - APHA World Show Judging Contest, reward for the team!

HOOPICKS JUDGING TEAM 2004-2005

Parents and youth Team members, please get together and review the schedule of judging contests. Indicate which contests you believe you'll be able to participate.

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- ___ *June 30,July 1, 2 - APHA World Show Judging Contest, reward for the team!

Parents, if you're willing to be an adult chaperone or help out with the Judging Team in another way, please indicate it here:

I have read and agree with the Judging Team Guidelines.

4-H Member Signature, Age, Date

I have read and agree with the Judging Team Guidelines.

Parent/Guardian Signature, Date

This form must be completed and signed prior to travel with the team.

We're looking forward to another great year. Thank you!

Cheryl Cantwell, Club Manager Questions? 512/515-5230 liberty@thegateway.net