

National Competition

At the discretion of the event judges and the state coordinator, the winner of each senior event may be offered the opportunity to represent Oregon at the Western National 4-H Horse Classic in Denver, Colorado. This event takes place early in January.

Those eligible for national competition will be offered the opportunity to attend on a rank order basis (i.e. first place gets first opportunity; if they turn it down, second place gets an opportunity, etc. through fifth place).

Denver Eligibility

Contestants must be enrolled in 4-H in the state they represent **and** must have been a participant at the qualifying Oregon 4-H Spring Horse Classic.

National Competitive Event rules stipulate 4-H members must have passed their 14th birthday and must not have passed their 19th birthday on January 1 of the year in which they qualified to compete in the Western National 4-H Horse Classic.

Contestants (including team alternates) may participate in only one contest per year at the national competition. After competing in this contest, they are not eligible to compete in the same specific contest again at either the state or national level. Contestants must not have competed in this contest in past Eastern National 4-H Roundups in Louisville or the Western National 4-H Spring Horse Classic in Denver.

Coaching/Supervision/Funding

Team training will be the responsibility of the volunteer head coach and/or assistant coach. The volunteer head coach will be responsible for duties associated with all team operations and travel arrangements as described in the position description.

Fund raising will be done locally by the county. Funds raised locally should be credited through the county 4-H Leaders Council savings/checking account in accordance with proper accounting procedures. Estimated expenses are \$500 to \$1000 per person. Fund raising may be done only for contestants and coaches.

Crossover Entries

If senior members compete and win in more than one event, the following guidelines come into play when forming teams for the national competition:

- No alternates may be used for public speaking or presentations. Only those members who competed at SHC are eligible.
- The county must be able to field full teams in the events for which they qualified. A judging team requires at least 3 members; a hippology team requires 3 members; a horse bowl team requires at least 4 members.

- In order to fill a team left short by crossover entries, the county agent may bring up no more than one 4-H member who is currently enrolled in that county's 4-H program **and who was a participant at Spring Horse Classic.**

It is possible for a county to have crossover entries and still meet eligibility requirements for two or more events. In such cases, one county may represent Oregon in several events at the national competition. However, in the event that the number of crossover entries prohibits meeting eligibility requirements, the county must choose which event they will participate in at nationals.

Teams must come to Spring Horse Classic prepared to state which event they will compete in at nationals should they win more than one event. This decision must be made before the final Awards Program.