

# **Oregon 4-H Horse Public Speaking Contest Guidelines**

## **(effective 10/01/08 through 09/30/09)**

Oregon's statewide 4-H Horse Public Speaking Contest is an educational experience that allows youth to further develop their abilities to relate their horse industry knowledge to others.

### **Objectives**

1. To provide an opportunity for 4-H youth to express their knowledge of equine science and husbandry.
2. To develop within youth interested in the horse industry the ability to speak confidently before the public.

### **Team Makeup**

Each county may send one intermediate and one senior member to compete in the Public Speaking contest. Participants should have received a blue ribbon at their county qualifying event.

### **Equipment**

The contest committee will provide a podium. A public address system will not be used.

### **Topic/Content**

The subject matter of the speech must pertain to the horse industry. Speeches not appropriately related to the horse industry can be disqualified at the discretion of the judge.

No topic of a similar title content or subject may be cross-entered in the presentations contest.

Content must consist of new material not previously exhibited by the contestant at a prior Spring Horse Classic.

### **Contest Procedures**

Contestant order will be determined prior to the contest.

No visual aids may be used. Contestants may use notes. However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant at the judge's discretion.

During the speech, contestants should introduce themselves by name, county and speech topic. Contestants should cite their major reference materials at the conclusion of their speech. This time will not be counted in the allotted time limit.

Only the judge may ask questions of the contestant in the contest. Contestants should repeat the question and then answer. The time for questions will not be counted as part of the allotted speech time.

Speeches shall be 7-10 minutes in length. One point will be deducted from the total score for each minute or fraction of a minute under seven minutes or over 10 minutes.

Ties will be broken first by the accumulated delivery score; second by the organization score; and third, by the content and accuracy score.

### **Awards and Recognition**

A medallion will be presented to the top individual in each age division. Rosettes will be awarded to the top five individuals in each age division.

## Public Speaking Scoring

### A. Introduction (10 points)

1. Did introduction create interest in the subject?
2. Was introduction short and to the point?

### B. Organization (15 points)

1. Were the main points easy to follow?
2. Were the main points arranged in the best order?
3. Were sentences short, easy to understand?
4. Was speech interesting?

### C. Content and Accuracy (20 points)

1. Were the facts and information correct?
2. Was there enough information concerning the subject?
3. Was credit given to sources of information, if appropriate?
4. Was content appropriately related to the horse industry?

### D. Stage Presence (15 points)

1. Was speaker neat and appropriately dressed?
2. Was speaker friendly?
3. Did speaker talk directly to the audience?
4. Did speaker look at the audience?
5. Was posture erect but not stiff?
6. Did speaker refrain from leaning on podium?
7. Did speaker seem relaxed and at ease?

### E. Delivery (20 points)

1. Did speaker appear to enjoy given the speech?
2. Did speaker have good voice control?
3. Were all words pronounced correctly?
4. Were notes used without distracting from speech?
5. Did speaker seem to choose words at the time they were spoken (natural vs. memorized)?

### F. General (10 points)

1. Did speaker convey to the audience a sense of wanting to communicate?
2. Did speech reflect the thoughts and personality of the speaker?

### G. Conclusion (10 points)

1. Was the conclusion short and interesting?
2. Did the conclusion properly wrap up the speech?