



Horse Hippology

The 4-H Hippology Contest is a comprehensive, skills-based competition in which participants demonstrate the extent of their knowledge and understanding of equine science and husbandry.

Description of Project:

Cloverleaf, Junior and Senior 4-H members are eligible to compete in Hippology.

There are Junior and Senior divisions; Cloverleaf 4-H'ers who are at least nine years old may compete in the Junior division. Competing as team members assists youth with the development of social skills, cooperation and managing feelings, as they become comfortable with working alongside others toward a common goal; integrity, sportsmanship, decision-making abilities and public speaking skills are also strengthened through the Hippology experience.

Participants are able to develop a knowledge and respect for the equine industry, the issues specific to that industry, and its importance to the community, the state, and to the international economy.

Overview:

- ⇒ *Hippology*
- ⇒ *Breakdown of contest:*
- ⇒ *Preparation Activities*
- ⇒ *Special Considerations*
- ⇒ *Recommended Resources*
- ⇒ *Who do you call?*

Break down of the contest:

Practical application of knowledge and skills is demonstrated through a written test, a skill station, a judging competition and a team problems component in which team members' work together to solve a specific issue as it relates to equine management. Students have the opportunity to strengthen their communication and leadership skills in an environment which allows contribution to group effort; encourages teamwork and promotes acceptance of differences. Participants must work with three or four team members in this equine event.

Preparation Activities:

- Each coach can determine the number of practices held during the judging season. Ideal practices last one hour to 1 ½ hours. You can have one to two practices a week. Teams can practice year round for a couple of months before the contest.
- Practices should include live farm visits and classroom lessons.
- Classroom activities can include:
 - have students bring in a picture of a horse and tell the class about that horse using the correct terms
 - create games to play like horse jeopardy
 - have PowerPoints and/or videos to show 4-H'ers what they need to know
- Use PowerPoint to create slides of various equine related topics to quiz. Allow youth to create the slides as additional practice.
- Identification Stations are easily made from tri-fold boards. Engage youth in the creation process for additional practice.
- To get to the state contest, look for emails from the state office on registration deadlines.
- Encourage them that this is a fun way to learn about horses especially if you don't have one.
- Don't forget the snacks at practice!

Recommended Resources:

Ohio State 4-H Learning Lab Kits
https://ohio4h.org/sites/ohio4h/files/imce/books_resources/LLK/LK_flyer_01.04.18.pdf

<https://ohio4h.org/books-and-resources/learning-lab-kits/horse>

NC State Extension
<https://equinehusbandry.ces.ncsu.edu/equinehusbandry-educational-materials/sample-hippology-materials/>

Website page list of resources
<https://4-h.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/HorseJudgingResources.pdf>

Special Considerations:

- If staying overnight, be sure to plan in advance since some UGA activities may have hotels fill up quickly.
- Be sure to plan for meals or snacks for after the contest. 4-H'ers may not eat when preparing reasons.
- Materials needed for horse judging are minimal.
- Some recommended resources are free while other may have a fee.
- When looking for local farms, you can look at the trainer directory for breed associations or riding associations.

Who do you call?

Dr. Kari Turner, UGA Animal Sciences Professor

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http://georgia4h.org/livestock/horse/horse_judging_hippology.htm