

PANHANDLE DISTRICT 1 4-H

To: County Extension Agents – ANR, FCH, 4-H

From: Sami Hatley Tina Bryant
Contest Superintendent District 4-H Specialist

Subject: **District 1 Hippology Contest**

Contest Date: **April 11, 2026**

Location: **WTAMU Ag Science Complex - Piehl-Schaeffer Pavilion**

Registration: **February 16- March 16 on 4-HOnline Fee: \$20**
Late Registration March 18-19 Late Fee: \$50

Schedule: **Check-in: 9:00 a.m.**
Orientation: 9:15 a.m.
Contest Start Time: 9:30 a.m.
Awards: Approximately 30 minutes following contest completion

Age Categories: **3rd – 8th grade – Intermediate**
9th – 12th grade – Senior

Accommodations

- Requests for accommodations must be submitted to the District Office from the County Office at least 2 weeks prior to the event.
- This request must be accompanied by official documentation in one of the following options for why the request is being submitted:
 - A) Official doctor's note from a licensed medical professional
 - B) School documentation and/or evaluation from a public institution
 - C) Official evaluation from a licensed professional therapist and/or diagnostician
- Note: The documentation and request are required within the appropriate timeline outlined for the event in order for the accommodation to be considered but does not guarantee that the requested accommodation can be made.
- The request will be reviewed by the district office (and when necessary, in consultation with the state office).
- Request and documentation will be kept confidential within the appropriate county/district staff and event administrators.



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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

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AWARDS

Top 3 teams overall & top 3 individuals overall per age group
State contest is an invitational contest open to all seniors.

OBJECTIVE

The Hippology contest provides youth with the opportunity to blend the knowledge and skills acquired in horse judging, horse quiz bowl, demonstrations, public speaking, showing and practical horse experience into one activity. Encourages a 4-H member to expand their knowledge and comprehension of equine science, comprehensive knowledge of the horse industry and management practices.

TEAM AND CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY

Teams consist of three or four members. In teams in which there are four members, all will compete, but the member receiving the lowest overall score will be automatically declared the alternate. The scores of the alternate will not be included in any of the team totals but will be considered in making all individual awards. Teams consisting of three members will have no alternate and all members' scores will count in determining individual and team awards.

CONTEST FORMAT

1. The contest will be divided into three areas: identification slide show, written test, and knowledge station. Contestants will be divided into groups and have time limits for each station area.
2. While completing the competition, there will be no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except as directed by contest officials. Contestants will be allowed specific time limits to complete each individual competition class. In addition, no technology devices including cell phones, smart watches, etc.
3. Contestants will need to bring a No. 2 and a clipboard. The contestants may not bring books, notes, pamphlets, or other reference material into the contest area. Contest officials reserve the right to check all contestant's notepads or clipboards to make sure they are blank prior to the contest. Violators are subject to contest dismissal.
4. Contestants are not to pick up or touch any item that is being identified or evaluated in the individual knowledge station classes, unless otherwise directed by contest officials.

CONTEST FORMAT

1. **Examination Phase**
 - a. Written Exam
 - b. Projected slides to be identified as to breed, color, color pattern, activity, proper appointments, etc.
 - c. Anatomy which may include external, skeleton, internal organs, parts of gastrointestinal tract, male and female reproductive organs, detailed anatomy of the foot and detailed lower limbs.

2. Station Phase --this phase will consist of a series of stations or tables where all contestants will respond to the requirements of the station. Stations may include pictures from popular press sources, however the content within the stations will be taken from the approved sources listed below. Members will be allowed 2.5 minutes at each station. Stations may include, but are not limited to:

1. Various types of saddles (actual or pictures) and parts of saddles.
2. Tack, bits, bridles, horseshoes and parts of shoes, Tools and equipment, and assembly of specific parts of various pieces of equipment Grains and forages used in equine rations including various forms of methods of preparation.
3. Internal and external parasites based on actual samples, pictures, life cycle charts and/or damage caused.
4. Blemishes and unsoundness.
5. Age of equines based on teeth
6. Nutrition and health
7. Genetics
8. Reproduction
9. Use of pulse rate, respiration rate, temperature, dehydration, anemia, etc., to assess horse health.
10. Measurements such as, but not limited to, wither height, shoe size, girth, collar size, gullet width, seat length of saddle, etc. may be required.

TIE-BREAKING

All ties overall, individual and team, will be broken using the following sequence:

1. Examination scores
2. Station scores

RESOURCES

Reference
AQHA Rulebook
Equine Science: Basic Knowledge for Horse People of All Ages - Jean T. Griffiths ISBN# 978-1-929164-42-4
Feeding and Care of the Horse (2nd Edition) by Lon D. Lewis, Anthony Knight, Bart Lewis, Corey Lewis ISBN-10: 0683049674
Horse Industry Handbook – by the American Youth Horse Council
Horse Smarts – American Youth Horse Council; 1 Gainer Rd. https://www.ayhc.com/product-page/horse-smarts
Youth Leaders Manual – by the American Youth Horse Council
Texas 4-H Horse Show Rules
The Horse (2 nd Edition) by Evans, Borton, Hintz, Van Vleck
Youth and Collegiate Horse Judging Leader Guide (AS 1-2.120)
Youth and Collegiate Horse Judging Manual (AS 3-2.051)
The Coloring Atlas of Horse Anatomy by Thomas O. McCracken and Robert A. Kainer ISBN-13: 9781617812408

