

Skagit County 4-H Horse Division Handbook

Project year 2023 to 2024

Contact Information:

Skagit County 4-H Office – 11768 Westar Lane, Burlington

Skagit County 4-H Coordinator – Dorothy Elsner, (360) 395-2360

Horse Leaders – schorseleaders@gmail.com

Skagit County follows Pacific Northwest 4-H Horse Contest Guide PNW 574, revised October 1st, 2015

Horse Leaders meet the **3rd Tuesday** of every month (except August & December), meetings are subject to cancellation.

Each Horse project club shall have a horse project leader at each meeting.

Members and parents are welcome to attend any Horse Leaders meeting.

Executive Board:

President – Michelle Riddle (360) 540-7239

Vice President – Lauren Hedlin

Secretary – April Lightner

Treasurer – Maribeth Carlton

Fair Superintendent – Sharrie Nelson (360) 661-1914

*Next Executive Board Election to be held in 2024

Committee Chairs:

Games Division – TBD, contact your club leader if interested

Performance Division – Tabitha Whitford

Judges – Sharrie Nelson

Games Medals – Maribeth Carlton, April Lightner

Performance Medals – Tabitha Whitford, Lola Whitford

State Fair Decorations – Rebecca Swanson, Sharrie Nelson

Judging – Sharrie Nelson, Tabitha Whitford

Horse Bowl – Sharrie Nelson, Hannah Brown

Hippology – Tabitha Whitford

Enrollment Info:

- Enrollments are completed at v2.4honline.com
- New enrollments due **April 30th, 2023**
- Re-enrollments due **January 31st, 2023**
- Last day to enroll and be eligible for fair participation is April 30th.
- All members must be enrolled prior to participation in 4-H events.

Ride Nights: Club ride nights are a chance for fair-going members to ride and practice together at the fairgrounds. Ride nights generally begin in May. Each weeknight is assigned to specific clubs by Horse Leaders.

Monday – VGA Tuesday – ARR & WRR Wednesday – BERR Thursday – HF Friday – SVSR

Skagit County Fairgrounds Arena Rules:

- A leader **must** be present for the whole ride night
- Only **enrolled** members and leaders are allowed to be horseback
- Members and leaders **must** wear helmets, boots, long pants, and t-shirts (no bare shoulders) when mounted
- Boots are required for any person handling horses
- Riding in the arenas only; no riding in the parking area or on grass areas
- Parents **must** wear close-toed shoes
- Dogs **must** remain in the parking area and on a leash at all times
- All children **must** be in eyesight of the club; please use good parental judgment!
- NO smoking/alcohol anywhere on the fairgrounds

Committee Chairs for Skagit County Fair – August 7th – 10th, 2024:

Stall Assignments – Superintendent

Vet Check – Mary Hilliard

Herdsmanship Judges – Dorothy Elsner
& Jackie Arendse

Code of Conduct – Superintendent

Knowledge Test – Hannah Brown

Round Robin Liaison – Tabitha Whitford

Grievances – 4-H Office

Fair Awards – Superintendent

Haul-in /out – Fair Staff

Club Responsibilities/Arena Jobs – Maribeth Carlton

Sportsmanship Award –April Lightner & Maribeth Carlton

Sub Horses – Horse Leaders Executive Board

Thank You Notes – April Lightner, Hanna Brown

Exhibitor Numbers – Sharrie Nelson, Maribeth Carlton

Tuesday Dinner – SVSR and Where the Heart Is

All clubs work together to make the County Fair exhibit happen. Fair set-up and job assignments are handed out at the July Horse Leaders Meeting. Fair take-down assignments are made during the fair; leaders will be called to a meeting to discuss assignments as the schedule allows.

Fair MEMBER Participation Requirements

1. Submit an up-to-date Record Book to Horse Leaders on or before the following date*:
 - May 21st @ Skagit County Fairgrounds, 5:30pm-6:45pm
2. Participate in the county Public Presentation contest.
 - March 12th, 14th or 16th
 - Online Registration, check with your leader for details
3. Participate in one Horse Bowl contest or Hippology contest.
 - Horse Bowl:
 - January 17th, Location TBA
 - Juniors @ 5:30pm
 - Intermediates @ 6:15pm
 - Seniors @ 7:00pm
 - Saturday, February 10th during Equine Extravaganza, location TBA
Make-ups for Horse Bowl can be completed by attending a practice for the State Horse Bowl team in February. Contact Sharrie Nelson for more details.
 - Hippology
 - Saturday, March 9th @ Silver Quarters Arena, after judging
 - April 20th during Equine Super Saturday, location TBA
4. Participate in 1 county Horse Judging contest.
 - Saturday, March 9th @ Silver Quarters Arena, 8:45pm check in
 - Sunday, April 14th @ Silver Quarters Arena, 12:45 check in

5. Attend one Educational Event

- Pre-approved events:
 - Country Living Expo, Saturday, January 27th @ Stanwood High School
 - Equine Extravaganza, Saturday, February 10th, location TBA
 - Super Saturday
 - Teen Summit
 - Know Your Government
- You may choose to attend an outside educational event or clinic. In order for your event to count towards your fair requirement:
 - Event must be horse-related
 - Event must be a minimum of 1 hour long
 - Event must be pre-approved by Horse Leaders. Submit your request through your club leader at least 14 days prior to the event to be discussed and voted on at the next Horse Leaders monthly meeting.
 - Member must write a half-page summary on what the event was, who spoke, subject matter covered, what was learned, and how new information will be applicable to their project/chosen career path. Summary must be emailed to schorseleaders@gmail.com within 1 week of the event.

6. Submit signed Guardian/Member Project Expectations Agreement (page 6 of this packet) to County 4-H office on or before **the 1st Monday in May** (with your Blue Slip) before 4:00pm.

7. Submit one Educational Poster to be displayed at the Skagit County Fair

- **July 27th by 6PM & 28th by 2PM, at Skagit Fairgrounds, During Clover Classic**
- Educational Poster requirements can be found at <https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2073/2020/04/educational-displayguidelines.pdf>

FINAL MAKE-UPS – May 29th, 5:30pm at the Skagit County Fairgrounds: final chance to make up Public Presentation, Record Book, Horsebowl and/or Hippology and Judging requirements in order to show at the County Fair as a Complete Member.

Members must make the May 21st submission deadline for Record Books. If book is found to be incomplete then the member has until the Final Make-Up date to complete the book. Books not turned in by the first deadline do not qualify for the extension and member will be considered “Incomplete”.

Fair HORSE Participation Requirements (Main and Back-up Horses)

- Complete an up-to-date Project Record and time invested record (1 per horse) in your record book.
- Blue Slip with color photo submitted to County 4-H Office on or before **the 1st Monday in May before 4:00pm** (1 per horse).
- Flu/Rhino vaccinations between **February 6th and July 23rd** - shots must be administered by a veterinarian and you must have signed documentation from your veterinarian. Horses without this record will not be admitted onto the Fairgrounds.

What is an “Incomplete” Member?

An Incomplete Member will show at the County Fair as a Substitute Horse, and will be required to help at a County event that is approved by the Horse Leaders committee.

- Did not submit an up-to-date Record Book, or did not submit a complete Record Book by the Final Make-Up date; OR
- Did not participate in one Public Presentation, Horse Bowl/Hippology, and Horse Judging contest, AND did not attend the Final Make-Up date; OR Did not attend an Educational Event; OR Did not submit an Educational Poster; OR Did not submit a signed Guardian/Member Project Expectations Agreement

What is a “Substitute” Horse?

A Substitute Horse cannot win Grand or Reserve in any class at the County Fair, and does not qualify for any State Team. This includes horses substituted due to illness or injury after the 1st Monday of May deadline.

- Incomplete Member
- Does not have an up-to-date Individual Horse Record and time invested record in member’s Record Book.
- A Blue Slip was not submitted by the 1st Monday of May. All horses must have a Blue Slip submitted to correspond with their vaccination record.

Bringing in a Back Up Horse after the Start of Fair:

Members may bring in a qualified back up horse (see HORSE Participation Requirements) if the member’s main horse must go home after the start of Fair due to illness, catastrophic injury, or vet recommendation. The member is responsible for arranging and paying for an additional vet check to admit the incoming horse. The new horse/member combo will not be eligible for high point awards or State Fair qualification however they may be eligible for Grand and Reserve rosettes.

Per Skagit County Fair rules and regulations, *any one removing a horse from the Fairgrounds before dismissal or without permission from the Superintendent will not receive their fair premiums.*

Amended February 21, 2023

Novice Performance Division 1 Walk Trot: all first-year members are eligible:

1st year horse project members will be eligible for all Danish ribbons, Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion and placing ribbons. There will be an award for High Point and Reserve High Point.

Riders will not be eligible for state fair.

Walk Trot Performance Division2 W/T: for members that have been to fair previously and are recommended by their leaders to be in a walk trot setting. Riders in this group will be eligible for all Danish ribbons, Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion and placing ribbons. There will be an award for High Point and Reserve High Point. Riders will not be eligible for state fair.

Novice Games Division: all first-year members are eligible: Members with green horses or who are first year gamers may also compete in the novice games division with leader recommendation. All members will be eligible for all Danish ribbons, Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion and placing ribbons. There will be an award for High Point and Reserve High Point. Riders will not be eligible for state fair.

State Fair Double Qualifying Opportunity

Members will have an opportunity to double-qualify for State Fair at the July Clover Classic. To qualify:

- Horse must qualify for the County Fair, see Fair HORSE Participation Requirements above.
- You must enter all qualifying events for that discipline at the Clover Classic OR Skagit County Fair.
- You must compete in different disciplines at the Clover Classic and the Skagit County Fair.
- You must attend and compete at the Skagit County Fair.
 - ❖ The following State Fair classes may or may not be offered at the county level. Members may still qualify for State in those classes. If interested, contact the Fair Superintendent:
 - > Dressage > Reining (seniors only) > Small horse classes (more info to come)

At several points during the 4-H year members and parents/guardians are required to read and sign rules and Codes of Conduct. It is expected that each parent/guardian and member fully understand and abide by all rules and regulations during 4-H activities. Any disciplinary action will be at the discretion of, and taken by, the Horse Superintendent and/or the County 4-H Coordinator.

Other Dates You Should Know

- 2022-2023 4-H Achievement Night – 6 PM, November 11th @ Skagit Research Station on Memorial Hwy: a county-wide event celebrating our members' achievements over the past year! Award applications can be found on the County 4-H website and are due with record books at the end of the 4-H year.
- 2024 Country Living Expo - January 27th @ Stanwood High School: A full day with hundreds of classes to choose from, taught by industry professionals and leading enthusiasts. Check out the trade show too! Student pricing available, reach out to Dorothy Elsner with questions. More info and registration available at <https://extension.wsu.edu/skagit/countrylivingexpo/>
- Equine Extravaganza – February 10th, details TBA: Join us for a day of educational classes focused on the horse project and fulfill two of your fair participation requirements. Parents welcome to attend classes!
- Know Your Government – February 17th – 19th in Olympia: A leadership program for high school members focusing on specific areas of our government. Meetings and prerequisite assignments are part of this event, details TBA.
- Skagit County 4-H Super Saturday – April 20th, details TBA: Classes offered by different project leaders in Skagit County, a great chance to learn something new and make friends in other project areas!
- 4-H Small Animal Fair & WSU Master Gardeners Plant Sale - May 11th @ Skagit County Fairgrounds
- Berry Dairy Days Parade – June 15th in Burlington
- County-wide Shot Night – June, date TBA @ Skagit County Fairgrounds
- Clover Classic Open Show presented by Skagit County Horse Leaders @ Skagit County Fairgrounds:
 - o Weekend camping opens Friday, July 26th
 - o Performance – Saturday July 27th
 - o Gaming – Sunday, July 28th
- Skagit County Fair – August 7th – 11th

GUARDIAN/MEMBER PROJECT EXPECTATIONS AGREEMENT

Member Name: _____ Club: _____

Our County and State events are planned, managed, and staffed entirely by volunteers. Volunteers are usually Horse project leaders, alumni, members of the horse community, parents, friends, and relatives of horse project members.

It is expected that a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult associated with each member that is participating will provide support at horse project events. The intent of this is to set an expectation of volunteer service for the Horse project, as well as to facilitate smoothly-run events. Parent/adult representative participation is expected and is vital to a 4-H member's success. Each member needs an advocate and a support system!

Leaders should make parents aware of this expectation.

Leaders need to have a relationship with members and families. It is difficult to make a project, with as broad a scope as the Horse project, be successful if there is not a Leader/Member/Parent (adult) connection.

I have read, understand, and agree to the Skagit County 4-H Horse Division Handbook

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Member Signature

Date

Member Name (printed)

Club

This signed page is required with Blue Slip by the 1st Monday of May, 2024