

## **PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST**

**OBJECTIVES:** The primary objective of the public speaking contest is to provide, in a friendly but competitive setting, an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of a specific equine-related topic and present that topic to an audience. It is hoped that this contest will generate new friendships and be a rewarding experience for the contestants. Each county may enter multiple contestants. The two highest placing individuals overall (Junior and Senior division) will be eligible to represent Arkansas at the Southern Regional Horse Show. Funding will be granted if available.

1. Subject must pertain to the horse industry.
2. Seven to 10 minutes will be allowed each speaker, with 1 point per judge subtracted for each minute or fraction of a minute over or under the time limit.
3. Contestants may use notes, but excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the three judges.
4. Consideration and points on the scorecard will be:
  - a) Introduction (10 Points)
    - 1) Did the introduction create interest in the subject?
    - 2) Was the 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 the sentences short and easy to understand?
    - 4) Was the speech interesting?
  - c) Content and Accuracy (20 Points)
    - 1) Were the facts and information accurate?
    - 2) Was there enough information concerning the subject?
    - 3) Was credit given to the sources of information, if appropriate?
    - 4) Was the content appropriately related to the horse industry?
  - d) Stage Presence (15 Points)
    - 1) Was the speaker neat and appropriately dressed?
    - 2) Did the speaker talk directly to and look at the audience?
    - 3) Was the speaker's posture erect, but not stiff?
    - 4) Did the speaker refrain from leaning on the lectern?
  - e) Delivery (20 Points)
    - 1) Did the speaker have appropriate voice control?
    - 2) Were all the words pronounced correctly?

- 3) Did the speaker's facial expressions reflect the mood of the speech?
- 4) If notes were used, was it done without distracting from the speech?
- 5) Did the speaker seem to choose words at the time they were spoken instead of memorizing or reading the speech?

f) General (10 Points)

- 1) Did the speaker convey to the audience a sense of wanting to communicate?
- 2) Did the 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?
- 3) Could the speaker handle questions easily?

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