MARICOPA COUNTY 4-H

Horse Speech Contest Guidelines
SPEECH CONTEST GUIDELINES

• Must pertain to the horse industry
• No visual aids or handouts may be used
• Notes may be used (excessive use may lower score)
• Public Address system will not be used
• A podium will be provided
• Sr. Members 7 to 10 minute speech
• Jr. Members 2 to 7 minute speech
• Contestants should site major reference materials
• See current Maricopa County Equine Excellence Education Contest Rules for Complete Rules.
HORSE SPEECH CONTEST SCORING

• Introduction 10 Pts.
  • Did the introduction serve to create interest in the subject?
  • Was the introduction short & to the point?

• Organization 25 Pts.
  • Were the main points easy to follow?
  • Were the main points arranged in the best order?
  • Were sentences short & easy to understand?
  • Was speech interesting?

• Content & Accuracy 25 Pts.
  • Were facts and information accurate?
  • Was there enough information concerning the subject?
  • Was credit given to sources of information, if appropriate?
  • Was content appropriately related to the horse industry?
HORSE SPEECH CONTEST SCORING CONTINUED

• **Stage Presence 10 Pts.**
  - Was speaker neat and appropriately dressed?
  - Was the speaker friendly?
  - Did speaker talk directly to audience?
  - Did speaker look at audience?
  - Was posture erect, but not stiff?
  - Did speaker refrain from leaning on podium?
  - Did speaker seem relaxed and at ease?

• **Delivery 15 Pts.**
  - Did speaker have appropriate voice control?
  - Were all words pronounced correctly?
  - Did speaker’s facial expressions reflect the mood of the speech?
  - If notes were used, was it done without detracting from the speech?
  - Did speaker seem to choose words at the time they were spoken? (Avoid a memorized or read-type delivery).
HORSE SPEECH CONTEST SCORING CONTINUED

• General 5 Pts.
  • Did speaker convey to the audience a sense of wanting to communicate?
  • Did speech reflect the thoughts and personality of the speaker?

• Conclusion 10 Pts.
  • Was the conclusion short and interesting?
  • Did the conclusion properly wrap up the speech?
  • Could the speaker handle questions easily?
PUBLIC SPEAKING FEARS

• I’ll forget what to say
• People won’t take my presentation seriously
• I’m going to look stupid
• People will hear my voice quiver
• My face will turn red
• Listening to me is boring
• I’ll break out in a sweat
• Everyone will be looking at me
REDUCING YOUR FEARS

• Think about times where you have felt comfortable speaking in public
  • Talking with friends about your vacation
  • Telling a friend about your experiences in 4-H
  • Talking to a friend’s parent while at a sleepover
  • Discussing a grade with your teacher
  • Discussing a situation with your parent

If you have been involved in any of the situations above, you have already engaged in public speaking!
PUBLIC SPEAKING DELIVERY TIPS

• Look at the people in the room

• Stand still with weight firmly balanced on both feet

• Don’t be afraid to use pauses after a word, phrase or major idea

• Speak with enough energy to be heard by everyone in the room

• Speak with a variety in pitch, rate and volume

• Avoid mono tone

• Talk to your audience

• Use a conversational tone

• Avoid sounding memorized

• Know your subject

• Speak clearly
PUBLIC SPEAKING PREPARATION

- Prepare yourself
  - Set public speaking goals for yourself
  - Learn how to put together a talk
  - Learn proper delivery skills
- Practice, practice, practice!!!!!!!
CHOOSING A TYPE OF SPEECH

• Determine which kind of speech you would like to present
  • Informative-example: Inform the audience about various AQHA rules and statistics
  • Persuasive-example: Persuade the audience to donate to a Horse Rescue organization by telling about the organization’s good deeds
  • Instructional-example: Instruct the audience on how to saddle a horse properly
  • Entertaining-example: Share your views of a whimsical event that happened to you and your horse
  • Inspirational-example: Tell about a legendary horse and all that he/she accomplished.
SELECTING A TOPIC

- Ask your self these questions when choosing a topic
  - Would I like to learn more about this topic?
  - Could I get adequate information on this topic?
  - Would this topic be of interest to others?
  - Will my audience benefit from learning more about this topic?
ORGANIZING YOUR INFORMATION

• Introduction
  • Should capture the audience’s attention
  • Tells what the talk will be about

• Body
  • Core of the Presentation
  • Offers information

• Summary
  • Reviews the main points
  • Tells the audience what action the speaker wants them to take; or important knowledge speaker wants to impart or raise awareness
TOOLS FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING

• Getting the Audience’s attention during the Introduction
  • Yell..."And they're off!"
  • Question..."Have you every thought about learning dressage?"
  • Quote...Racehorse jockey, Willie Shoemaker, once said "If Jack Nicklaus can win the Masters at 46, I can win the Kentucky Derby at 54."
  • Surprising Fact..."Horses have about 175 bones in their body."
APPEARANCE BOOSTERS

- Body is clean
- Clothes are clean
- Appearance is neat
- Nails are clean
- Hair is clean, neat & suitably styled
- Make-up is appropriate
- Posture is good
- Poise is evident
- Movements are easy & smooth as the speaker walks, sits, and stands
- Expression is pleasant
- Speaker shows confidence
INAPPROPRIATE APPEARANCE

- Baseball cap on head
- Long earrings or bold jewelry that attracts attention away from your talk
- Wrinkled clothes
- Chewing gum
- T-Shirt with advertising
- Uncombed hair
- Bright colored nail polish
- Hem coming un-sewn
- Dirty clothes
- Slouched posture
- Shirt partially untucked
The Maricopa County Horse Committee hopes that these guidelines will assist leaders, members, and judges when preparing for the Horse Speech Contest. Judges must receive a copy of this information, a copy of the Equine Excellence Education Contest Rules as well as view the 1st place speech video provided. It is recommended that members and leaders view the 1-3rd place winners most recent Western National Horse Speech Contest video that will be available with this power point or available from the 4-H Office. Please remember that these videos are of Sr. members. During Jr. Member presentations, judging and scoring should be consistent with the ages of the competitors.