

## GUIDELINES FOR EASTERN STATES SELECTION

*There are 3 ways to represent the Vermont 4-H Horse Program at ESE: Horse Delegate, Teen Leader, or Horse Activity participant. Descriptions of the expectations for each role are below. Selection is based on the quality of a 4-Her's application which includes an interview score. Applicants must also be a member in good standing. There is one application for Horse Delegates and one for both Teen Leader and Horse Activity.*

### APPLYING AS A DELEGATE WITH A HORSE:

- Applicants may only apply with one project horse. Members must have owned or managed and used their horse as a 4-H project on or prior to April 1 of the current year. In the event that something happens to the horse with which you are applying, you may be considered with a second horse (if you have one), provided the second horse is also your project animal.
- The procedure for an individual member to apply for one of the 16 slots allotted to Vermont by the Eastern States Show Committee (representatives from all New England States) is as follows: First, an application must be secured from the local leader or the county/regional office or one can be downloaded from the 4-H website: [go.uvm.edu/4-h](http://go.uvm.edu/4-h). This is a document that should be filled out neatly and accurately by the applicant. It is necessary for the applicant and his/her parent or legal guardian to sign, and then give to the leader for review. When the leader is satisfied that it is neat, complete and accurate, she/he must sign it, add a written confidential recommendation and pass it on to the county/regional office. Deadline to receive this application at the county/regional office is May 1.
- Each county/regional office is responsible for establishing an Interview Committee. The office should notify the applicant as to the time and place of the interview. The interview process has several purposes. It should give an applicant the experience of representing him/herself to a panel of elders in a positive way. It should give the Interview Committee some idea of the candidate's maturity, self-confidence, 4-H knowledge, and horse knowledge. The major question to be answered by the Interview Committee should be "Would this person represent the Vermont 4-H Horse Program well at Eastern States?" Letters of acceptance or rejection will be first done at the county level, after the interview. Interview questions will be supplied from the State 4-H Livestock Educator. Member record books must be brought to the interview.
- During June, the selection committee meets to review all of the forwarded applications, and selects up to 16 4-H members and their horses to represent Vermont. Approval will only be given to members who are at least 14 years of age on January 1 of the current year, and who have not reached age 19 as of January 1 of the current year. The delegates chosen will receive a letter congratulating them and will have their scored application returned to them. Those not chosen will receive a letter indicating areas that need improvement or work and their scored application will be returned as well.
- The selection committee will also choose up to four out of the sixteen candidates, who have previously attended Eastern States with their horse as part of the Vermont team. These individuals are named as "core leaders" and are responsible for helping other members who have not attended previously.
- Members may be selected conditionally. There might be a question about the safety of a horse that is considered young and/or inexperienced in the show ring. These members will be notified and must show this project horse at the Vermont State 4-H Horse Show and be evaluated by the selection committee for final acceptance.
- Members who are selected are responsible for their own transportation to and from West Springfield, MA. Eastern States will provide meals, lodging, and gate parking passes. Gate parking passes are for arrival and pickup only.
- It is **mandatory** that the delegates, alternates, teen leaders, Horse Activity participants and parent/legal guardian and/or leader of the delegate attend the orientations.

- Applications are scored as follows: 30 points for membership, 20 points for leadership, 50 points for horse show record and 10 points for the interview. The minimum qualifying score for attending with a horse is 82.5 points.
- Eastern States delegates may attend up to 5 years, with the fifth year based on availability.
- All horse participants must enter Fitting and Showmanship, Equitation, General Knowledge and Judging. Participants may choose other classes from the following: Western Trail, Western Handiness, Hunter over Fences, Hunter under Saddle, Bridle Path Hack, Obstacle Driving, Pleasure Driving, English Pleasure, Western Pleasure, Disciplined Rail, In Hand Jumping or In Hand Obstacles. Classes subject to change.
- If a member is accepted to go to Eastern States with a horse and that horse is unable to go for any reason (illness, lameness, death), another horse may take its place only if it meets the requirements of a project horse and is accompanied by a veterinarian statement indicating that the original project horse is deemed unable to attend. The member must submit the horse show record section of the application for the replacement horse for the committee's evaluation. Any changing of horses must be done before the orientation for Eastern States.
- All delegates must wear a properly fitted equestrian helmet carrying the ASTM/SEI approval and must be dated within 5 years of the present date. An official at Eastern States may check all helmets before anyone rides at Eastern States Exposition.

## CORE LEADERS

- Up to four core leaders are selected for the horse show delegates and one for the teen leaders.
- Core leaders must have attended previously with a horse (or as a teen leader for the teen leader core group).
- Core leaders provide guidance to members of the Vermont delegation participating for the first time.



## APPLYING AS A TEEN LEADER WITHOUT A HORSE OR A HORSE ACTIVITY PARTICIPANT:

- The procedure for an individual member to apply for one of the 4 slots allotted to Vermont or one of the 2 slots for Horse Activity participants is as follows: First, an application must be secured from the local leader or the county/regional office or one can be downloaded from the 4-H website: [go.uvm.edu/4-h](http://go.uvm.edu/4-h). This is a document that should be filled out neatly and accurately by the applicant. You must indicate which position for which you would like to be considered, and if for both, check both and circle the one you would most prefer. It is necessary for the applicant and his/her parent or legal guardian to sign, and then give to the leader for review. When the leader is satisfied that it is neat, complete and accurate, she/he must sign it, **add a written confidential recommendation** and pass it on to the county/regional office. Deadline to receive this application at the county/regional office is May 1.
- Each county/regional office is responsible for establishing an Interview Committee. The office should notify the applicant as to the time and place of the interview. The interview process has several purposes. It should give an applicant the experience of representing him/herself to a panel of elders in a positive way. It should give the Interview Committee some idea of the candidate's maturity, self-confidence, 4-H knowledge, and horse knowledge. The major question to be answered by the Interview Committee should be "Would this person represent the Vermont 4-H Horse Program well at Eastern States?" Letters of acceptance or rejection will be first done at the county level, after the interview. Interview questions will be supplied from the State 4-H Livestock Educator. Member record books must be brought to the interview.
- During June, the selection committee meets to review all of the forwarded applications, and selects up to four teen leaders and two Horse Activity participants to represent Vermont. Approval will only be given to members who are at least 13 years of age on January 1 of the current year and who have not reached age 19 as of January

1 of the current year. Participation as a teen leader or Horse Activity participant will count as one of the five years that a 4-H member can attend the New England 4-H Horse Show. The delegates chosen will receive a letter congratulating them and will have their scored application returned to them. Those not chosen will receive a letter indicating areas that need improvement or work and their scored application will be returned as well.

- Members who are selected are responsible for their own transportation to and from West Springfield, MA. Eastern States will provide meals, lodging, and gate parking passes. Gate parking passes are for arrival and pickup only.
- It is **mandatory** that the delegates, alternates, teen leaders and parent/legal guardian and/or leader of the delegate attend the orientations.
- Applications are scored as follows: 30 points for membership, 20 points for leadership, and 10 points for the interview. The minimum qualifying score is 45 points.
- Eastern States delegates may attend up to 5 years, with the fifth year based on availability

## TEEN LEADERS

- Up to four teen leaders may be selected annually, based on the Teen Application.
- Teen leaders work with the Vermont adult leaders and are there to help delegates and leaders with such tasks as sweeping the aisles, helping with set up for classes, helping out in the holding area, and holding horses for a delegate briefly, among other things. They may also fulfill tasks for the horse show committee, such as ribbon running.
- Teen leaders are required to participate in the General Knowledge and Judging contests at the show.



## HORSE ACTIVITY PARTICIPANTS

- Up to two Horse Activity participants are selected for the show.
- Horse Activity participants will meet prior to attending Eastern States and put together an educational display as well as an educational activity for the barn, and will staff them at scheduled times.
- Horse Activity participants will engage in the other activities at the show planned for them, such as photography and video workshops. Activities may change from year to year.

## HELPFUL HINTS FOR FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION

- Thoroughly read the guidelines and application prior to filling out the application(s).
- All committees, community services, talks and demonstrations must be dated with the year and must be done as a 4-H activity.
- Do a rough draft.
- You may add extra pages for the horse show section only
- Type or use a pen – erasable pens take care of mistakes neatly or use the fillable PDF on the 4-H web site.
- Have someone (leader, parent, teacher) proofread your draft copy.
- **Plan to have the final copy prepared two weeks prior to the May 1 deadline.**
- **Submit the final copy to your leader for signature at least one week before the May 1 deadline.**
- Remember, your leader may need to return your application for corrections. Time is needed for the leader to read your application thoroughly and make suggestions for its change before signing it.

## **4-H Award System & Rules**

### **University of Vermont Extension**

The purpose of 4-H awards is to recognize achievement in a 4-H project area. A project contains various sequential learning experiences meeting a minimum of 6-8 hours over a period of at least a few weeks to as long as a full 4-H year.

To receive awards 4-H members must:

- Fill out a 4-H Member Record and a 4-H Project Record(s).\*\*
- Fill out the 4-H Achievement Form indicating in which project areas you would like to receive recognition.
- Have a leader recommendation and Educator approval
- Be a member in good standing. (Attend at least 75% of your club's business meetings, attend at least 75% of your project meetings, and keep your member record and project record books).

**\*\* Documentation must be clearly noted in the record in order to receive recognition in the project/activity area. Evaluators will review these records.**

### **Levels of Recognition**

1. **Certificate of Participation:** 4-H members receive this certificate for completing a minimum of 6-8 hours of participation in a 4-H project, generally given in the first year of project participation.
  2. **Certificate of Excellence:** 4-H members receive this certificate for completing more in-depth coverage of a project including:
    - a. Doing more hours in project work
    - b. Developing and conducting a visual or verbal presentation beyond the club, at either the county, regional, or state level (the same presentation cannot be used towards different projects).
  3. **Medal:** To be eligible for a medal, a 4-H member must:
    - a. Complete at least 2 years in a 4-H project and demonstrate successful educational progression and show project accomplishment.
    - b. Participate in the project area at a level beyond the club (county, regional, state, or national)
    - c. Have already received a Certificate of Excellence in the project area

\*\*\* *A limit of 3 medals will be awarded each year.*
  4. **Certificate of Continued Achievement:** After a 4-H member receives a medal in a project, they may receive a Certificate of Continued Achievement if they choose to continue to participate in that project at a level equal to medal recognition, as listed above.
- **Achievement medal** – is the top award for the culmination of several years of outstanding 4-H work; with recognition medals already received in project work for Leadership, Citizenship, and Life Skills projects. A member must have contributed significantly to their club, county, or state 4-H program and exhibited the highest of 4-H qualities. Members do not apply, as nominations are made by the leaders and county 4-H Educator.

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## **Recognition Medal Areas**

### **Plants and Animals**

Agriculture  
Aquaculture  
Beef  
Poultry  
Cats  
Dogs  
Dairy  
Goats  
Horse  
Rabbits  
Sheep  
Pets  
Swine  
Gardening and Horticulture  
Cavy  
Llama

### **Communication Arts**

Communication Arts (could be signing)  
Public Speaking  
Reporting Media  
Performing Arts (could be dance, singing, drama,)  
Visual Arts (crafts)  
Photography and Video

*Note: Other project medals may be awarded in projects not listed on this page by special request.*

### **Science and Technology**

Science and Technology  
Biological Sciences  
Entomology and Bees  
Marine Science  
Plant Science  
Veterinary Science  
Technology and Engineering  
Aerospace  
Computer Technology  
Electricity  
Engines, tractors, field equipment  
Wood Science  
Industrial Arts  
Physical Science

### **Activities**

Community Service  
Demonstration  
Fashion Revue  
Judging

### **Personal Development**

Career Exploration  
Hobbies & Collections  
Leadership  
\*Achievement  
Personal Development  
Lamp of Knowledge

### **Environmental Stewardship**

Earth, Water, Air  
Forestry  
Wildlife and Fisheries  
Outdoor Education/Recreation  
Shooting Sports  
Waste Management (recycling)

### **Consumer and Family Sciences**

Consumer and Family Sciences  
Childcare and Development  
Clothing and Textiles  
Consumer Education  
Home Environment

### **Healthy Lifestyles**

Food and Nutrition  
Healthy Lifestyles  
Safety  
Bicycle

### **Citizenship**

Citizenship and Civic Education

*\*This category is awarded by nomination for an exceptional 4-H member. Please see page one for details.*