GUIDELINES FOR EASTERN STATES SELECTION

- 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.

- 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: [www.uvm.edu/~uvmext/4hyouth](http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmext/4hyouth). 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. This is done for both Teen & Delegate applications. 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.

- During June, the selection committee meets to review all of the forwarded applications, and selects 16 4-H members and their horses and four teen leaders 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 (with horse), and who have not reached age 19 as of January 1 of the current year. If spots are available, 13 year olds are eligible to apply as ESE teen leaders. This teen leadership year will count at one of the five eligible years to attend. 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 and parent/legal guardian and/or leader of the delegate attend the orientations.

- Applications are scored as follows: 25 points for membership, 25 points for leadership, 50 points for horse show record and 10 points for the interview. The minimum qualifying score is 82.5 points. Ties are broken
based on the applicant’s growth in membership and leadership. For Teen Leaders the minimum qualifying score is 45.

- Eastern States delegates may attend up to 5 years, with the fifth year based on availability.

**PARTICIPATION**

- All 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, Command Class, 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 Vermont 4-H horse show delegates and one for the teens
- Core leaders must have attended previously with a horse for delegates and once for teen leaders.
- Core leaders provide assistance to members of the Vermont delegation participating for the first time.

**TEEN LEADERS**

- Four teen leaders may be selected annually, based on the Teen Leader Application.
- Teen leaders work with the Vermont adult leaders in carrying out the overall components of Vermont’s participation at Eastern States.
- Teen leaders are required to participate in the General Knowledge and Judging contests at the show.

**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.

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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 along 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

### 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

### 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.*

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