

# Skagit County 4-H Horse Division Handbook

## Project year 2022 to 2023

### 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015\*

Horse Leaders meet the **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday** of every month (except August), 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

*COVID-19 restrictions on 4-H activities are determined by state and local guidelines, as well as Washington State University Extension. We will work together to make as many events take place as possible, and we ask for your patience and flexibility as we work within our given parameters. Horse Leaders reserves the right to change event dates, times, locations, and platforms in order to adapt to the changing environment. It is up to members and their families to stay up-to date by regularly attending club meetings, reading emails from 4-H Online, and communicating with club leaders.*

### Enrollment Info:

- Enrollments are completed at 4honline.com
- New enrollments due **April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**
- Re-enrollments due **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023**
- Last day to enroll and be eligible for fair participation is April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- 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      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 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022:

Stall Assignments – Superintendent

Haul-in /out – Fair Staff

Vet Check – Mary Hilliard

Club Responsibilities/Arena Jobs – Maribeth Carlton

Herdsmanship Judges – Dorothy Elsner

Sportsmanship Award – Krista Purcell, April Lightner

Code of Conduct – Superintendent

Sub Horses – Horse Leaders Executive Board

Knowledge Test – Hannah Brown

Thank You Notes – April Lightner, Hanna Brown

Round Robin Liaison – Tabitha Whitford

Exhibitor Numbers – Sharrie Nelson, Maribeth Carlton

Grievances – 4-H Office

Tuesday Dinner – SVSR and Where the Heart Is

Fair Awards – Superintendent

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 16<sup>th</sup> @ Skagit County Fairgrounds, 5:30pm-6:45pm
2. Participate in the county Public Presentation contest.
  - Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> OR Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> OR Tuesday, March 2<sup>st</sup>
  - Online Registration, check with your leader for details
3. Participate in one Horse Bowl contest (all ages) or Hippology contest (intermediates and seniors only).
  - Horse Bowl:
    - January 18<sup>th</sup>, Location TBA
      - Juniors @ 5:30pm
      - Intermediates @ 6:15pm
      - Seniors @ 7:00pm
  - Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> 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
  - February 11<sup>th</sup> during Equine Extravaganza, location TBA
  - Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> @ Silver Quarters Arena, time TBA
4. Participate in 1 county Horse Judging contest.
  - Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> @ Silver Quarters, 8:45pm check in
  - Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> @ Silver Quarters Arena, 12:45 check in

## 5. Attend one Educational Event

- Pre-approved events:
  - Country Living Expo, Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> @ Stanwood High School
  - Equine Extravaganza, Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, location TBA
- 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 30 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](mailto: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 **May 2nd** (with your Blue Slip) before 4:15pm.

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

- **June 20<sup>th</sup>, Fairgrounds, 6:30 to 8 PM**
- Educational Poster requirements can be found at <https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2073/2020/04/educational-displayguidelines.pdf>

FINAL MAKE-UPS – **May 24<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm at the Skagit County Fairgrounds**: final chance to make up Public Presentation, Record Book, Horsebowl/Hippology and Judging requirements in order to show at the County Fair as a Complete Member.

Members must make the May 16<sup>th</sup> 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 **May 1<sup>st</sup> before 4:00pm** (1 per horse).
- Flu/Rhino vaccinations between **February 8<sup>th</sup> and July 25<sup>th</sup>** - 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 May 1<sup>st</sup> 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 May 1st. 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, Anyone removing a horse from the Fairgrounds before dismissal or without permission from the Superintendent will not receive their fair premiums.*

### **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)

### **Novice Division**

Novice division classes are intended for first year members as a low-key introduction to showing horses at the fair. Novice riders compete as a combined age group and are not eligible for State Fair.

1. Must be 1<sup>st</sup> year in the Horse Project and have leader’s consent to ride as Novice\*\*.
2. Riders may not enter any fun classes that are not designated for Novice Riders (entry into fun classes will be at Superintendent’s discretion)
3. Novice performance classes are conducted as walk/trot only

\*\*A member may compete in the Novice division after their first year by leader recommendation. Members competing as Novice after their first year will only receive Danish ribbons (no placing rosettes) and are not eligible to receive Grand or Reserve.

***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

- 2021-2022 4-H Achievement Night - November 19<sup>th</sup> @ Christ the King in Burlington: 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.
- 2023 Country Living Expo - January 21<sup>st</sup> @ 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 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 13<sup>th</sup> @ Skagit County Fairgrounds
- Berry Dairy Days Parade – June 17<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup>
  - o Gaming – Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>
  - o Performance – Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>
  - o Fair Educational Posters due

## 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

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Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

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Member Signature

Date

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Member Name (printed)

Club

This signed page is required with Blue Slip by May 1<sup>nd</sup>, 2022