

Osceola County Horsemasters Project Guidelines

Last Updated: March, 2005

I. GENERAL RULES:

1. 4-Hers must pass Level I to be initiated into the Horsemasters Program and to be eligible to participate in Osceola County competitive events (i.e. Fair shows, Pleasure point shows, speed events etc.) Lead line classes will not be considered competitive.
2. Level I can only be used for 2 years by an exhibitor, unless, in their 4-H leader's opinion, they need to remain longer.
3. Leaders shall receive standardized answer sheets to aid in teaching the Exhibitors in their club and to prevent discrepancies.
4. The Osceola County 4-H Horse Developmental Committee reserves the right to approach respective horse leaders to encourage the advancement of 4-H members capable of moving to a higher level.
5. Any youth that participates in horse events outside the 4-H program (i.e. high school equestrian team, open horse shows, gymkhana, etc.) who canter or lope at these events must compete in Osceola County's 4-H horse program at least at Level II. The youth's leader and the youth may come before the Horse Developmental Association to request an exception to this guideline.
6. March 17, 2005- Members who remain in a Level for more than 2 years must retake the written portion of that Level test to ensure the member has retained the information learned

II. TESTING REGULATIONS:

1. Exhibitors must use their project horse for testing in Levels I and II. In Levels III and above, they may use any safe horse.
2. Section 1 - Knowledge, in Levels 1-4, is to be taken as a test. Level 5 is to be completed like a portfolio.
3. Section 1 must be handed in to the 4-H office at least five days prior to the dismounted and mounted abilities testing. Section 1 must be corrected before the dismounted and mounted abilities are evaluated.
4. If a portion of Section 1 is failed, just that portion may be re-taken.
5. In Levels 1-4, Exhibitors must pass section 1, 2, and 3 with a minimum of 80% in each section. Level 5 must be passed with an overall 80%.

6. Section 1 and the dismounted abilities can be taken without the mounted section being taken in Levels 1 and 2 if the exhibitor will only be showing in hand. To continue to level 3, the mounted sections of Levels 1 and 2 must be taken.
7. Mounted testing shall be allowed up to one week before the fair entry deadline or the next Pleasure Point Show.
8. County-wide dismounted and mounted testing meets may be set up for any 4-Hers that want to be tested for Levels 3 and above. Leaders should contact the 4-H office for this service. Leaders may also set up testing for other times at their convenience.
9. Approved evaluators must be on the Osceola County Approved Evaluators List. These evaluators will be chosen by the Horsemasters Committee.
10. If an exhibitor does not complete all of one level in one dismounted and mounted testing session, he/she does not have to redo any successfully completed items. He/she can just finish what was not previously completed.

III. TEST CORRECTION REGULATIONS:

1. Leaders shall correct Levels 1 and 2 in their entirety.
2. 4-H office will correct the written part of Levels 3 and 4 from the answer keys provided. Level 5 will be evaluated by a veterinarian.
3. In Level 3, 4, and 5, dismounted abilities and mounted abilities will be evaluated by an approved evaluator.
4. Evaluators must use standardized point system indicated in the booklets when evaluating each exhibitor.
5. If a 4-Her doesn't pass under one evaluator, another evaluator may be called for a second opinion. Ties will be broken by a third evaluator.

1. Changes to these guidelines can be made by:
 - a. A motion to be made at a regular meeting of the Osceola County 4-H Horse Developmental Committee.
 - b. All clubs to be notified of motion in writing at least one week prior to the next regular meeting.
 - c. Two-thirds majority vote of quorum needed for a motion to pass.