

Revised April 18, 2013

State 4-H Conference

GENERAL RULES FOR ALL SENIOR 4-H PARTICIPANTS

Unless otherwise specified, the following regulations apply to all State 4-H Contest participants.

Each county is eligible to bring the top qualified county teams and individuals in each contest area. State 4-H Contests are open to 4-H members who meet the eligibility requirements regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. County participants, including alternates, will be selected as a result of a county wide elimination contest held previous to the state contest in which all eligible 4-H members are given the opportunity to participate. Contestants are responsible for getting all necessary materials to the state 4-H contests.

I General Eligibility

- A. 4-H members who are actively enrolled in the program, are eligible to compete if they have passed their 14th birthday or be 13 years old and in the 8th grade but have not passed their 19th birthday by January 1 of the current 4-H program year during which state 4-H contests are held. **Please note that contests offered at the regional and national levels may have different age requirements and their age policies take precedence over New Mexico age classifications.**
- B. All members of first place teams must meet all regional and national contest requirements, including age, to be eligible to participate in regional or national contests. This applies also to alternate team's participation if the first place team cannot participate.
- C. Except as noted in the specific contest rules, a team will consist of four members; three and an alternate. The low scoring individual, when placings are added, automatically becomes the alternate, and his or her score will not be counted for the team total. When enough members are not available to make a team, individuals may be entered. No more than two teams or a maximum of eight participants may enter team-judging events from any one county. Exceptions would include Home Economics Bowl, and Horse Bowl, where four members must make up a team, and Parliamentary Procedure, which must have a five or six-member team. Individuals cannot enter these contests.
- D. 4-H members who have participated in any college classes or college judging teams related to the same contest are not eligible to compete.

II Entries

- A. Counties will be notified of the date entries are due in the State 4-H Office.
- B. Entering Contests - 4-H members may participate in more than one contest per day, but **no more than one contest per time block.**
 - Time Block A is from 7am-12noon
 - Time Block B is from 1pm-5pm
 - Time Block C is from 7pm-9pm.

EX: One delegate could enter Horse Judging at 7:15am (Time Block A), Parliamentary Procedure at 3pm (Time Block B) and Presentations at 7:30pm (Time Block C).

- C. Winners of previous state contests are eligible to compete in the same state contest again.

III General Instructions

- A. No one will be permitted to examine 4-H contest areas prior to the scheduled event. Exceptions: presentations, prepared speeches, talent contest and fashion revue. If this rule is violated, disqualification of the participants will result.
- B. Participants must report to the superintendent of their contest within five minutes of the scheduled contest start time, or they will be disqualified.
- C. No handbooks or any printed material will be allowed in any contest area unless approved by the superintendent or specified in the contest rules. Necessary materials will be provided by the superintendent with the exception of clipboards, pencils, clean paper, and presentation materials.
- D. Protests - Any protests must be made the same day of the contest. Protests must be made through the 4-H Agent and put in writing to the State 4-H Program Leader, listing specific violations. In reaching a decision, the State 4-H Program Leader will involve the person in charge of the contest along with the appropriate 4-H Specialist responsible for the contest area. The decision reached is final and without further appeal. All protests must be settled before 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

IV Judging

- A. The standard placing system of judging will be used. Ribbons will be awarded through five places for teams and individuals. Score sheets will be available for county agents if desired, but will not be given publicly. If judges' scores result in a tie, the tie must be broken for the five place winners.
- B. Scoring for presentations will be done according to scorecards on the New Mexico 4-H web site.
- C. Posters or charts must be made by the demonstrator/presenter. In judging, the content of the message, neatness, readability, accuracy, type of illustrative materials, and the effectiveness of the posters or charts as teaching tools will be considered.
- D. Teams will compete against individual demonstrators/presenters in each presentation contest area.
- E. Before the contest begins, the superintendent will announce the procedure for breaking a tie.
- F. The decision of the judges will be final.
- G. Good sportsmanship should be shown throughout the state 4-H contest.
- H. No one will be allowed to assist members in the preparation or contest area. To do so will disqualify a contestant. Requests for assistance should be made to the contest superintendent.
- I. In judging contests, no talking is permitted among contestants. Offenders may have their cards pulled.

- J. Cell phones, smart phones, or any other types of electronics are NOT ALLOWED in any contest area. If a phone or an electronic device is seen during a contest the contestant will be removed from the contest and disqualified. The State 4-H Office will not be responsible for cell phones, smart phones, or any other types of electronics that are lost, stolen or damaged.

V Regional/National Contest Trip Regulations

- A. New Mexico 4-H participants in out-of-state contests must comply with regional and national contest rules and age requirements, which may differ from those of the New Mexico State 4-H Conference.
- B. Individuals or team members who have represented New Mexico at a national 4-H contest are not eligible to participate in that same national contest again.
- C. Agents wishing to chaperon out-of-state competitive events must have approval of their county and district director.
- D. Funding for out-of-state competitive events is the responsibility of the teams and individuals participating in Regional or National events. Requests for financial assistance from the New Mexico 4-H Foundation, local 4-H councils, and county Extension budgets can be submitted by qualifying teams.
- E. It is encouraged that volunteer leaders and parents become more involved with chaperon duties for out-of-state activities.
- F. To enter a 4-H national competitive event, the minimum requirements of eligibility are:
1. Contestant must have reached his/her **14th birthday** but not have reached his/her 19th birthday as of January 1 of the year in which the national 4-H competitive event is held.
 2. All contestants must be members of 4-H in the state they are representing during the year in which the national 4-H competitive event is held.
 3. The contestant(s) or team(s) of contestants must be certified as the official state entry by the State 4-H Leader or by a person designated by the State 4-H Leader. The individual(s) or team(s) may be selected by any procedure the State 4-H Leader believes is appropriate.
 4. Contestants in national 4-H competitive events must not have participated in official post-secondary (university, college, junior college or technical school) competitive events or course work of a similar nature in the same subject matter area to be eligible for participation in national 4-H competitive events. Neither can he or she be a member of a post-secondary team undergoing training in preparation for an event in the subject matter area of their competitive event. For example, a contestant who has competed in an official collegiate livestock judging contest, either on or off campus, is ineligible to compete in a similar national 4-H judging contest. Violation of the above will result in forfeiture of any awards or recognition which has been won in the national 4-H competitive event.