San Antonio Horse Skillathon Contest

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Animal Science

Where to Get Started & What to Know

Getting Started:

Familiarize yourself with the resources listed, industry topics and industry news.

Contest Information:

Round One (Junior, Intermediate, Senior divisions) will consist of written questions and identification stations. The top ten contestants in the Intermediate and Senior divisions will proceed to Round Two.

Round Two (Junior, Intermediate, Senior divisions) will consist of hands-on activities and may include oral questions. This is the final round for Junior and Intermediate contestants. The top 10 Intermediates and Seniors will move on to the hands-on portion of the contest. All Juniors will compete in the Hands-On portion of the contest. The top five contestants in the Senior division will proceed to Round Three.

Round Three (Senior Division Only) Five Senior contestants will proceed to Round Three, which will consist of a five-minute speech. On November 1, a selection of three potential speech topics will be available for contestants to review on the contest registration website. All contestants in the senior division should come prepared to present a speech on an issue in the equine industry topic. The specific topic will be given 10 minutes prior to presentation. The speech presentation will be held in front of judges and will be open to the public. A panel of two judges will grade the speech out of 100 points. The average score of the two judges will be used. The judging rubric is included below.

Results: Results can be found on the registration page. Each contestant will be given an individual identification number at the time of registration. Results will be posted by identification number

only. Please allow 48 hours for results to be posted. If identification number is misplaced, please contact hanna.galloway@ag.tamu.edu for assistance.

What to Learn and Study:

1. **Breeds:** Identify by pictures various breeds important to the industry, also have a good working knowledge of the origin, physical attribution, and industry significant traits.

Resource: The Horse, 3rd Edition – J. Warren Evans, Rhonda M. Hoffman, Jessica Petersen, L. Dale Van Vleck

What to do: Print pictures & make a notebook. Utilize online learning such as Kahoot or Quizlet. Review each resource from the resource list and create flashcards of terminology, anatomy, breeds, etc.

2. **Health & Anatomy:** Understand common health problems in the equine industry, common symptoms, common treatments. Also understand how to read a medicine label, draw up medicine, and administer shots. Know the different conditions in which you would give specific medications.

Resource: Texas A&M University Animal Science – https://animalscience.tamu.edu
AgriLife Extension & College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences-Veterinary Science Certificate Program - https://aevm.tamu.edu/4-h-veterinary-science/handbook-information/books/

What to do: Gather empty medicine bottles from 4-H families and ag producers. Utilize them for learning to read different labels, and to know what to use for illnesses.

3. **Feeds:** Be able to visually identify common feeds and hays and understand their qualities. Also, understand how to read a feed tag and interpret information.

Resource: 4-H Horse Program: Horse Science – https://shop4h.org/products/horse-program-curriculum-horse-science

Lewis 2nd Feeding and Care of the Horse (2nd Edition) by Lon D. Lewis, Wiley-Blackwell - https://www.wiley.com/en-us/Feeding+and+Care+of+the+Horse%2C+2nd+Edition-p-9780683049671

What to do: Visit your feed store and gather feed samples. Visit and meet your Extension Agent and Veterinarian. Practice identifying samples, knowing the uses of each feed, and reading feed tags.

4. **Equipment:** Be able to identify and know the uses of common equine health, management, and show equipment.

Resources: AYHC HS Horse Smarts: An Equine Reference & Youth Activity Guide, by the American Youth Horse Council AYHC - *https://www.ayhc.com*

AQHLEARN - *https://learn.aqhuniversity.com/collections*

What to do: Visit your local veterinarian, meet with your Extension agent, attend a horse show. Practice identifying and using equipment.

5. **Industry Quiz:** Be able to answer age-appropriate (Junior, Intermediate, Senior levels) questions about horses & the equine industry.

Resources: The Horse – *https://thehorse.com/news/*

American Youth Horse Council - *https://www.ayhc.com/news/categories/equine-industry-news*

AQHLEARN - *https://learn.aqhuniversity.com/collections*

What to do: Utilize the resource list to stay up to date with industry news.

Speeches: The top 5 finalists in the Senior division will give a speech on current equine industry topics. Each contestant will draw one of three topics. Topics will be posted on the registration page by November 1st. Topics will cover from the categories listed in this study guide, industry news and popular equine related topics. The speech rubric can be found below. Please note that 5 points will be deducted if the contestant's speech is shorter than 4:45 or longer than 5:15.