

**2012 RHODE ISLAND 4-H HORSE PROGRAM
RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION
IN THE EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION**

There will be up to eighteen delegates chosen to participate with their horse project at ESE. Delegates will be chosen based upon their horsemanship ability and points accumulated in their 2012 RI 4-H Horse Activity Score Sheet.

I. **Rider/Driver/In Hand Eligibility:**

A. Any 4-H member having a horse project who is 13 years of age as of January 1st of the current year, and not older than 19 years of age as of January 1st of the current year. Note: 4-H members who are 12 years of age as of January 1st of the current year may apply for a Teen Leader position.

B. Members must have owned or managed and used their horse as a 4-H Activity prior to April 1st of the current year. Members are limited to entering one horse. Please see the 2012 RI 4-H Substitute Horse Project Guidelines for rules and procedures for using a substitute horse prior to the submission of ESE entry forms. After ESE entry forms are submitted NO SUBSTITUTE HORSE WILL BE ALLOWED except in case of death or permanent injury, with a veterinarian's certificate and authorization of the State office. Substitute horse must be pre-registered as the Exhibitor's 4-H Horse Activity as of April 1st of the current year. Final approval of any horse substitution lies with the State 4-H Office and the New England 4-H Horse Committee. Stallions and nursing mares are not eligible. Members may ride one of the following: Driving, Saddle Seat, Hunt Seat, Western or In Hand.

At ESE, members **MUST** enter Fitting & Showmanship, Equitation (Reinsmanship for drivers, Pattern class for In Hand), Judging and take the General Knowledge Exam. Riders will enter one of the following and may choose up to four: Pleasure, Trail, Command, Hunter Under Saddle, Hunter Over Fences, Western Handiness or Bridle Path Hack. Drivers must enter one of the following and may choose both: Pleasure or Obstacles. In Hand must choose one and may enter up to three: Jumping, Obstacles or Trail. Members must rank their second, third and fourth choices (when applicable) on their ESE applications. Check the ESE Entry form for the final list of classes to be offered. There will be a Horse Bowl Competition between teams in the six states. 4-H delegates may **NOT** enter any open show classes.

C. The 2012 RI 4-H Horse Activity Score Sheet must be submitted **along with** the ESE 4-H Horse Activity Entry Application to the State 4-H Office on or before **August 1st** of the current calendar year.

- D. 4-H Members may do an Educational or Safety Poster (ESE size requirement – minimum of 14”x22” and maximum of 22”x28”) to be entered at the Eastern States Exposition. Members may enter their poster in the Exhibit Hall at any 4-H District Fairs (SRI, ERI or NRI) and receive an additional three (3) points on their ESE Score Sheet. The Score Sheet from the 4-H District Fair must be attached to the ESE Score Sheet to receive the three points.
- E. Each 4-H Member (rider/driver/in hand) must show at the Rhode Island State 4-H Horse Show to be held **June 17, 2012**. A copy of your horse’s Coggins and Rabies Certificate must accompany registration forms. Each 4-H Member must enter Fitting and Showmanship, Equitation, and a performance class of their choice.
- F. Besides showing at the State 4-H Show, each 4-H member must ride in at least **one** of the three 4-H District shows or the State 4-H Horse Clinic to qualify for ESE. For In Hand and Driving a 4-H member must participate in one of the three 4-H District Shows and State 4-H Show. The State 4-H Horse Clinic will serve as a qualifier for riders only. At the State Show all riders/drivers/in hand must participate in Fitting and Showmanship, Equitation (Reinsmanship for driving and In Hand pattern), and a performance class of their choice. The following shows/clinic have been approved by the State 4-H Office:
1. **State 4-H Horse Clinic** – April 29, 2012
 2. **District** - NRI 4-H Horse Show – May 13, 2012
 3. **District** - SRI 4-H Fair – July 1, 2012
 4. **District** - ERI 4-H Fair – July 21 or 22, 2012
- G. Each 4-H Member must successfully complete the ESE Qualifying Pattern Class to be held at the State Show on **June 17, 2012**. See section VIII for details.
- H. RI 4-H Horse Delegates will abide by the New England 4-H Horse Committee’s code of conduct while participating at ESE.
- II. **Alternates:** In the event that a full slate of (18) delegates are chosen to participate in the ESE, up to three alternates may be chosen based upon the same criteria as noted in these guidelines.
- III. **Teen Leader Eligibility:** Up to four (4) teen leaders may be chosen for participation at Eastern States Exposition. The criteria for selection as teen leader includes: (1) completion of one year or more of 4-H horse project work, (2) riding, driving, in hand and/or volunteering during the current calendar year in at least one of the District 4-H Horse Shows or State 4-H Horse clinic (serves as qualifier for riders only), approved by the State 4-H Office, as well as the State 4-H Horse Show, (3) recommended by their 4-H leader (4) a two to four paragraph essay as to why they would like to be a

teen leader and what they feel they could contribute as a teen leader to the RI delegation (attached to the Score Sheet). Points on the Teen Leader score sheet are given for leadership activities and participation in horse related activities, including, but not limited to, horse shows, public presentations, hippology, and community service. 4-H members wishing to volunteer at a district or state horse show must check in at the Secretaries booth before the horse show begins to receive their volunteer assignment. The 2012 RI 4-H Horse Activity Score Sheet–Teen Leader must be submitted **along with** the ESE 4-H Horse Activity Entry Application to the State 4-H Office on or before **August 1st** of the current calendar year.

- IV. **2012 RI Horse Activity Score Sheet:** In order to be considered for participation in the ESE Horse Activity there will be a minimum standard requirement of 90 points on the 2012 RI Horse Rider/Driver Activity Score Sheet) and a minimum score of 70 points on the Teen Leader Horse Activity Score Sheet.
- V. **Chaperone Eligibility:** The Head Chaperone will be appointed by the State 4-H Office. Assistant Chaperones will be selected by the State 4-H office based on the applications submitted and the following criteria:
- A. Must be at least 21 years of age, a registered RI 4-H volunteer and submit an application to the State 4-H Office **prior to June 15th** of the current year.
 - B. Should actively participate in RI Horse activities such as clinics, horse shows, quiz bowl, hippology and horse judging events and public presentations. This gives the chaperones, delegates and their families a chance to interact prior to ESE.
 - C. Should possess leadership and organizational skills and must be willing and able to work well with others and serve as a positive 4-H role model.
 - D. Must adhere to the New England ESE 4-H Program Guidelines outlining chaperone responsibilities.
- VI **Barn Manager Eligibility:** One Barn Manager will be selected by the State 4-H office based on the applications submitted and the following criteria:
- A. Must be at least 21 years of age, a registered RI 4-H volunteer and submit an application to the State 4-H Office prior to **June 15th** of the current year.
 - B. Have a basic knowledge of horsemanship.
 - C. Be able to handle horses in a crisis situation.

- D. Have a positive influence with delegates concerning the care of their horses.
- VII **Chaperone/Barn Manager Notification:** The Chaperones and the Barn Manager will be notified of their selection by **June 30th** of the current year. Camper sites at ESE will be assigned by the State 4-H Office and the New England 4-H Horse Committee.
- VIII **2012 Pattern Class:**
- A. The ESE Pattern Class will be held on Sunday, **June 17, 2012** at the State 4-H Horse Show.
- B. The pattern evaluation will be incorporated into Equitation classes at the State 4-H Horse Show. **The pattern evaluation will be a PASS/FAIL (not scored).** For those who fail, a second opportunity will be offered at the end of the day. A simple pattern will be distributed by the judge early in the morning the day of the State Show. Each 4-H member will have 2 chances to pass. Since the State 4-H Horse Show is early in the season, an additional opportunity may be provided to riders who otherwise qualify for ESE prior to the August 1st deadline for applications. If a horse substitution is approved by the State 4-H Office after the State 4-H Show, the rider will be required to also pass the pattern class on the substitute horse.

IX **Summary**

The basic criteria which will be used for all candidates wishing to participate as an ESE delegate/alternate/teen leader is demonstration of horsemanship safety and knowledge, team spirit, and a willingness to “Make the Best Better”. It is the understanding between the State 4-H Office and its 4-H leaders, members and volunteers, that to participate at the Eastern States Exposition is a capstone experience awarded to those who have demonstrated, throughout the year, a personal dedication and excellence in their horsemanship skills. It is not a right to participate at Eastern States Exposition, but a privilege to be earned.