

**2019 RHODE ISLAND 4-H HORSE PROGRAM  
RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION  
IN THE EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION**

There will be up to eighteen RI delegates chosen to participate with their horse project at ESE. Delegates will be chosen based upon their horsemanship ability and points accumulated in their 2019 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 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year, and not older than 19 years of age as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Note: 4-H members who are 12 years of age as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year may apply for a Teen Leader position or a Horse Activity delegate (new this year).

B. 4-H member's horse must be owned or managed & they must have registered their horse as a 4-H project on or before April 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Members are limited to entering one horse at ESE. Please see the 2019 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 one of the Exhibitor's 4-H Horse Activities 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 **participate in one** of the following: Driving, Open English, Hunt Seat, Western or Small Equine.

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, **Discipline Rail**, Hunter Under Saddle, Hunter Over Fences, Western Handiness, Western All Around or Bridle Path Hack. Drivers will enter one or more of the following: Pleasure, Obstacles, **Discipline Rail** or Costume. Small Equine will choose one or more of the following: In Hand Hunter, Obstacles, **Discipline Rail** or Costume. Check the ESE Online 4-H Horse Packet for the final list of classes to be offered. There will be a Horse Bowl Competition between teams from the six states. 4-H delegates may **NOT** enter any open show classes.

C. The 2019 RI 4-H Horse Activity Score Sheet must be submitted **along with** the 4-H Horse BIG E Entry Form to the State 4-H Office on or before **August 1<sup>st</sup>** of the current calendar year. Additional information may be added to the Activity Score Sheet through August 4<sup>th</sup>.

- 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 Fair (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 2 of the District Horse Shows. A copy of your horse’s Coggins and Rabies Certificate must accompany registration forms. Each 4-H Member must enter Fitting and Showmanship (Reinsmanship for driving and In Hand Pattern), Equitation, and a performance class of their choice at District 4-H Shows.
- F. The following shows have been approved by the State 4-H Office
1. **District - NRI 4-H Horse Show** – May 19, 2019
  2. **District - SRI 4-H Fair** – June 30, 2019
  3. **District - ERI 4-H Fair** – August 4, 2019
- G. Each 4-H Member must successfully complete the ESE Qualifying Pattern Class which will be offered at each of the District Horse Shows. 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. All ESE Delegates should not make any other plans on or off the fairgrounds during the ESE 4-H Horse Program.
- 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 two of the District 4-H Horse Shows approved by the State 4-H Office, (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 – 2-4 paragraphs). Points on the Teen Leader/Horse Activity score sheet are given for leadership activities and participation in horse related activities, including, but not limited to, horse shows, public presentations, hippology, horse judging and community service. 4-H members wishing to volunteer at a district show must check in at the Secretary’s booth before the horse show

begins to receive their volunteer assignment. The 2019 RI 4-H Horse Activity Score Sheet–Teen Leader/Horse Activity Delegate must be submitted **along with** the ESE 4-H Horse BIG E Entry Form to the State 4-H Office on or before **August 1<sup>st</sup>** of the current calendar year. Additional information may be added to the Activity Score Sheet through August 4<sup>th</sup>.

- IV. **NEW THIS YEAR: ESE 4-H Horse Activity Team – Eligibility:** Up to two Horse Activity Delegates per state may be chosen for participation in a new track where they will learn new skills indirectly and directly related to the equine profession, as well as, share their equine knowledge with the fairgoers and provide the fairgoers with hands-on activities. The criteria for selection as a Horse Activity delegate 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 two of the District 4-H Horse Shows approved by the State 4-H Office, (3) recommended by their 4-H leader (4) a two to four paragraph essay as to why they would like to be selected as a Horse Activity Delegate and what they feel they could contribute to this new program (attached to the Score Sheet – 2-4 paragraphs). Points on the Teen Leader/Horse Activity Delegate score sheet are given for leadership activities and participation in horse related activities, including, but not limited to, horse shows, public presentations, hippology, horse judging and community service. 4-H members wishing to volunteer at a district show must check in at the Secretary’s booth before the horse show begins to receive their volunteer assignment. The 2019 RI 4-H Horse Activity Score Sheet–Teen Leader/Horse Activity Delegate must be submitted **along with** the ESE 4-H Horse BIG E Entry Form to the State 4-H Office on or before **August 1<sup>st</sup>** of the current calendar year. Additional information may be added to the Activity Score Sheet through August 4<sup>th</sup>.
- V. **2019 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 2019 RI Horse Rider/Driver/In Hand Activity Score Sheet ) and a minimum score of 70 points on the Teen Leader Horse Activity Score Sheet.
- VI. **Chaperones:** The Head Chaperone will be appointed by the State 4-H Office. Assistant Chaperones will be appointed by the State 4-H office in consultation with the Head Chaperone and the New England 4-H Horse Committee Rhode Island membership. Chaperones:
- A. Must be at least 21 years of age, a registered RI 4-H volunteer with a BCI on file in the RI State 4-H Office.
  - B. Should actively participate in various RI 4-H 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:** One Barn Manager will be selected by the State 4-H office in consultation with the Head Chaperone.
- VII **Chaperone/Barn Manager Notification:** The Chaperones and the Barn Manager will be notified of their selection early in the 4-H Horse Program season of the current year so that they can attend clinics, horse shows and other 4-H horse events. Camper sites at ESE will be assigned by the State 4-H Office and the New England 4-H Horse Committee.
- VIII **2019 Pattern Class:**
- A. The ESE Qualifying Pattern will be offered at the end of all District 4-H Horse Shows.
  - B. The pattern will be posted on the RI 4-H Horse website prior to the first qualifying event. It will be separate from the equitation classes. **The pattern evaluation will be a PASS/FAIL (not scored).** This will provide potential ESE delegates with multiple opportunities to PASS the required pattern. A simple pattern will be distributed to the district show judges along with the Pass/Fail Score Sheet. Once a rider/driver/in hand potential ESE delegate has Passed the pattern, they will not have to repeat it at additional district shows. If a horse substitution is approved by the State 4-H Office after the completion of all district shows, 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.