



HOUSTON Livestock
Show *and* Rodeo

DISTRICT 10 &
H.L.S.R. Contest
Guidelines:

HORSE JUDGING

March 10, 2025

Houston, TX



General Rules & Guidelines

DISTRICT 10 4-H HORSE JUDGING CONTEST AT HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW & RODEO

The District 10 4-H Horse Judging Qualifying contest will be hosted at the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo during the 2024-2025 4-H year. *****All 4-H members must submit a Houston Livestock Show entry and appropriate fees to their County Office to compete in these District 10 4-H contest qualifiers.*****

These Judging contests are designed for teams of three or four youth to demonstrate their skills in evaluation and observation. Youth use the knowledge and skills they have about the subject matter to place the class from best to worst. Youth also develop public speaking skills through learning how to present reasons for why they placed a class as they did.

MEMBERSHIP & AGE DIVISIONS

1. Participants must be 4-H members currently enrolled on 4HOnline and belong to a Texas 4-H Youth Development County program.
2. There are three age divisions for competition as outlined below. 4-H members' division is determined by their grade level as of August 31, 2024.
 - a. Junior- 3rd (and 8 yrs. old), 4th & 5th
 - b. Intermediate- Grades 6th, 7th, & 8th
 - c. Senior- Grades 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th (and not surpassed 18th birthday)
3. Juniors may move up to the Intermediate age division when participating on a team that has true intermediates (based on grades listed above) on it. Intermediates may NOT move down to a Junior Team nor move up to the Senior age division. Senior teams must be Senior members ONLY. ****ONLY Senior 4-H members can qualify for Texas 4-H State Roundup.***
4. ***H.L.S.R. Teams are designated by age only, not grade level.*** Therefore, H.L.S.R team designations may differ from 4-H rules above. However, District 10 4-H Awards will be based on grade level like any other 4-H contest.

REGISTRATION PERIOD

1. Registration will be conducted on 4HOnline (v2.4honline.com). Each member of a team will be required to register themselves on 4HOnline.
2. Regular Registration Period: \$15 per contestant entered.
 - a. January 6 - **February 4, 2025 (DEADLINE)**
3. Late Registration Period: \$15 per contestant entered PLUS a **\$25.00 late fee**.
 - a. February 5-7, 2025 **FINAL DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION**
4. **No refunds** will be given for any District Contest Registrations.

ADVANCING TO DISTRICT

1. Horse Judging does not have a limit on the number of teams that can advance to District. Counties can send as many teams as they like. *****All 4-H members must have submitted Stock Show entries/fees for the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo to their County Office to compete in these District 10 4-H contest qualifiers.*****
2. Horse Judging only allows **two** individuals per age division. If a county has 3+ individuals entered, those individuals must be combined into a team to compete at District.
3. All team members must be from the same county.

Horse Judging Rules & Guidelines

DATE: Monday, March 10, 2025

LOCATION: Great Southwest Equestrian Center [2501 S Mason Rd #100, Katy, TX 77450](#)

SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m. – 9 a.m. Registration Begins **Must check-in FIRST with H.L.S.R. officials, then District 10 Officials*
9:30 a.m. Contest Begins
Awards (following contest and tabulation)

CONTEST TYPE

Qualifying: District 10 Senior Teams who place 1st – 3rd will advance to Texas 4-H State Roundup. Additionally, 1st – 3rd High Point Individuals per District may also advance to State Roundup if they are not part of a top 1st – 3rd team.

CONTEST TEAM STRUCTURE

Team or Individual

1. **Please note that H.L.S.R. Team Designations and 4-H Team Designations DIFFER.** You are welcome to construct your team according to H.L.S.R.'s rules ([Pg. 273 – Premium List](#)) but for District 10 4-H Awards all teams/individuals will be awarded according to 4-H age divisions.
 - a. **4-H Team Designations:** 4-H teams may consist of 3-4 youth in the same age division (see Pg. 2 of this guide). An exception to this rule is that juniors may move up to compete with an intermediate team, but intermediates or seniors may not move up or down to a different age division.
 - b. **H.L.S.R. Horse Judging Teams Designations:** S.A.L.E. Horse Judging Teams may consist of 3-4 youth by age, not grade. Therefore, their team designations may differ from 4-H. However, District 10 4-H Awards will be based on grade level like any other 4-H contest.
 - *The contest will be divided into the following divisions (Age as of August 31, 2024):*
 - a. *Junior: Ages 8yrs. of age & in 3rd Grade -13 yrs.*
 - b. *Senior: Ages 14-18 yrs. (Not surpassed 18 yrs. of age)*
2. 4-H Teams must be declared in advance by the County agent on 4-HOnline.
3. Maximum of two (2) individuals from a county may compete as individuals.
 - a. If a county has three or more individuals entered, those individuals will automatically be combined into a team to compete at District.

Substitutions:

All substitutions for **District 10 MUST COME FROM THE COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT**. If an agent is not present at the contest to make last minute substitutions, you need to contact the **District 10 4-H Specialist** to request a substitution for your county. No changes can be made to the teams after check-in with the Contest Committee. Teams who have won at State and judged at the National Contest, are ineligible to compete in the District Contest.

H.L.S.R. HORSE JUDGING CONTEST RULES - [PREMIUM LIST \(PG. 299\)](#)

CONTEST CLASSES & REASONS:

There will be a total of eight (8) classes of four horses each. Two to four classes will be halter and four to six classes will be performance. Performance classes to be selected from Western Pleasure, Stock Horse Pleasure, Ranch Riding, Western Horsemanship, Hunter Under Saddle, Hunt Seat Equitation, Hunter Hack, Trail, Western Riding or Reining. (Classes will be judged according to current AQHA Handbook of Rules and Regulations and the American Stock Horse Association Handbook Stock – Stock Horse Pleasure Only). Reasons will be required for all 4-H contestants for Houston Livestock Show Awards & Placings only. However, Reasons scores will not be tabulated for Junior & Intermediate District 10 4-H Awards & Placings. Seniors will give two sets of reasons (one halter/one performance). 4-H Juniors will give one set of reasons (halter). Reasons will be given at the conclusion of class judging. Questions are no longer a part of the 4-H Horse Judging Contest. The movement of groups to each class will be controlled by the Superintendent.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Clipboard
- Several sharpened pencils with good erasers
- Blank paper for taking notes on classes.
- Scantrons will be provided by the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo. The official scantron will be Universal A #705A-12. Students should know how to use scantrons properly before coming to the contest.

SCORES:

Scores are based on placing of the eight classes or team placings, teams of 4 will have their lowest individual score dropped. Teams of 3 will have all three individual scores count toward their team score. All ties among any placing team or individual will be broken via designated tiebreakers.

RESOURCES: Study materials/resources for this contest are located at:

<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/horse/>

DISTRICT 10 4-H HORSE JUDGING CONTEST AWARD TABULATION:

- **Junior & Intermediate** contestants will have the option to give reasons. Junior & Intermediate reasons scores will NOT be included for District 10 final scores, placings & awards. However, H.L.S.R will include the reason scores into the final score for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo final scores, placings & awards.
- **Seniors** will be required to give reasons. Reasons scores will be tabulated into final District 10 and Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo final scores, placings & Awards.