

# 4-H Horse Program



The Horse Project is an exciting 4-H project area that you can participate in **whether you own a horse/pony or not!**

## Horse Shows

- Each county is assigned an Area Show to compete in: North, South, East, or West
- Many counties have County level shows or clinics to help prepare youth for a competitive environment
- Once qualified from Area, a youth/horse combination is eligible for the State Horse Show in Tampa, FL. There they can compete for a spot at “Regionals”
- FL is part of the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships, a combination educational contest and horse show. Our Regional show is only one of its kind within the 4-H organization.

## Horse Quiz Bowl

- Think Jeopardy for horses!
- 4-5 members per team in the rapid test of all things horse
- While one of our smallest horse related contests, it is a fast-paced exciting one
- Each year, a State contest is held in Gainesville, FL to qualify members to compete at the Regional and National level

## Hippology

- Hippology is the study of the horse - from tack to the digestive system
- 3 to 4 member teams take part in a two-day-long contests
- Contest segments include: horse judging, written exam, stations, and team problems

## Horse Judging

- Horse Judging is a way for members to learn how to critically evaluate a horse
- A judging class consists of 4 horses in riding or halter (in-hand) classes
- Classes are diverse, ranging from Saddlebreds, to Warmbloods or Quarter Horses and spanning several disciplines
- Senior members participate in “reasons” where they defend their placing of the class to a professional through an short, memorized oral speech
- Both workshops and contests are held multiple times each 4-H year
- Contests range from State to National levels

## Horsemanship School

- Hosted at the UF Horse Teaching Unit, members from across the state bring a horse with them to “camp”, usually in the month of June
- Instruction places emphasis on horsemanship and equitation during morning and evening riding sessions. “Camp” is usually two weeks, one English week and one Western week
- 4-H youth and chaperones stay in UF dorms while their horses stay at UF’s beautiful facility

# Leader Support

- Start or join a horse club! We are always looking for parent and volunteer leaders with a passion to help kids.
- No horse experience required! Learn as you go - we are here to help you.
- Contact your County Extension Agent for information on the horse project in your area. Many times, the agents are able to pair you with a horse focused club to help you immerse in the program
- **Horse 101 course for leaders and agents** had been offered in the past when there is enough interest. This course allows you to learn, hands-on, the safety and horse management information to pass on to the 4-H members. The course is usually over the weekend with daily horse interactions. We look forward to holding this course again, as interest allows.
- **Florida 4-H Horse Program “Know How” Zoom workshops** are tentatively planned for the fall. The State Horse Program plans to host three Zoom sessions, one for youth, one for adult leaders, and one for agents. The aim of the workshops are to educate those participating in the program of what they need to know to best compete, support youth, and support their county’s horse program. Exact dates are TBD and should be released soon after the fall advisory meeting.
- Our **Florida Horse Advisory Board** meets twice a year. This board aids in communication between the State office and the counties. The advisory committee is comprised of representatives across the state and give input on rule changes, program direction, and more. Our board members are listed on our website and you can find who is representing your Area. If you’re interested in serving, please reach out to your Area representatives.



If you have any questions, please reach out to us!

Dr. Saundra TenBroeck  
State Horse Extension Specialist  
sht@ufl.edu  
352-392-2789

Joel McQuagge  
Extension/Teaching Associate  
mcquagge@ufl.edu  
352-392-6363

Alyssa Ohmstede  
Youth Horse Programs Coordinator  
imatwist@ufl.edu  
352-392-1912

## Philosophy & Goal of the Florida 4-H Horse Program

*The purpose of the 4-H horse program is to provide young people an opportunity to participate in a series of activities designed to improve citizenship, sportsmanship, horsemanship, character, competitive spirit, discipline, and responsibility while creating an atmosphere for learning and awareness of the life about us.*

*E. L. Johnson*