



New Mexico State 4-H Conference

GENERAL RULES FOR ALL SENIOR 4-H PARTICIPANTS

Unless otherwise specified, the following regulations apply to all State 4-H Contest participants.

Each county is eligible to bring the top qualified county teams and individuals in each contest area, as specified by the rules for that contest. State 4-H Contests are open to 4-H members who meet the eligibility requirements regardless of ancestry, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, retaliation, serious medical condition, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, spousal affiliation, or protected veteran status. County participants, including alternates, will be qualified as a result of a county wide selection process, held previous to the state contest, in which all eligible 4-H members are given the opportunity to participate.

I. General Eligibility

- A. Senior age 4-H members who are actively enrolled in the 4-H program of the county they will be representing are eligible to compete. A senior 4-H member can be 13 years old and in the 8th grade; 14 years old; 15 years old; 16 years old; 17 years old; or 18 years old. Age is determined as of January 1 of the current 4-H year. Youth who are 19 by December 31 of the current 4-H year are not eligible to enroll as a 4-H member and therefore not eligible to attend State Conference.

****Please note that contests offered at the regional and national levels may have different age requirements and their age policies take precedence over New Mexico age classifications.**

- B. All members of a national qualifying team must meet all regional and national contest requirements, including age, to be eligible to participate in the regional or national contests.
- C. Refer to specific contest rules for information on team size and participation as individuals. Number of teams and individuals allowed per county varies by contest area. Please note: FCS Bowl and Horse Bowl require a team of 4 or 5 (if there is an alternate) and do not allow for an individual to compete without a complete team.
- D. 4-H members who have participated in any college classes or collegiate teams related to a specific contest are not eligible to compete in that contest.
- E. New Mexico 4-H and New Mexico State University are committed to providing reasonable accommodations for qualified members in accordance with state and federal laws. If you are a member with a disability in need of an accommodation, please be sure your Combined Liability Youth Form 300.A-3 is up to date and follow up with your County Extension Office at the time of registration to begin a discussion on available accommodations.

II. Entries

- A. Counties will be notified of the date entries are due in the State 4-H Office.
- B. 4-H members may participate in more than one contest per day, but **NO MORE THAN ONE CONTEST PER TIME BLOCK**. Various contests are offered during following time blocks:
- AM: 7am-12noon
 - Afternoon: 1pm-5pm
 - Evening: 7pm-9pm.



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* Example: On Tuesday, one delegate could enter Horse Judging at 7:15 am (AM), Consumer Decision Making at 1:00 pm (Afternoon) and Presentations at 7:00 PM (Evening). They could not enter Horse Judging and then Prepared Public Speaking at 8:00 am, as these contest will be run at the same time.

C. Winners of previous state contests are eligible to compete in the same state contest again.

III. General Policies

- A. No one will be permitted to examine 4-H contest areas within the 60-day period prior to the event. The only exceptions will be speaking, talent and fashion contests which allow for participants to view the contest room prior to competition the week of the event. Failure to adhere to this rule by coaches and/or contestants will result in disqualification of the entire team.
- B. Contestants must be present and checked-in with the contest superintendent at the start of the contest. If they are not present, they will not be allowed to participate.
- C. No handbooks or any printed material will be allowed in any contest area unless approved by the superintendent or specified in the contest rules. Contest materials –such as scantrons, clipboards, etc are provided only when specified by the rules of a specific contest. All non-provided supplies (pencils, presentation equipment, etc) are the responsibility of the contestant.
- D. Protests: Any protests must be made the same day of the contest. Protests must be made through the 4-H Agent and put in writing to the State 4-H Program Leader, listing specific violations. In reaching a decision, the State 4-H Program Leader will involve the person in charge of the contest along with the appropriate 4-H Specialist responsible for the contest area. The decision reached is final and without further appeal.

IV. Competition and Awards

- A. The American Judging system will be used. Teams and individuals are competing against each other, resulting in placing 1st – 5th in each division/category/contest with only one team or individual for each place. Tie breakers are established by the rules for each contest. In the event that all tie breakers are exhausted and there is still a tie, contest management may determine that the tie stand in the official placings.
- B. Contests will utilize scoresheets, scantron scoring and answer sheets as outlined in the appropriate contest rules. Contestants are responsible for knowing how their contest will be scored and preparing accordingly.
- C. The decision of all judges will be final.
- D. Good sportsmanship is expected of all participants as outlined in the NM 4-H Code of Conduct. Failure to adhere to these expectations will result in a participant's disqualification and loss of all awards.
- E. Members needing an accommodation related to a specific contest must make the request to their County Extension Office at the time of registration. Refer to item E in the General Eligibility section.
- F. Cell phones, smart phones, or any other types of electronics are NOT ALLOWED in any contest area. If a phone or an electronic device is seen during a contest the contestant will be removed from the contest and disqualified. The State 4-H Office will not be responsible for cell phones, smart phones, or any other types of electronics that are lost, stolen or damaged.



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V. Regional/National Contest Trip Regulations

- A. New Mexico 4-H participants in out-of-state contests must comply with regional and national contest rules and age requirements, which may differ from those of the New Mexico State 4-H Conference.
- B. For information on regional/national contest eligibility refer to item B in the General Eligibility section of this document, rules for specific contest areas and page 8 of the New Mexico 4-H Policy and Procedure Manual.
- C. Individuals or team members who have represented New Mexico at a national 4-H contest are not eligible to participate in that same national contest again.
- D. Funding for out-of-state competitive events is the responsibility of the teams and individuals participating in Regional or National events. Requests for financial assistance from local 4-H councils and county Extension budgets can be submitted by qualifying teams, however, assistance is not guaranteed. Refer to the section on fundraising in the New Mexico 4-H Policy and Procedures Manual.
- E. To enter a 4-H national competitive event, the minimum requirements of eligibility are:
 1. Contestant must have reached his/her **14th birthday** but not have reached his/her 19th birthday as of January 1 of the year in which the national 4-H competitive event is held.
 2. All contestants must be members of 4-H in the state they are representing during the year in which the national 4-H competitive event is held.
 3. The contestant(s) or team(s) of contestants must be certified as the official state entry by the State 4-H Leader or by a person designated by the State 4-H Leader. The individual(s) or team(s) may be selected by any procedure the State 4-H Leader believes is appropriate.
 4. Contestants in national 4-H competitive events must not have participated in official post-secondary (university, college, junior college or technical school) competitive events or course work of a similar nature in the same subject matter area to be eligible for participation in national 4-H competitive events. Neither can he or she be a member of a post-secondary team undergoing training in preparation for an event in the subject matter area of their competitive event. For
 - * Example, a contestant who has competed in an official collegiate livestock judging contest, either on or off campus, is ineligible to compete in a similar national 4-H judging contest. Violation of the above will result in forfeiture of any awards or recognition which has been won in the national 4-H competitive event.