

NC 4-H Horse Program Eligibility Card

Standard Operating Procedures

Eligibility Card Completion Instructions for 4-H Agents, Volunteer Leaders, Parents and 4-H'ers:

1. All 4-H'ers wishing to show in 4-H horse shows for the current year should complete an eligibility card request form for each horse they intend on showing. Be sure to contact your agent to be sure you are meeting your county's requirements for obtaining an eligibility card.
2. The Eligibility Card information (name, address, horse's information, etc.) should be completed by the 4-H'er and their parent using the online request form found at the link provided here: [2020 NC 4-H Horse Program Eligibility Card Request Form](#)

The pony measurement section will be completed by a certified measurer at the qualifying show. If the pony has a permanent USEF or NCHJA card, that must be presented to the certified measurer at the qualifying show so they can complete the appropriate check boxes and sign. Please provide the original card (un-laminated) to the measurer.

3. After the online form has been completed, a pre-filled eligibility card document will be electronically generated and shared with the county Extension agent. Extension agents will print the completed cards and arrange distribution to the leaders of the youth that have met the county requirements.
4. The parent/guardian, volunteer leader, and Extension Agent must all sign the card (in ink) for it to be valid.

By signing this card, the parent, volunteer leader, and agent are each verifying that the youth is a current 4-Her in good standing and that they are fulfilling the requirements/rules of the events that they are participating in; if found to be ineligible, for a division, the three persons signing this card shall be considered responsible for failing to recognize ineligibility.

5. Extension agents should make a copy of the completed cards, to be retained in the local 4-H office. After copies have been made, the original card should be returned to the 4-H'er.
6. 4-H'ers must consult the entry deadlines and requirements for the qualifying show they are attending to be sure that all their paperwork is turned in on time and correctly.

North Carolina 4-H Horse Program Eligibility Card Rules

1. This card may be used as a 4-H Measurement, Short Stirrup, Long Stirrup, and Little Britches card. Retain as a record of your animal's official height and Short Stirrup, Long Stirrup or Little Britches Eligibility and as your 4-H eligibility for the current year and for future reference.
2. Ponies must be officially measured each year unless a permanent USEF Height Card **or NCHJA Pony Measurement Card can be provided.**
3. The Parent, Volunteer Leader, and Extension Agent signatures must be on the card for it to be valid. **If the 4-Her is a member at large, the extension agent will sign as the volunteer leader also.**
4. This card should be in possession of 4-H members when exhibiting their animals at any show to verify 4-H Horse Project eligibility.
5. Every 4-H'er must have a separate, current, complete eligibility card on every project horse he/she expects to participate within the current 4- H year.
6. This card should be signed in ink. Please do not use a pencil.

NC 4-H Horse Program Rules and Regulations Manual section on Eligibility Cards:

I-C.4. Eligibility and Certification of Exhibitors

I-C.4.a. Membership. Each exhibitor must be an active and participating member of a 4-H club **or be a member at large in good standing** and meet the requirements for membership as established by the local club or county program.

I-C.4.b. Certification. All eligible 4-H members will be given a 4-H Horse Project Card (an eligibility card) signed by their 4-H club leader and Extension agent. Rules for membership into the 4-H Horse Project will be determined by the county; however, the 4-H member is encouraged to participate in other 4-H events besides the 4-H horse show. It is the responsibility of the county Extension agent and horse club leader to certify the eligibility of their 4-H members, **including Little Britches, Short-Stirrup, and Long Stirrup status of the 4-H member.** 4-H members must also indicate on their eligibility card form, which qualifying show they are going to attend. Please note that 4-H members must obtain a separate eligibility card for each project horse they intend on showing for the current year. Contact your county Extension agent to obtain deadlines for completing eligibility cards.

I-C.4.c. Horse Ownership. Each horse show exhibitor must manage at least one horse of any age or breed as a 4-H horsemanship project. It is recommended that the horse be owned by the 4-H member or his family. However, the horse can be owned by another person if the exhibitor meets the requirements of eligibility in item I-C.4.d. and is certified by his or her club leader and county Extension agent.

I-C.4.d. Horse Care. The horse must be managed and under the care of the 4-H member for 60 days prior to the District Horse Show. Project horses should not be trained on a regular daily basis by a professional within 60 days before competing in 4-H classes. **The definition of “regular care” in regards to eligibility for youth keeping a horse at a boarding barn or training facility is defined as “a trainer is not allowed to ride a 4-H member’s horse more than 3 days per week within 60 days of a 4-H qualifying show”.** Professional advice and instruction of the 4-H member is encouraged whenever possible. Such assistance can include occasional riding or handling of the horse by the professional but cannot include regular daily training and care of the horse within 60 days of competition. Youths boarding their horses at public stables that feed their horses and clean their stalls are eligible to participate in 4-H horse shows if the 4-H members ride and care for the horses on a regular basis. The state Extension horse specialist’s office will be glad to give advice and guidance when requested.

II-C-1.b. Divisions.

Hunter classes are divided into divisions based on rider experience and fence height. Cross-entry between divisions is not allowed. All animals must be serviceably sound.

(1) Rookie W/T Division

a. Riders must be 4-H members in their first year of showing hunt seat at the 4-H level as a junior or higher division. The intention of this division is to serve as a safe introductory experience to the hunt seat discipline. Riders are only permitted one year to show at this level. Open to horses and ponies. Four-H members showing exclusively in this division may not compete in the Versatility Class and are not eligible to show at Southern Regionals.

(2) Short Stirrup

a. Riders must be 4-H members ages 8 to 13. Three years of participation in the division is allowed, with no more than 2 years showing over fences. This division is specifically designed for the inexperienced Junior riders in the Hunt Seat Division. Open to horses and ponies. Four-H members showing exclusively in this division may not compete in the Versatility Class and are not eligible to show at Southern Regionals.

(3) Long Stirrup

a. Riders must be 4-H members ages 14-18. Two years of participation in the division is allowed. Open to horses and ponies. **Participants in this division may not have previously shown over fences for more than 2 years.**

III-H. LITTLE BRITCHES DIVISION

III-H.1. Overview

Classes in the division are open to youths, ages 8 to **13**, who are in their first two years of showing, excluding Cloverbud Classes. The division is specifically designed for inexperienced Junior riders. Little Britches entries are not restricted from qualifying in the Junior Hunter Division, Ranch, Speed Events Division, Dressage or Saddleseat Division Classes, but cannot cross over into the Junior Western Division **or Junior Ranch Division**. Four-H members showing (qualifying) exclusively in Little Britches or Short-Stirrup Division classes may not compete in the Versatility Class. Four-H’ers showing exclusively in Little Britches are not eligible to show at Southern Regionals.