



# Kids n' Horses News

## Welcome to the new 4-H year!

Howdy to all the 4-H Horse Project members in Kansas! This is the December, 2016 edition of the Kids n' Horses Newsletter to help keep you informed about 4-H Horse events happening around the state. AND give you a little educational information too!

Included in this newsletter is informational about Horse Panorama in January at Rock Springs. Panorama is an awesome educational event with something for everyone. Also is the nomination form for the Volunteer of the Year.

Don't forget to renew your 4-H Horse ID Papers. OR if you got a new horse, start a new 4-H Horse ID paper on that horse. The form can be found at: <http://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/animals/horse.html> under General Horse Resources. There is a sample available under Downloads at that same website. Remember, the 4-H Horse Identification Certificate should be on 1 page (front & back) with the picture attached.

If you would like to submit an article or have a horse event you would like to publicize, please e-mail that information to Jean at [jhuntley@ksu.edu](mailto:jhuntley@ksu.edu).

Happy trails and safe riding!



*"4-H is a community of young people across America learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills."*

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# Horse Panorama

**When:** January 27-29, 2017

**Where:** Rock Springs 4-H Center

**Who:** 4-H Members ages 7-18 and adult volunteers.

Horse Panorama is a compilation of various contests related to the Horse Project. Contests include:

-  quiz bowl
-  hippology
-  public speaking presentations
-  photography and
-  educational posters.

There will also be educational activities for 4-Hers of all ages.

**Registration:** [Registration Form](#)

**Registration Fee:** Varies, Check Registration Form for Details

**Registration Deadline:** January 15, 2017

- [2017 Horse Panorama Rules](#)
- [2017 Horse Panorama Schedule](#)

Please check out all the information at:

<http://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/conferences-events/horse/index.html>

## Kansas 4-H Horse Volunteer of the Year

By Pam Van Horn

All across Kansas there are 4-H Horse Volunteers that are making a difference in the lives of 4-H members. Now, is the chance to honor those volunteers for their dedication and commitment to youth by nominating them for the Kansas 4-H Horse Volunteer! Below are the criteria for submitting. Don't delay!

The selection criteria includes:

- Positive impact the nominee has had on 4-H and the 4-H members.
- Nominee's ability to work with young people within the horse project that assist with promoting life skills of fostering a positive self-concept, creating a concern for the community, learning decision-making skills,

acquiring interpersonal abilities and developing an inquiring mind.

- Innovative approaches for engaging youth into learning and increasing diversity among the participants.
- Adult/youth "mentor-learner" relationships built with volunteer and 4-H member.
- Dedication to creating a safe and inclusive environment for 4-H members, parents.
- Encouragement of positive, cooperative working relationship with Extension Agents; promoting K-State Research and Extension; and following 4-H Policies.
- Enthusiasm for initiating new approaches for reaching youth.
- Recruitment of new members.
- Expansion of project through increased funding and resources.
- Role-modeling positive volunteerism and sportsmanship.
- Personal development through serving as a 4-H volunteer.

The application in a word document:

1. A two-page resume which includes the volunteer's passion for planning, organizing and facilitating project meetings and hands-on trainings; how they serve as a positive role model for youth and adults; and contribute back to the 4-H program.
2. Three letters of recommendation from: a 4-H member, 4-H volunteer and an Extension Agent.

**\*\*Any part of the resume and letter of recommendation is missing the application will be disqualified.\*\***

Submission process:

- Application materials must be submitted by a nominator to the nominee's local Extension Office. Each local county/district office may select one nominee per number of counties represented in the district to continue towards state competition.
- Each completed application (two-paged resume and three letters of

recommendation) must be submitted to the State 4-H Office by 11:59 p.m., November 30.

- Letters should be no longer than two pages in length, in 12-point font single-spaced with 1-inch margins. Letters of recommendation must be written by a 4-H member, a volunteer/parent and an Extension Agent. Nominations must be received electronically in a word document to the Kansas State Research and Extension's Department of 4-H Youth Development directly to Pamela Van Horn at [pvanhorn@ksu.edu](mailto:pvanhorn@ksu.edu).
- Electronically submitted application must be received by 11:59 p.m., November 30.
- Two-paged resume and the three letters of recommendation must be in Word document. If applications are sent in PDF file, faxed or mailed nomination will be disqualified.
- Application must be in 12-point font.
- No late nominations accepted.

#### Announcement:

- State Winner will be informed of results by January 1.
- Formal announcement of Kansas 4-H Horse Volunteer will be at the Kansas 4-H Horse Panorama the last weekend in January.
- The winner will receive a personalized plaque and \$50 cash award to be donated to a local 4-H club, event or activity of winner's choice.
- The application information can be found on the Kansas 4-H web site on the Horse page at: <http://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/animals/horse.html>

## Spook Proof

### **Despook your horse before you end up in trouble.**

To help prevent a blow-up the next time your horse gets scared, The American Quarter Horse Journal asked AQHA Professional Horsewoman Sallie Jo Reid

to offer some helpful tips on how to spook-proof your horse.

You can't be too prepared when it comes to despooking your horse. Once you desensitize him to everyday things you see around the arena, find some unusual props to work with.

#### **Some good despooking tools are:**

**Tarps** – Tarps make great spook-proofing tools because they can make a lot of noise, and they are easy to move around. Start slowly by showing the tarp to your horse and slowly work up to walking him over it or throwing it on his back.

**Pompoms** – Pompoms are great to work with because they are small and easy to handle.

**Umbrellas** – You can twirl them in your hand or pop them open to get him used to things moving around him.

Realistically, no one has time to expose a horse to every possible object that might frighten him, so it's smart to have an emergency plan for when everything goes wrong. A good trick of the trade is the "safety pull" technique. For example, if you go into a show arena and your horse is afraid of a banner, tip his nose away from it so he doesn't have to see it. Force him to look across the arena at the buddy he rode in with or anything that gives him good vibes. Ride away from the spooky obstacle, and bit by bit, work your way back.

#### **Don't Panic**

Your response as the rider determines whether your horse will be brave or whether he will let his anxiety get the best of him.

#### **Typical Rider Responses:**

Trying to force a horse to go where he is afraid to go, which only makes him more fearful

Taking the horse away from what he is scared of; teaching him that if he doesn't want to do something, he should act afraid

Neither of these responses will help in the despooking process.

Keep these techniques in mind when you feel your horse get nervous:

 Monitor your own body language.

- 🐾 Stay calm when your horse spooks. The more confident you are, the more confident your horse will be.
- 🐾 Redirect your horse's attention by changing his focus. If you can get your horse to think about something else, he will be less inclined to react to what spooked him.
- 🐾 Get him to move his feet. Turn him to the right, walk forward, back him up, walk to the left.
- 🐾 When you feel him start to relax, reward him.

Just remember, de-spooking a horse takes time. Horses are creatures of habit and learn from repetition. Stay focused, and your horse will gradually learn to trust you more and be prepared for whatever comes his way.

*Source: November 13, 2016, The American Quarter Horse Journal*

## Ownership and Leasing

There are always questions about ownership and the 4-H Horse project. This information is taken from the Kansas 4-H Horse Show Rule Book. If you have questions, please contact your county agent. *Each project horse must be managed according to the following guidelines:*

### • Ownership

— Youth may own the horse themselves, or use a family-owned horse (immediate family: mother, father, stepparent, brother, sister, grandparent, or legal guardian). In any case, the youth participant must manage the horse at least 75 percent of the time from May 1 through September 30. The 4-H project year starts in October and goes through September of the following year. Members should be expected to start their horse record on October 1, or as soon as they purchase their horse. The project horse must be identified through the county or district extension office on or before May 1. This must be done annually.

### • Leasing

— The leasing option is intended for youth who are unable to participate fully in the 4-H horse project because they do not have access to family-owned horses. Youth may lease a horse for use as a 4-H project horse, provided that they manage the horse at least 75 percent of the time from May 1 through September 30. Members are expected to start their records on October 1, or as soon as the horse is leased. A horse that is leased must be identified through the county or district extension office on or before May 1. A 4-H member may identify only one leased horse per year.

If a horse is leased by a 4-H member, no family-owned horse can be identified.

*Although if a 4-H'er leases a horse for the 2-year-old snaffle bit or the 3-year-old projects, he/she may identify a family-owned horse to serve as an "open" project horse. Once a leased horse has been identified as a 2-year-old snaffle bit project, the horse is not eligible for showing in competitive classes at the district show. However, if the leased 3-year-old is the only horse a 4-H member has identified, it can be shown in competitive district classes.*

Leased horses can fulfill project requirement for open, 2-year-old snaffle bit, or 3-year-old projects; however, must abide by all 4-H Horse rules.

If a 4-H member leases his or her project horse to another 4-H member, the leaser forfeits the right to use the horse.

### Sharing project horses

— Siblings may show the same horse provided they are not in the same class.

If both are in the same age classification, they must decide what classes each will show in. In any case, they must share management of the horse.

