



# NYS 4-H Horse Program Riding Level Evaluation Form



- This form will be used for all 4-H youth that have riding experience and are being evaluated for “CCE/4-H Sponsored” programs and events.
- This riding level evaluation form is not required for club activities.
- A youth that has previously been evaluated to ride safely in Junior or Senior levels does not need to be re-evaluated due to change of age from Jr. to Sr., unless there is a need for re-evaluation.
- A youth that wishes to “move-up” a level must be re-evaluated-i.e.-Walk/Trot to Jr. or Sr. level or from Walk/Trot or Jog/Canter or Lope with no diagonals or leads to Walk/Trot/Canter with diagonals and leads
- Evaluation forms will be kept on file in the county CCE/4-H office and must be signed by the CCE Educator/Staff member to be valid.
- A copy of the completed evaluation form with all signatures and/or a riding certificate/card denoting the level of successful evaluation, CCE Educator / Staff Member Signature and County should be supplied to the member to carry with them to 4-H Events.
- Any Cloverbud youth must have been evaluated by the “Cloverbud-On the Ground Skills Evaluation” form, been involved in “riding experiences”, and demonstrated their ability to ride safely before they are to be involved in “out of club” programs and events. All Cloverbud policies apply (See NYS 4-H Cloverbud Leader Handbook).
- It is suggested that youth be evaluated on the horse/rider combination that they will be participating with but it is not mandated. The rider’s abilities, not the horse, is being evaluated.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Last Riding Level Ridden: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H age (age as of Jan 1<sup>st</sup> of current year) : \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Leader/s: \_\_\_\_\_

State the Riding Level, for this child, for which you are seeking evaluation:  
(First read all descriptions of riding levels on last page)

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature signifies that the child and parent are interested in this child having a riding experience; and that the parent is giving their approval for this “Riding Level” evaluation to be performed.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the horse (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

**This youth has been evaluated and approved to ride at the level indicated below**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Lead line
- \_\_\_\_\_ Walk/Trot or Walk/Jog
- \_\_\_\_\_ Walk/Trot or Jog/Canter or Lope-(no leads/diagonals to count)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Junior (13 yrs and under as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of current year) Walk/Trot , Lope/Canter -leads & diagonals to count)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Senior (14 yrs and older as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of current year) Walk/Trot, Lope/Canter – leads & diagonals to count
- \_\_\_\_\_ This youth should not be considered to be a candidate to have a riding experience at this time

Suggestions/Comments:

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Evaluators Names or Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

A child may not be evaluated by their own parent or guardian

Date of Evaluation: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendations reviewed and accepted by:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

CCE Educator/Staff member Signature

**Please note: An educator may excuse any horse or rider from a “CCE/4-H” sponsored program if it poses a safety issue to themselves or others at any time.**



# New York State 4-H Horse Riding Evaluations

4-H Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

**Key: 3=Exceeds Standard 2=Meets Standard 1=Does Not Meet Standard**  
**Each component of the evaluation will be based on a scale of 1 to 3 as indicated above.**

| <b>Member - Rider</b>   | <b>Points<br/>1-3</b> |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Shows desire to ride and/or exhibit horse  |                       |
| 2. Maturity, confidence and attention span  |                       |
| 3. Muscle strength and adequate balance (hold head up with helmet and maintain riding position) |                       |
| 4. Understands and follows instructions   |                       |
|   |                       |
| <b>Horse Management</b>   |                       |
| 1. Know how to move and work safely around horse-front and rear                                 |                       |
| 2. Works quietly and patiently without being loud or with abrupt movements                      |                       |
| 3. Knows right and left side of horse   |                       |
| 4. Works around horse from the left side  |                       |
| 5. Has confidence while working with/around the horse   |                       |
| 6. Shows respect for the horse and potential for harm   |                       |
| 7. Can lead a horse safely (with assistance of adult if Cloverbud)                              |                       |
|   |                       |
| <b>Rider and Horse Turnout</b>  |                       |
| 1. Horse is neatly brushed/clean and feet clean   |                       |
| 2. Rider wears a helmet that fits properly  |                       |
| 3. Rider wears appropriate equestrian footwear with distinguished heel                          |                       |
| 4. Tack is safe and appropriate for riding, is in good useable condition                        |                       |
| 5. Tack fits horse properly   |                       |
| 6. Tack fits rider properly   |                       |
| 7. Knows to wear a helmet and footwear with a distinguishable heel at all times when mounted    |                       |

| <b>Riding Skills</b>  | <b>Points<br/>1-3</b> |
|---|-----------------------|
| <b>Walk</b>   |                       |
| 1. Youth can safely handle the horse at the walk.   |                       |
| 2. Youth stays in balance with the horse at the walk  |                       |
| 3. Youth can execute a safe and smooth halt   |                       |
| <b>Trot/Jog</b>   |                       |
| 1. Youth can safely handle the horse at the trot/jog  |                       |
| 2. Youth stays in balance with the horse at the trot/jog  |                       |
| 3. Youth knows their diagonals-if applicable and successfully rides on correct diagonal                   |                       |
| 4. Youth executes a safe and smooth walk to trot/jog transition   |                       |
| 5. Youth executes a safe and smooth trot/jog to walk transition   |                       |
| <b>Canter/Lope</b>  |                       |
| 1. Youth can safely handle the horse at the canter/lope   |                       |
| 2. Youth stays in balance with the horse at the canter/lope   |                       |
| 3. Youth knows their leads and is successful in getting the horse on the correct lead in both directions. |                       |
| 4. Youth executes a safe and smooth transitions to the canter/lope from another gait (walk and trot/jog)  |                       |
| 5. Youth executes a safe and smooth transition from canter/lope to another gait (walk and trot/jog)       |                       |
| <b>Halt and Back</b>  |                       |
| 1. Youth can stop the horse safely and quickly from all gaits   |                       |
| 2. Youth can back the horse safely (only on the Jr. & Sr. levels)   |                       |
|   |                       |

## **Potential Riding Levels:**

### **Lead Line:**

The child is mounted and led by a side walker, who is 18 years of age or older and has horse related experience. A properly fitted halter must be over the bridle and a lead line must be attached to the ring at the bottom of the halter, not on the side or to the bit. Youth must be capable of holding the reins in their hands. Youth will not be asked to back their horse. Youth at this level cannot qualify for State Fair.

### **Walk/trot or Walk/jog:**

Youth can be Cloverbud or older non-Cloverbud youth. The child is mounted and can ride safely in walk/trot or walk/jog situations. Youth may or may not be expected to know their diagonals, depending upon the level ridden or class entered. The youth will not be asked to back their horse. The youth must be able to control their horse in a group setting. Separate events/classes must be held for Cloverbud youth. Youth at this level cannot qualify for State Fair.

### **Walk/trot/canter or Walk/jog/lope (no leads to count - diagonals do count):**

This level is designed for youth that are not a Cloverbud, that have mastered the skills of walking, trotting or jogging, and cantering or loping the horse safely, but not the skill of asking for the correct lead at the canter. The youth may be asked to back their horse. The youth must be able to control their horse in a group setting. Youth at this level cannot qualify for State Fair.

### **Junior or Senior - Walk/trot/canter or Walk/jog/lope (leads and diagonals to count):**

Youth must have mastered the skills of walking, trotting or jogging, and cantering or loping the horse safely. Youth must know their diagonals and be able to canter or lope the horse on the correct lead. The youth may be asked to back their horse. Youth at this level may need to do independent patterns or more complicated riding skills demonstrations, depending upon the classes they will enter. Youth must be able to control their horse in a group setting. Members may be considered to qualify to participate in the New York State Fair 4-H Horse Show.