



2025 Passive Horse Education Events

June 20, 2025

State 4-H Competitive Events Day

Alabama 4-H Center: alabama4hcenter.org



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GENERAL CONTEST INFORMATION

Passive Horse Education Events

- Artwork
- Artistic Expression
- Creative Writing
- Model Horse Scene
- Photography
- Photo Picture Story
- Digitally Altered Photography
- Poster Contest—Consumer Choices

Registration Information

Registration will be offered in 4HOnline at v2.4honline.com.

Registration will open May 1, 2025, and close June 6, 2025.

Entry Limits

Each 4-H'er may have one entry in each passive education event with a limit of three entries.

JUNIOR & SENIOR divisions are being offered.

Juniors = Alabama 4-H'ers 9–13 years of age as of January 1, 2025.

Seniors = Alabama 4-H'ers 14–18 years of age as of January 1, 2025.

A registration fee of \$20/4-H'er will be charged and includes lunch during the event.

Guest lunch tickets will be sold with registration for \$15 each.

The 4-H'er is encouraged to attend 4-H Competitive Events Day to interact with event judges, but items may be delivered and picked up by county Extension staff or 4-H club members at the event, if necessary.

Tentative Event Schedule

9:30 a.m. – Check-in at the Gaines Smith Environmental Education Building

10:00 a.m. – Opening ceremony

10:30 a.m. – Event judging

LUNCH

2:00 p.m. – Awards ceremony



Alabama 4-H State Passive Horse Education Events

ARTWORK

1. Open to entries depicting some form of artwork. Entry must be identified on the back side of the exhibit. Unidentified entries will not be considered for competition.
2. Artwork is described as drawings, paintings, or sketches on a flat sheet layout.
3. Artwork with frames or in glass is not allowed.
4. Entries that are paint by numbers are not allowed.
5. Only one entry per exhibitor is permitted.
6. There are Junior and Senior Divisions for this competition.
7. Artwork pertaining to the equine industry is acceptable.
8. Exhibits can be no larger than 3'x3' in size.
9. Exhibits must be the work of the 4-H member within the previous 12 months.
10. Entry will be judged on the following criteria:
 - Creativity/originality
 - Neatness/clarity of display
 - Power to attract attention and hold viewer's interest

ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

1. Open to entries depicting some form of artistic expression other than photography and artwork. Entry must be identified on the back side of the exhibit. Unidentified entries will not be considered for competition.
2. Only one entry per 4-H'er is permitted.
3. There are Junior and Senior Divisions for this competition.
4. Any type of artistic expression (that cannot be entered in any other creative endeavors class) pertaining to the equine industry is acceptable.
5. Exhibits mounted on poster board cannot exceed 3'x3' in size.
6. Exhibits must be the work of the 4-H member within the previous 12 months.
7. Entry will be judged on the following criteria:
 - Creativity/originality
 - Neatness/clarity of display
 - Power to attract attention and hold viewer's interest

CREATIVE WRITING

1. Open to entries of any form of creative writing.
2. Only one entry per exhibitor is permitted.
3. There are Junior and Senior Divisions for this competition.
4. Any type of creative writing pertaining to the equine industry is acceptable.

5. Exhibits must be the work of the 4-H member within the previous 12 months.
6. Entry will be judged on the following criteria:
 - Creativity/imagination
 - Organization/clarity
 - Grammar/mechanics/appearance
7. **For prior judging, Creative Writing entries must be uploaded during event registration.**

MODEL HORSE SCENE

1. Entry can be no larger than a 3'x3' scene and must be modeled after one of the classes in this year's horse show. Entry must be identified on the back side of the exhibit. Unidentified entries will not be considered for competition.
2. Only one entry per exhibitor is permitted.
3. There will be Junior and Senior Divisions in this competition.
4. Entry must contain two or more model horses.
5. Each entry must have a written description (not to exceed one page) of the class being depicted in the scene.
6. Exhibits must be the work of the 4-H member within the previous 12 months.
7. Entry will be judged on the following criteria:
 - Creativity/originality
 - Neatness/clarity of display
 - Condition of model animals in the display
 - Power to attract attention and hold viewer's interest

PHOTOGRAPHY

1. All entries must pertain to the equine industry. Entry must be identified on the back side of the exhibit. Unidentified entries will not be considered for competition.
2. Only one entry per exhibitor, per class, is permitted.
3. There will be Junior and Senior Divisions for all classes in this competition.
4. An entry consists of a single photo!
5. Two classes:
 - Black and White Photography (including sepia)
 - Color Photography
6. Entries should be either mounted or matted on an appropriate-size, neutral tone, poster/paper board.
7. Entries shall not exceed 16"x22" and should be mounted on appropriate-size matting.
8. Photos with frames or in glass are not eligible. Photos will be laid flat on a table for judging. NO easels or props may be used.
9. Entries must be the work of the 4-H member within the previous 12 months.
10. This Photography Class will have placings for the top 10.
11. Entries will be judged on the following criteria:
 - Composition
 - Originality
 - Effective use of lighting
 - Creative use of depth of field
 - Power to attract and hold viewer's interest

PHOTO PICTURE STORY

1. All entries must pertain to the equine industry. Entry must be identified on the back side of the exhibit. Unidentified entries will not be considered for competition.
2. Only one entry per exhibitor, per class, is permitted.
3. There will be Junior and Senior Divisions for all classes in this competition.
4. An entry is two or more photographs mounted on a single display board. Captions are optional; however, the photos should tell the story.
5. Entries should be either mounted or matted on an appropriately sized, neutral tone, poster/paper board.
6. Entries shall not exceed 22"x28".
7. Photos with frames or in glass are not eligible. Picture story display board will be laid flat on a table for judging. NO easels or props may be used.
8. Entries must be the work of the 4-H member within the previous 12 months.
9. This Photography Class will have placings for the top 10.
10. Entries will be judged on the following criteria:
 - Composition
 - Originality
 - Effective use of lighting
 - Creative use of depth of field
 - Power to attract and hold viewer's interest

DIGITALLY ALTERED PHOTOGRAPHY

1. Open to entries depicting digital manipulation of a photo or photos to create a single photograph of artistic quality.
2. All entries must pertain to the equine industry. Entry must be identified on the back side of the exhibit. Unidentified entries will not be considered for competition.
3. Only one entry per exhibitor is permitted.
4. There will be Junior and Senior Divisions for all classes in this competition.
5. Each entry must be accompanied by a copy of the original, unaltered photo or photos used in the process.
6. The original photo or photos must have been taken by the 4-H member submitting the entry. The original picture cannot be a scanned image from another source.
7. Each entry must also include an explanation of the following: What did you want to achieve? and How did you digitally manipulate the photo?
8. Entries should be either mounted or matted on an appropriately sized, neutral tone, poster/paper board.
9. Entries shall not exceed 16"x22" and should be mounted on appropriately sized matting.
10. Photos with frames or in glass are not eligible. Photos will be laid flat on a table for judging. NO easels or props may be used.
11. Entries must be the work of the 4-H member within the previous 12 months.
12. This Photography Class will have placings for the top 10.
13. Entries will be judged on the following criteria:
 - Original (unaltered photo) attached
 - Goal of alteration achieved
 - Difficulty of manipulation
 - Originality/creativity
 - Appeal/power to attract and hold viewer's interest

POSTER CONTEST—CONSUMER CHOICES

1. All entries must be the result of comparison shopping for equine equipment, i.e., services, animals, feed, nutrition, health products, etc. (Example: comparison shopping for a new saddle)
2. Entries may compare items on cost, features, benefits, etc.
3. Educational display must be mounted on a 22"×28" poster educating others about your equine comparison shopping experience.
4. Only one entry per exhibitor is permitted.
5. There will be Junior and Senior Divisions in this competition.
6. Exhibits must be the work of the 4-H member within the previous 12 months.
7. Entry will be judged on the following criteria:
 - Learning involved
 - Accuracy of information
 - Power to attract attention and hold viewer's interest
 - Clearness of message communicated

ARTWORK

SCORE SHEET

Contestant's Name: _____

Title of Presentation: _____

County: _____

	POINTS	SCORE	COMMENTS
Originality/Creativity	30		
Neatness/Clarity of Display	20		
Power to Hold Viewer's Interest	25		
Relevance to Equine Industry	25		
Total	100		

1. Open to entries depicting some form of artwork. Entry must be identified on the back side of the exhibit. Unidentified entries will not be considered for competition.
2. Artwork is described as drawings, paintings, or sketches on a flat sheet layout.
3. Artwork with frames or in glass is not allowed
4. Entries that are paint by numbers are not allowed.
5. Only one entry per 4-H member is permitted.
6. There will be Junior and Senior Divisions for this competition.
7. Any type of artwork pertaining to the equine industry is acceptable.
8. Exhibits can be no larger than 3'x3' in size.
9. Exhibits must be the work of the 4-H member within the previous 12 months.
10. Entry will be judged on the following criteria:
 - Creativity/originality
 - Neatness/clarity of display
 - Power to attract attention and hold viewer's interest

ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

SCORE SHEET

Contestant's Name: _____

Title of Presentation: _____

County: _____

	POINTS	SCORE	COMMENTS
Originality/Creativity	30		
Neatness/Clarity of Display	20		
Power to Hold Viewer's Interest	25		
Relevance to Equine Industry	25		
Total	100		

1. Open to entries depicting some form of artistic expression other than photography and artwork. Entry must be identified on the back side of the exhibit. Unidentified entries will not be considered for competition.
2. Only one entry per 4-H member is permitted.
3. There will be Junior and Senior Divisions for this competition.
4. Any type of artistic expression (that cannot be entered in any other creative endeavors class) pertaining to the equine industry is acceptable.
5. Exhibits can be no larger than 3'x3' in size.
6. Exhibits must be the work of the 4-H member within the previous 12 months.
7. Entry will be judged on the following criteria:
 - Creativity/originality
 - Neatness/clarity of display
 - Power to attract attention and hold viewer's interest

CREATIVE WRITING

SCORE SHEET

Contestant's Name: _____

Title of Presentation: _____

County: _____

	POINTS	SCORE	COMMENTS
Creativity & Imagination <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is writing unique in theme, style, and structure?• Does it include vivid details?	35		
Organization & Clarity <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does writing have a clear focus?• Does it have an appropriate introduction and conclusion?• Does it follow a logical progression?• Are ideas and themes appropriately developed?	25		
Grammar & Mechanics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is proper punctuation used?• Is spelling correct?• Are words used appropriately?	20		
Title <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the title show creativity?• Does it draw the reader's attention?	10		
Appearance & Neatness	10		
Total	100		

1. Open to entries of any form of creative writing.
2. Only one entry per 4-H member is permitted.
3. There will be Junior and Senior Divisions for this competition.
4. Any type of creative writing pertaining to the equine industry is acceptable.
5. Writings must be the work of the 4-H member within the previous 12 months.
6. Entry will be judged on the following criteria:
 - Creativity/imagination
 - Organization/clarity
 - Grammar/mechanics/appearance

MODEL HORSE SCENE

SCORE SHEET

Contestant's Name: _____

Title of Presentation: _____

County: _____

	POINTS	SCORE	COMMENTS
Originality/Creativity	25		
Neatness/Clarity of Display	20		
Condition of Animals/ Props in the Display	15		
Power to Hold Viewer's Interest	25		
Written Description	15		
Total	100		

1. Entry can be no larger than a 3'x3' scene and must be modeled after one of the classes in this year's horse show. Entry must be identified on the back side of the exhibit. Unidentified entries will not be considered for competition.
2. Only one entry per 4-H member is permitted.
3. There will be Junior and Senior Divisions for this competition.
4. Entry must contain two or more model horses.
5. Each entry must have a written description of the class being depicted in the scene.
6. Exhibits must be the work of the 4-H member within the previous 12 months.
7. Entry will be judged on the following criteria:
 - Creativity/originality
 - Neatness/clarity of display
 - Condition of model animals in the display
 - Power to attract attention and hold viewer's interest

PHOTOGRAPHY

SCORE SHEET

- ☐ Black and White
☐ Color
☐ Picture Story

Contestant's Name: _____

County: _____

	POINTS	SCORE	COMMENTS
Composition:	10		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear message or theme	10		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clearly defined subject	10		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nondistracting background	10		
Originality	15		
Effective Use of Lighting	10		
Creative Use of Depth of Field (Focus)	10		
Power to Attract Attention	15		
Power to Hold Viewer's Interest	10		
Total	100		

PHOTOGRAPHY

SCORE SHEET (CONTINUED)

1. All entries must pertain to the equine industry. Entry must be identified on the back side of the exhibit. Unidentified entries will not be considered for competition.
2. Only one entry per 4-H member, per class, is permitted.
3. An entry consists of a single photo, except photo story!
4. Three classes:
 - Black and White Photography
 - Color Photography
 - Picture Story
5. There will be Junior and Senior Divisions for both classes in this competition.
6. Entries must be either mounted or matted on an appropriately sized, neutral tone, poster/paper board.
7. Entries shall not exceed 16"x22" and should be mounted on appropriately sized matting.
8. Photos with frames or in glass are not eligible. Photos will be laid flat on a table for judging.
9. Entries must be the work of the 4-H member within the previous 12 months.
10. Entries will be judged on the following criteria:
 - Composition
 - Originality
 - Effective use of lighting
 - Creative use of depth of field

DIGITALLY ALTERED PHOTOGRAPHY

SCORE SHEET

Contestant's Name: _____

County: _____

	POINTS	SCORE	COMMENTS
Original Attached	10		
Goal of Alteration Achieved	20		
Difficulty of Manipulation	20		
Originality/Creativity	20		
Appeal/Power to Attract & Hold Viewer's Interest	30		
Total	100		

1. Open to entries depicting digital manipulation of a photo or photos to create a single photograph of artistic quality.
2. All entries must pertain to the equine industry. Entry must be identified on the back side of the exhibit. Unidentified entries will not be considered for competition.
3. Each entry must be accompanied by a copy of the original, unaltered photo or photos used in the process.
4. The original photo or photos must have been taken by the 4-H member submitting the entry. The original picture cannot be a scanned image from another source.
5. Each entry must also include an explanation of the following: What did you want to achieve? and How did you digitally manipulate the photo?
6. Only one entry per exhibitor is permitted.
7. There will be Junior and Senior Divisions in this competition.
8. Entries must be either mounted or matted on an appropriately sized, neutral tone, poster/paper board.
9. Entries shall not exceed 16"x22" and should be mounted on appropriately sized matting.
10. Photos with frames or in glass are not eligible. Photos will be laid flat on a table for judging. No easels or props may be used.
11. Entries must be the work of the 4-H member within the previous 12 months.
12. Entries will be judged on the following criteria:
 - Original (unaltered photo) attached
 - Goal of alteration achieved
 - Difficulty of manipulation
 - Originality/creativity
 - Appeal/power to attract and hold viewer's interest

POSTER CONTEST—CONSUMER CHOICES **SCORE SHEET**

Contestant's Name: _____

County: _____

	POINTS	SCORE	COMMENTS
Learning Involved	25		
Accuracy of Information	25		
Clarity of Message	25		
Power to Attract & Hold Viewer's Interest	25		
Total	100		

1. All entries must be the result of comparison shopping for equine equipment, i.e., services, animals, feed, nutrition, health products, etc. (For example, comparison shopping for a new saddle)
2. Can compare items on cost, features, benefits, etc.
3. Educational display must be mounted on a 22"x28" poster educating others about your equine comparison shopping experience.
4. Only one entry per exhibitor is permitted.
5. There will be a Junior and Senior Division in this competition.
6. Exhibits must be the work of the 4-H member within the previous 12 months.
7. Entry will be judged on the following criteria:
 - Learning involved
 - Accuracy of information
 - Power to attract attention and hold viewer's interest



Nancy Alexander, *Extension Specialist*, 4-H Youth Development, Auburn University

For more information, contact your county Extension office. Visit www.aces.edu/directory.

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