

Level 1 4-H Horsemanship Skills**4-H Member Skill Sheet**

Rider's Name (Last) _____ (First) _____ (Age) _____
 Address _____
 Club _____ County _____ Check if Production _____
 Horse's Name _____ Seat/Discipline _____ Date _____

Handling	Mastered √	Member's Comments
1-1 Approach & catch horse safely (tied and loose)		
1-2 Properly halter horse		
1-3 Lead, turn and back horse safely and correctly		
1-4 Lead a horse into and out of a stall		
1-5 Practice safety rules when turning a horse loose		
1-6 Safely tie horse (correct level, length, location, knot, etc.)		
1-7 Demonstrate simple grooming of the horse		
1-8 Pick up feet and clean properly		
1-9 Bridle horse - check fit & make basic adjustments		
1-10 Saddle horse - check fit & make basic adjustments		
1-11 Demonstrate safety around the horse while handling.		
Riding	Test <i>must</i> be ridden one or two handed as correct for seat/discipline	
1-12 Mount and dismount properly (may use mounting block)		
1-13 Describe and discuss safely riding in a group		
1-14 Use proper, basic seat, leg, body position with balance		
1-15 Proper use of reins; hand position and action		
At a walk with control and proper position:		
1-16 start and stop (gradual and balanced)		
1-17 check and release (demonstrating control of horse)		
1-18 turn while walking and walk in both directions		
1-19 ride a circle both directions and do a figure 8		
At a jog or trot with control and proper position:		
1-20 start and stop (gradual and balanced)		
1-21 check and release (demonstrating control of horse)		
1-22 turn while jogging or trotting both directions		
1-23 ride a circle both directions and do a figure 8		
1-24 Drop and regain stirrups while at a halt		
1-25 Emergency stop		
1-26 Emergency dismount		
1-27 Equipment, clothing, helmet (fit, condition, suitability, etc.)		
1-28 Overall attitude and confidence		

Level 1 emphasizes basic, correct and safe principles of handling and riding.

**To pass this level, the 4-H member must have mastered each skill of the test.
 Retest will be by section (handling/riding) in Level 1.**

Level 2 4-H Horsemanship Skills**4-H Member Skill Sheet**

Rider's Name (Last) _____ (First) _____ (Age) _____

Address _____

Club _____ County _____ Check if Production _____

Horse's Name _____ Seat/Discipline _____ Date _____

Handling	Mastered √	Member's Comments
2-1 Proficient in Level 1 skills		
2-2 Fitting, grooming and clipping-mane, tail, body, legs, feet		
2-3 Bathe a horse		
2-4 Ground handling skills: walk, trot, stop, turn on hindquarters, back and set up		
2-5 Demonstrate proper fit, adjustment & safety of equipment		
2-6 Properly adjust stirrups		
2-7 Practice safety in handling skills – at all times		
Riding	Test must be ridden one or two handed as correct for seat/discipline	
2-8 Mount and dismount properly (may use mounting block)		
Demonstrate correct body position & upward and downward transitions using proper aids and maintaining an even pace:		
2-9 walk to a jog/trot		
2-10 increase the jog/trot		
2-11 halt		
At a canter or lope:		
2-12 start and stop (gradual and balanced)		
2-13 check and release (demonstrating control of horse)		
2-14 turn while cantering and ride in both directions		
2-15 ride a circle both directions and do a figure 8 (simple lead change)		
2-16 Drop and regain stirrups while at a walk and jog or trot		
2-17 Back 4 - 5 steps in a straight line		
2-18 Show a gradual and balanced halt from all gaits		
2-19 Leg yield at a walk - both directions		
2-20 Sidepass a minimum of 10 feet - both directions		
2-21 Show a simple lead change on straightaway - at least 3		
2-22 Walk and trot over 3-4 logs		
2-23 Open and close gate while mounted or dismounted		
2-24 Equipment, clothing, helmet (fit, condition, suitability, etc.)		
2-25 Overall attitude and confidence		

Level 2 emphasizes building a solid foundation of horsemanship skills.

To pass this level, the 4-H member must have mastered each skill of the test.

Retest will only be on specific skills---not the entire test.

Level 3 4-H Horsemanship Skills**4-H Member Skill Sheet**

Rider's Name (Last) _____ (First) _____ (Age) _____

Address _____

Phone Number: Home _____ Cell _____

Club _____ County _____ Check if Production _____

Horse's Name _____ Seat/Discipline _____ Date _____

Handling	Mastered √	Member's Comments
3-1 Proficient in Level 1 and 2 skills		
3-2 Fitting and turnout of the horse - high quality and appropriate for breed and type		
Ground handling skills:		
3-3 360-degree turn on the hindquarters		
3-4 turn on the forehand-both directions		
3-5 Display confidence, safety and knowledge around the horse		
3-6 Safely lunge a horse at a walk, trot, and canter in both directions		
3-7 Practice safety in handling skills - at all times		
Riding	Test may be ridden one or two handed; prefer as correct for seat/discipline according to industry standards	
3-8 Mount and dismount properly (may use mounting block)		
Using proper aids (hands, legs, seat, and voice) ride with a secure form keeping the horse's head and neck quiet.		
Demonstrate upward and downward transitions:		
3-9 from a walk - jog or trot and then halt		
3-10 from a walk - lope or canter and then halt		
Demonstrate use of reins at a walk and jog or trot:		
3-11 on a loose rein		
3-12 using a light rein		
3-13 riding with contact		
3-14 Drop and regain stirrups at a canter		
3-15 Back 8-10 steps in a straight line		
3-16 Demonstrate a balanced halt from all gaits		
3-17 Leg yield at a trot/jog - both directions		
3-18 180 degree turn on the forehand - both directions		
3-19 180 degree turn on the hindquarter - both directions		
3-20 Counter canter - complete circles - both directions		
3-21 Equipment, clothing, helmet (fit, condition, suitability, etc.)		
3-22 Overall attitude and confidence		

Level 3 uses foundation skills to learn intermediate horsemanship skills.

To pass this level, the 4-H member must have **mastered** each skill of the test.

Retest will only be on specific skills---not the entire test.

Level 4 4-H Horsemanship Skills**4-H Member Skill Sheet**

Rider's Name (Last) _____ (First) _____ (Age) _____

Address _____

Phone Number: Home _____ Cell _____

Club _____ County _____ Check if Production _____

Horse's Name _____ Seat/Discipline _____ Date _____

Handling	Mastered √	Member's Comments
4-1 Proficient in Level 1, 2 and 3 skills		
4-2 Discuss and describe trailer safety - loading, unloading, hauling safety, etc.		
4-3 Demonstrate a 1/4 pull turn on the hindquarter		
Riding	Test may be ridden one or two handed; prefer as correct for seat/discipline according to industry standards	
4-4 Mount and dismount properly (may use mounting block)		
Skills are to be ridden with proper head position, bending and suppleness, calmness, lightness, rhythm and coordination using leg yielding, and weight aids.		
Demonstrate lengthening and shortening of gaits:		
4-5 walk - slow/ordinary/extended		
4-6 jog or trot - slow/ordinary/extended		
4-7 lope or canter - slow/ordinary/extended		
4-8 Back a circle		
4-9 360 degree turn on the hindquarter - both directions		
4-10 360 degree turn on the forehand - both directions		
4-11 Jog or trot - depart from a halt		
4-12 Lope or canter - depart from a halt		
4-13 Leg yield at a canter/lope – both directions		
4-14 Demonstrate shoulder-in at walk and trot/jog – both directions		
Perform flying lead changes:		
4-15 diagonally across the arena		
4-16 in a figure 8		
4-17 on a straightaway (at least 3 in a row)		
4-18 Equipment, clothing, helmet (fit, condition, suitability, etc.)		
4-19 Overall attitude and confidence		

Level 4 emphasizes advanced horsemanship ability and knowledge.

To pass this level, the 4-H member must have mastered each skill of the test.

Retest will only be on specific skills---not the entire test.