



4-H Clover Connection

Texas County
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<http://oces.okstate.edu/texas>

Sportsmanship in Equestrian Sports

March 2023

OYE	Mar 6-17
PVA Meeting	Mar 20
Trout Derby	Mar 25
Sewing Club Meeting	April 15
Round up Interest Meeting	Mar 28
District Trap @ Goodwell	April 29
Pioneer Day Parade	May 6
County camp	May/Jun
State 4-H Round Up	July

Why is sportsmanship often a problem in competitive events? Surely, we can all agree on the importance of being kind and nice to one another. What has happened over the past several years? Has social media and current reality programming just reinforced the idea that bad behavior is socially acceptable or gets more attention? Or is there something else going on in a high-pressure environment?

Positive youth development is often coupled with competition as a motivator for the time and devotion needed for a project. Unfortunately, the potential for negative behavior is quite high, said Kris Hiney, Oklahoma State University Extension equine specialist.

"Showing horses is definitely a sport activity with winners and, therefore, losers," Hiney said. "Sports themselves are often viewed as combative – we go to battle with the other team. So how do we compete and grow in life skills in these situations?"

Striving for intentional good behavior should be a focus of equine competitive activities. Adult leaders need to both teach and reward observation of positive competitive behavior.

There are four essential elements of good sportsmanship in horse activities:

- Respect for horses
- Respect for opponents
- Respect for the "game"
- Respect for others

Respect for horses: Having respect for our horse partners of course means managing their physical needs, such as healthcare and nutrition. Healthcare can include making sure the horse is vaccinated and the 4-H'er is practicing good biosecurity skills in order to not spread disease to fellow competitors. Fair training practices are also essential. The horse should have the opportunity to respond how it has been previously trained to do so, and after the horse performs that behavior, leave them alone! Don't drill or punish the horse for suddenly raised expectations due to a competition environment. The horses didn't sign up for competition or know what the goal and desire of their youth showman. Treat them as the true partner they are, and reward and recognize their efforts.

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Quote of the Month

It's better to go in
a crooked line to
get somewhere,
Thank to go in a
straight line to get
nowhere, Even if
we are making
great time.

Sportsmanship in Equestrian Cont.

Respect for opponents: Youth should be rewarded for seeking excellence with fellow competitors, not just the opportunity to place higher. Taking joy in winning against clearly unequal levels of competition isn't the goal. Appreciate others' performances and strive for that excellence yourself. Simple acts of congratulating fellow youth for showing good horsemanship skills should take place at every event.

Respect for the game: This essentially means following the rules of the game. There's no glory in cheating. Trying one's best is key. Giving up, creating more problems, blaming others or the horse for one's own mistakes is not good sportsmanship. Also, respecting the purpose of 4-H horse events important. The goal of 4-H is positive youth development, where the emphasis is on the youth, not the horse. At the end of the day, we want the youth to be better and gain life skills.

Respect for others: It takes a tremendous amount of time and effort for judges, show managers, trainers, coaches and leaders to put on these events. 4-H is unique in that it is heavily dependent on volunteers who give their time freely and willingly. Treating them poorly can quickly lead them to find better things to do with their free time. Many of the staff running horse shows do not do this professionally or even compete with horses themselves.

"Disappointment will always be part of competition, but how you handle it is important," Hiney said. "It is okay to get mad or need some time to blow off steam, but there is a time and place. Give yourself 5-10 minutes, but don't take it out on the horse, your family or your friends. Be sure to congratulate others, no matter your placings. And always accept awards graciously."

Both adults and youth volunteer leaders help develop these skills by being good role models, and it doesn't always come easily in high pressure situations. Practice at home and in public so it becomes routine. Build feelings of camaraderie and teamwork. Give awards for those that exemplify good sportsmanship and praise those that show evidence of hard work, not just who comes out on top. As parents and leaders, having clear guidelines and expectations for behavior is vital, as is following through with real consequences for unwanted behavior. Following an event, discuss examples of good and poor sportsmanship that were observed.

"Good sportsmanship extends beyond just the 4-Her themselves, but to their family, spectators and 4-H volunteers. Sportsmanship and success are not always mutually inclusive. If you are harming your animal or others in pursuit of victory, it doesn't mean much," she said. "How do you want to be remembered by those watching your behaviors? Competition is about striving to try your best, challenge yourself and show the world the best example of you."

JOANN POS Campaign

JOANN is proud to partner with 4-H to empower and inspire kids and provide them with the tools and resources they need to move forward and reach their full potential.

Whitney Kirkpatrick, Account Manager, National 4-H Council, has informed us the JOANN POS Campaign will be taking place January 31- May 1, 2023.

During the promotional timeframe, customers can donate or roundup at checkout in JOANN stores to support 4-H. 100% of donations support 4-H with 70% going back to the state where those funds were raised.



Nexus 4-H Equine Makeover

The Nexus Equine 4-H Makeover Challenge is back for 2023. This program is open to OK 4-Hers 13 and up. Youth must apply to be part of this program. Successful applicants will receive a horse that they will train and present after 90 days.

Application deadline: March 15

Day one: March 26 at Nexus Equine

Finale: July 15, Grady County Fairgrounds

Youth will be matched with an appropriate horse on Day 1, and provided feed for 90 days. Youth also have the opportunity to keep their partner at the end of the 90 day challenge. The winner receives a \$1500 scholarship as well.



Applications can be found at <https://nexusequine.org/oklahoma-4-h-equine-makeover-application/>

District Trap Shoot at Goodwell

Saturday, April 29, 2023

Pre-registration due April 21, 2023

8:00 a.m. Registration

8:30 a.m. Shoot Begins

4 location

OPSU Shooting Complex, Goodwell, OK

Grand National Gun Club, Enid, OK

Clinton Gun Club, Clinton, OK

Duncan Gun Club, Duncan, OK

Fees \$25 per person will include both contest (50 targets) and one practice round (10 targets). Checks should be made payable to West District OSU Extension.

Save the Date!!



102nd State 4-H Round
UP

Mark your calendars
and spread the word
about State 4-H Round-
up.

July 26 – 28, 2023

July 25 County Night
Out

More info to COME!!

4-H Ambassador Applications

The 2023 State 4-H Ambassador application is posted on the State 4-H website under the Leadership link. <https://4h.okstate.edu/members/4h-ambassadors/index.html>

There are two important documents to review: Ambassador Application Informational Packet and 2023 Ambassador Application.



Please share this opportunity with members who meet the below requirements: 4-H members who are 13 years of age or older by March 15th, 2023 and have at least one year of high school remaining. Encourage interested youth to reach out to current Ambassadors or Ambassador advisors if they have any questions.

PVA Meeting

Next meeting will be: March 20, 2023 at 6pm.

At Vallarta

Dinner will be on your own.

Be sure to bring a School Calendar to plan future contest



Sewing Club Meeting

The next Sewing Club meeting will be April 8, 2023 starting at 9am. We will be finishing our Table runners
See you all then.



Are you ready to innovate change in your 4-H program? Oklahoma 4-H is excited to invite you to our fourth annual 4-H Innovate Youth Leadership Summit!

April 21-23, 2023

Springhill Suites 5815 KL Drive, Enid OK

Registration Fee: \$100

The Innovate Summit is a youth development program designed to teach youth life skills and introduce teens to career opportunities in agriculture, computer science, STEM, and education.

Registration Due to County Office on Monday March 27th by 5:00pm.



Plan to join us on March 4, 2023 at the Oklahoma State vs Oklahoma Women's Basketball game at Gallagher-Iba Arena!!

Tickets are \$3 per ticket, Available at this [link](#)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Loyal Doers Meeting-76pm Hooker Cloverbud meeting	Guymon Clover-bud 5:30pm			
OYE						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
OYE						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Goodwell Eagles 4-H Meeting	PVA meeting 6pm @ Vallarta Trout Derby Registration Dur4e			Guymon Jr 4-h Meeting 4:30pm		Trout Derby – 10am Sunset Lake
26	27	28	29	30	31	April 1
		Round UP interest meeting 6pm @ OSU Extension office.				
April 2	April 3	April 4	April 5	April 5	April 7	April 8
						Sewing Club Meeting



DATES TO REMEMBER



- ◇ **March 6-17, 2023**-Oklahoma Youth Expo
- ◇ **March 20, 2023**-PVA meeting 6pm @ Vallarta
- ◇ **March 20, 2023**-RSVP for Trout Derby
- ◇ **March 25, 2023**-Trout Derby @ Sunset Lake
- ◇ **March 28, 2023**-Round up Interest Meeting
- ◇ **April 8, 2023**-Sewing Club Meeting @9am
- ◇ **April 15, 2023**– Shooting Sports Practice (Archery) @ OPSU Range
- ◇ **April 21, 2023**-Rifle Certification at Hooker Ag Room 8am-2pm
- ◇ **April 29, 2023**-District Trap shoot at Goodwell
- ◇ **May 5, 2023**-Parade Float Decoration Day
- ◇ **May 6, 2023**-Pioneer Day Parade
- ◇ **May 25, 2023**– Shooting Sports Practice (Rifle) @ OPSU Range
- ◇ **May 31-June 1, 2023**– County Camp (tentatively)
- ◇ **June 5, 2023**-Food Workshop
- ◇ **June 10, 2023**-County Food Contest Day
- ◇ **June 16, 2023**-Metal Art Workshop
- ◇ **April 15, 2023**– Shooting Sports Practice (Muzzleloader) @ OPSU Range
- ◇ **June 20, 2023**-Woodworking Workshop
- ◇ **June 28-30, 2023**-Sewing Camp and Impressive Dress Contest
- ◇ **July 3, 2023**-Job Readiness Workshop and County Contest
- ◇ **July 6, 2023**-Shooting Sports Workshop
- ◇ **April 15, 2023**– Shooting Sports Practice (Shotgun) @ OPSU Range
- ◇ **July 21, 2023**-Workshop (To be determined)
- ◇ **July 25-28, 2023**-State 4-H Round UP
- ◇ **August 4, 2023**-Workshop (County Fair project finish up)
- ◇ **August 16-19, 2023**-County Fair
- ◇ **August 19, 2023**—County Shooting Sports Contest

Texas County 4-H

Trout Derby



Rules:

1. Follow State Fishing licenses requirements
2. Catch and release is preferred but not required.
3. No bate requirement

Prizes For:

Largest trout for each age group
Who has most fish caught (legally)

1. Cloverbuds
2. Junior
3. Intermediate
4. Senior
5. Adults and Bragging rights

**Saturday
March 25, 2023**

Sunset Lake

Meet at Lions Club Pavilion

Start at 10am

Lunch Provided

Open to the Whole Family

Any questions contact Brad James at brad.james1742@gmail.com or
Ashley Ming at Ashley.gutierrez@okstate.edu



- **Texas County 4-H has a Facebook page!**
- **Texas County Website at <http://oces.okstate.edu/texas>**
- **Oklahoma State 4-H website: <http://oklahoma4h.okstate.edu/>**



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