

FIVE STAR PROGRAM



MONROE COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM

The Five Star Program is an educational plan for 4-H leaders and members to use as a guide in teaching and learning about horses. It provides a system of recognition for the 4-H members as they learn more about horses through their 4-H project work.

Satisfactory completion of the First through Third Stars will be determined by the members' 4-H leaders and/or 4-H staff. The program is not based on passing or failing tests but, rather, the completion of activities. The fulfillment of each requirement may be noted and signed for by the members' 4-leaders, other 4-H volunteers, riding instructors or 4-H staff members.

Leaders, etc., have flexibility in determining whether a member has completed a requirement and creativity in completing those requirements is acceptable. Remember that two reliable sources of information may differ on things like names of markings, some parts of tack, etc. Please try to use more up-to-date references as some horse related materials are very outdated, especially when it comes to health matters. For some of the information, the 4-H Horses and Horsemanship and Horse Science booklets can be a useful source. The United States Pony Club Manual of Horsemanship - D Level by Susan Harris is a kid-friendly, excellent source for youth-appropriate, accurate information, especially for the first few stars. (As of 9/9/2014, it can be found on Amazon.com for less than \$10.) It doesn't have western-specific information but is great for everything else. Equine Science by Jean T, Griffiths would also be another up-to-date, reliable source. Please be cautious about the accuracy of internet sites.

Where possible, encourage the use of real horses so the information will be more interesting and more likely to be meaningful, as opposed to memorizing words. Models and photos are useful tools, though.

Remember to keep the depth of knowledge at an appropriate level for the age of the member.

Stars will be awarded at the Annual Awards Dinner.

September 9, 2014
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