

JCHP Equine Ambassador Program



Current Ambassador

Sydney Streich (2023-2024)

Past Ambassadors

Ava Armstrong (2022-2023)

Kiana Mitchell (2021-2022)

Hailey Besch (COVID Ambassador 2020-2021)

Virginia Klecker (2019-2020)

Micah Yaeggi (2018-2019)

Kayla Donaldson (2017-2018)

Melissa Melcher (2016-2017)

Destiny Donaldson (2015-2016)

Natalie Ciciva (2014-2015)

Holly Graffin (2013-2014)

Amanda LePak (2012-2013)

Amanda French (2011-2012)

Caitlin Finger (2010-2011)

Morgan Endl (2009-2010)

Jason Kissner (2008-2009)

Becky Ruehle (2007-2008)

Mission statement

The Jefferson County Horse & Pony Ambassador program strives to provide an opportunity to practice advanced leadership skills related to mentoring other project youth and to represent and promote the 4-H Horse program for public relations purposes at county and state events.

Qualifications:

At the time of application, youth (male or female) must be:

- At the time of application, (male or female) enrolled in 9th – 12th grades
- Enrolled in 4-H for at least two years
- Currently enrolled in Jefferson County 4-H and the Horse and Pony Project
- Present a polite, positive, sportsmanlike and encouraging attitude
- Lead by example: be on time, have a positive attitude, respond promptly to requests, etc.
- Possess excellent speaking skills
- Have a sincere desire to promote 4-H & commitment of time and energy
- Willingness to interact with the general public

Duties and Opportunities:

- Attend JCHP Committee as a designated youth member
- Attend Horse and Pony Project functions
- Organize and present a class at Project Learning Day held in February
- Participate in the spring vaccination clinic
- Help organize the year-end awards banquet
- Represent the project at State 4-H Horse functions, such as the Wisconsin State Fair, State Gymkhana Show and State Expo
- Participate in other 4-H and community events as requested
- Promote the 4-H horse project with potential members, parents and general public
- Write welcome letters to new Horse & Pony members
- Write thank you notes to volunteers, judges and others assisting the project
- Report events/activities to the JCHP Committee and at countywide monthly meetings
- Maintain a notebook on your ambassador activities to be passed on for future references. The notebook should include a description of activities and events attended to provide to future ambassadors.
- Adhere to dress code (see below)
- Ambassador can be reimbursed up to \$200 for mileage expense with proper documentation. Reimbursement form will be provided.
- Ambassador has the opportunity to request approval from JCHP to cover all or a portion of cost for educational events such as clinics. Must be pre-approved by JCHP committee.
- The Jefferson County 4-H Horse & Pony Association awards a \$500 scholarship to the JCHP Equine Ambassador. To receive this scholarship, you must send a 1st semester college transcript, along with a letter requesting payment by March 1st of the year following your high school graduation. The letter must include the year that the member was named as the JCHP Equine Ambassador and a current mailing address. Above information should be sent to Youth Development Educator, Extension, Jefferson County Office, 864 Collins Road, Jefferson, WI 53549. If not received by March 1st, your scholarship will be forfeited.

Dress Code:

- When representing 4-H as an Ambassador, always dress appropriately
 - JCHP Ambassador sash and Ambassador crown or hat band visible
 - In many cases, jeans and boots will be more appropriate for the role you are performing.
 - Make sure to wear appropriate jeans that help present a good image for JCHP (clean, no holes, not low rise, etc.).
 - Always wear closed-toed shoes (preferably boots).
 - Inappropriate clothing while wearing /ambassador include but not limited to sweat pants, crop tops, torn (intentional or otherwise) or sloppy clothing. Tank tops, muscle shirts, bare midriffs, low necklines, sundresses and tight or otherwise revealing clothing will not be allowed.
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Selection and Testing

- **Demonstration / Speech:** Each applicant is required to complete an equine related demonstration in an area of their selection. Demonstration Speeches will be judged on the requirements established by the Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development Program of the University of Wisconsin-Extension. Demonstration Speeches will be presented at the March countywide meeting. The Demonstration Speech requirements can be found at <https://fyi.uwex.edu/wi4haganimalscience/wi-4-h-horse-assn-handbook/> under 'educational events- demonstration or illustrative talk'. Make sure you look at the current year's State Expo rules.
- **Written Test on Equine Knowledge:** Questions will be taken from two 4-H Horse program curriculum books, Horse and Horsemanship and Horse Science, and the WI Horse Project Equestrian Guidelines. These books and guidelines will be made available to contestants. Questions on the JCHP general history and knowledge may also be included. Applicants will take the test on the night of interviews.
- **Interview:** Applicants will complete a brief interview with the judges during which the applicants may be asked questions focusing on general information, information contained in the application, 4-H or general equine knowledge. Scoring will be based on interview judging sheet.
- **JCHP Involvement:** This will be scored based on the contestant's participation in the Jefferson County 4-H Horse and Pony Project as reported on the participation score sheet included in the application.
- **4-H and Other Involvement:** This will be scored based on information provided on your application.
- **General Meeting Vote:** At the June Countywide meeting, the project will hold a vote as to which contestant they feel will be a good representative for the Jefferson County Horse and

Pony Project. Each contestant will get approximately 5 minutes to explain why they feel they would make a good Ambassador.

- **Showmanship and Horsemanship:** Showmanship go round will be held at the May Open show. The showmanship pattern will be provided to all contestants by the judge before competing.

The Horsemanship go round will be held at the County Fair (times to be announced). The contestants will design their own riding or reinsmanship pattern. The pattern will reflect elements that reflect their riding/reinsmanship expertise. The judge may ask the rider to add elements or may engage in an oral question and answer session before or after performing the pattern. The contestant will need to supply a copy of the pattern for the judge and the committee the day of the show (total of 2 copies).

Contestants can show their horse in any of the following styles: Western, Hunt Seat, Saddle Seat or Driving.

Contestants must show in the appropriate tack and attire for both go-rounds. Each contestant must use the same horse in both go-rounds (substitution of the horse is only with the written verification from a veterinarian of unsoundness). Equal time will be permitted for each contestant.

*Should an unfair situation arise, through no fault of the contestant, the judges may grant a re-ride. This will be determined by the judges and re-ride will occur within 1 hour of original ride.

Timeline

- **Applications available January**
 - **Applications due March 1st**
 - **Demonstration Speech - March Countywide Project Meeting**
 - **Participate in Spring Vaccination Clinic - April**
 - **Open Show - Showmanship Go-around**
 - **Written test / Oral interview - June**
 - **Project vote at the June Countywide Meeting**
 - **Each applicant will make an "Introduce Yourself" poster that includes your goals to be displayed at the Jefferson County Fair**
 - **Announcement of Results – Saturday evening of Jefferson County Fair**
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Scoring

Applicants will be evaluated on:

1. Demonstration Speech	25%
2. Written Test	15%
3. Application & Interview	10%
4. JCHP Involvement	15%
5. 4-H and Other Participation	10%
6. Countywide Vote	05%
7. Showmanship	10%
8. Horsemanship	10%

*In the event of a tie, the Countywide vote breaks the tie, followed by Demonstration/Speech and then the JCHP Participation.

*The Equine Ambassador Runner-Up will take over the position of Ambassador in the event the current ambassador can no longer fulfill the duties of the position.

*Runner-ups who assume the position prior to May 1 will be considered to have completed a full term and will not be eligible to run for ambassador again.

If you have any questions regarding the ambassador program, please email jchpchair@gmail.com