

A word cloud graphic centered on the page. The words are arranged in a roughly rectangular shape, with 'YOUTH' and 'MERIT' being the largest and most prominent. 'program' is written in a smaller, lowercase font at the bottom. The words are in various shades of green and red. The words included are: SHOWMANSHIP, RECORD KEEPING, FRIENDSHIP, CONFIDENCE, DISCIPLINE, SPORTSMANSHIP, PERSEVERANCE, WORK ETHIC, DEDICATION, HARD WORK, LEARNING, CREATIVITY, HUMILITY, TEACH, TEAM WORK, FUN, ACHIEVEMENT, COURAGE, MENTOR, DISCIPLINE, RESPECT, ACCOUNTABILITY, COMMUNICATION, GOALS, RESPONSIBILITY, LEADERSHIP, COMPASSION, SERVICE, and LEADERSHIP.

YOUTH MERIT
program

Name: _____

Club: _____

Date Started: _____

Developed by the King County Horse 4-H program in 2017
For all enrolled members.

YOUTH MERIT PROGRAM INSTRUCTIONS

- Clover Bud has 1 level, Junior and Intermediate have 3 levels, Senior has 4 levels
- This is designed for the member to advance through 1 level each year
- The most levels they can complete in 1 year is 2 levels
- Member must work on correct levels for their age division
- At the completion of each level the member is presented with a medal
- Medals will be given to the club leader for presentation at the club meeting. Medal recipients will also be acknowledged at the county awards banquet.
- The leader may assign other resource leaders, within the club, to coordinate checking off tasks. Several leaders is suggested.
- Member participating cannot be checked off by a family member
- "Demonstrate" tasks must be witnessed by such leader not informed of completion elsewhere.
- "Define, explain, or describe" tasks must be told to or handed to the leader in charge of the program for your club.
- It is the members job to arrange times to present a task to the leader in charge to get tasks checked off.
- Member does not need to have a horse to complete this program, they can borrow a horse where needed.
- Be reasonable when setting goals. They should be appropriate for the members age and riding level. Goals should be initialed when the member has set the goal and again when the goal is achieved.
- Goals set must be related to members equine project
- Every task must be checked off on a level before the level is completed
- Completed form must be presented to receive medal.
- Leader will be provided with answers for questions that have a definite explanation.
- On identification tasks, list the parts on the form for future reference.
- Keep in a safe place, lost advancements sheets will require tasks in current level, or completed levels not yet awarded, to be redone.
- Clover bud's cannot receive coaching from someone while completing tasks.
- Mentors are expected to work with their "buddy" for at least the current 4-H year.
- Keep this packet stapled or in a binder.
- All leaders that check off this member should sign the back page to identify themselves.
- Those members that falsely represent themselves as completing tasks will immediately forfeit any future participation in the Youth Merit Program
- The point of this advancement program is for the members to learn new things that will make them a better horseman, 4-H'er and member.
- Learn things, make friends, and HAVE FUN!

Members Name: _____

date	leader initials	CLOVER BUD LEVEL	
		1	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		2	Choose a breed of horse and find 4 facts about that breed that you didn't know before and are interesting to you.
		3	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		4	Tell your leader the difference between a horse and a pony.
		5	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		6	Explain what it means when a horse pins it's ears back.
		7	Explain what it means when a horse has both it's ears forward.
		8	Show the correct way to feed a horse a treat.
		9	Explain why it's important to be careful when walking around the back of a horse.
		10	Find out how big a horse's brain is and tell your leader.
		11	Find out how big a horse's heart is and tell your leader.
		12	Tell your leader how much water an average horse drinks in a 24 hour period.
		13	Where are a horses blind spots?
		14	Explain why it's important to pick out a horse's feet regularly.
		15	Explain to your leader what it means when a horse has a red ribbon in their tail.
		16	Name 2 things you wear around horses, and what they protect, to keep yourself safe.
		17	Describe 3 Herdsmanship tasks

Members Name: _____

date	leader initials	JUNIOR LEVEL 1	
		1	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		2	Show the correct way to put a halter on a horse/pony.
		3	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		4	Show the safe way to walk around the rear of a horse.
		5	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		6	Name 10 parts of the horse (notate on form parts listed).
		7	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		8	Demonstrate the proper way to lead a horse in the walk and the trot in a straight line and a circle.
		9	Recite the 4-H pledge and motto from memory.
		10	List 3 grooming tools and their use.
		11	Explain what is a hand (measurement).
		12	Show how to correctly walk your horse into a stall.
		13	Show the correct way to hold the reins for the bridle the member uses.
		14	Demonstrate walking the horse on the left track and the right track while riding.

Members Name: _____

date

leader
initials

JUNIOR LEVEL 2

		1	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		2	Show the proper way to lead a horse with a bridle.
		3	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		4	Identify the breed and breed type of your horse, or a horse in your club.
		5	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		6	Name 5 parts of the horses leg (notate on form parts listed).
		7	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		8	Show how to lift and properly pick out a horses hoof.
		9	Identify 3 parts of a bridle
		10	Demonstrate how to safely tie a horse.
		11	Identify 4 parts of a saddle
		12	Explain and demonstrate correct quartering in a showmanship class.
		13	Show how to correctly back your horse while leading it
		14	Demonstrate how to jog/trot the horse on the left track and the right track while riding.

Members Name: _____

date	leader initials	JUNIOR LEVEL 3	
		1	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		2	List 6 basic horse colors.
		3	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		4	Demonstrate 3 safety precautions to take when handling your horse.
		5	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		6	Name 6 light horse breeds.
		7	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		8	Perform your public presentation at the county level.
		9	Identify 3 warning ribbons and their placement. (cannot be previously identified)
		10	Identify 10 parts of the horse. (these cannot be previously identified in levels 1 & 2)
		11	Explain a "4-H project horse" .
		12	Lead the Pledge of Allegiance and the 4-H pledge at your club meeting.
		13	Show how to correctly back your horse while riding.
		14	Name and describe 3 leg markings on a horse.

Members Name: _____

date

leader
initials

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL 1

		1	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		2	Demonstrate how to walk, jog/trot, canter/lope your horse both directions.
		3	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		4	Demonstrate, on a horse under control, how to stop a run away horse.
		5	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		6	Demonstrate or describe how to reverse on the diagonal.
		7	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		8	Show the correct way to wrap a horses leg with a polo wrap.
		9	Execute or describe circling, serpentine and diagonals
		10	Demonstrate the correct way to bridle a horse.
		11	Identify all legal bits for the members chosen discipline.
		12	Explain the medals program as it pertains to the members riding discipline.
		13	Explain the danish system and how it works.
		14	Explain correct show ring etiquette.
		15	Buddy up with a junior or new member at a show to help them.

Members Name: _____

date

leader
initials

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL 2

		1	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		2	Demonstrate how to properly mount and dismount your horse.
		3	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		4	Describe what you are feeding to your horse and why.
		5	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		6	Demonstrate the correct way to clean your tack.
		7	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		8	Identify all the parts of a saddle.
		9	Describe, with a horse, a correctly fitting blanket.
		10	Show the correct fit of a bridle.
		11	Show how to correctly administer paste wormer to a horse.
		12	Describe and demonstrate the correct fit of a riding helmet, and what can compromise it.
		13	Describe horse's monocular and binocular vision.
		14	Volunteer to help at a club or county event.
		15	Demonstrate and describe the correct equitation position for your style of riding.

Members Name: _____

date	leader initials	INTERMEDIATE LEVEL 3	
		1	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		2	Name and locate all the parts of a bridle.
		3	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		4	Use a specialized tape to demonstrate how to measure your horses height and weight.
		5	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		6	Identify 5 items that should be in an equine first aid kit.
		7	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		8	Describe 3 things a horse does when it's afraid.
		9	Spell and define the following terms: filly, colt, mare, gelding, stallion, sire and dam.
		10	Identify the 5 aids, and 2 artificial aids and how to use them.
		11	Describe/demonstrate how to treat minor wounds of a horse.
		12	Weigh and record your horses feed for 5 days.
		13	Explain a course of action to take when a horse is dehydrated or not drinking.
		14	Complete a safety inspection of your trailer and horses pasture.
		15	Identify and define the terms roughage and concentrates.

Members Name: _____

date

leader
initials

SENIOR LEVEL 1

		1	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		2	Choose a young or new member to mentor for the year and report back to your leader regularly.
		3	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		4	Draw, identify and label the teeth in the horse's mouth.
		5	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		6	List and describe 3 careers in the horse industry that interest you.
		7	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		8	Identify/label the parts of the horses digestive system.
		9	Define the terms: overgrazing, rotational grazing, and sacrifice or holding area.
		10	Lead an educational activity or game at your club meeting.
		11	Describe what to look for when identifying lameness in a horse.
		12	Define the following: cushings, insulin resistance and HYPP.
		13	Identify poisonous weeds prevalent in your area.
		14	Teach a younger member the correct way to quarter in a showmanship class.
		15	Present your public presentation to your club and at the county level.

Members Name: _____

date	leader initials	SENIOR LEVEL 2	
		1	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		2	Describe the correct fit and placement of a saddle.
		3	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		4	Identify and explain the function of 2 types of bits.
		5	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		6	Demonstrate and describe appropriate manure disposal and utilization methods.
		7	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		8	Demonstrate how to correctly clip your horse for show.
		9	Demonstrate how to safely load and unload a horse from a trailer. And 3 safety precautions to take when trailering.
		10	Describe and demonstrate the correct way to collect a horse.
		11	Define and explain the following terms: balance, smoothness, blending of parts, correctness, slope, straightness, forequarter, barrel and rearquarter.
		12	Explain how to recognize and treat colic, ulcer, founder and laminitus.
		13	Demonstrate figure-eights with a simple lead change.
		14	Identify feeds that provide high levels of fats, carbohydrates and proteins.
		15	Report on your clubs community service project, what you did, how you contributed and what was the impact.

Members Name: _____

date	leader initials	SENIOR LEVEL 3	
		1	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		2	Choose a young or new member to mentor for the year and report back to your leader regularly.
		3	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		4	Lead an educational activity at a club meeting.
		5	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		6	Demonstrate how to take a horses vitals (resp, heart rate, temp, gut sounds) and recite normal ranges.
		7	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		8	Assist in organizing and running a county or club event.
		9	Explain how and when you should feed and water a horse when the horse is hot.
		10	Identify 4 ways of traveling faults; paddling, forging, striking and interfering.
		11	Define and describe identification, care and treatment of girth gall, stone bruise, hoof abscess, bowed tendon, wind puff and splints .
		12	Describe the characteristics of your horses breed, and the common uses for the breed.
		13	Give an equitation lesson to a younger member.
		14	Describe methods to prevent internal and external parasite infestation in your horse.
		15	Present your public presentation to your club and at the county level.

Members Name: _____

date	leader initials	SENIOR LEVEL 4	
		1	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		2	Describe the proper care of horse's teeth and how to tell how old a horse is based on their teeth.
		3	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		4	Demonstrate how to ground drive a horse.
		5	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		6	Describe an appropriate shoeing/trimming schedule for your horse and what to look for in a correct shoeing/trimming job.
		7	Set goal:
			Achieved:
		8	Demonstrate a correct two track maneuver at the jog/trot.
		9	Demonstrate forehand and haunch pivots in both directions.
		10	Explain how and demonstrate the correct way to give vaccinations.
		11	Show and describe visual characteristics used when selecting quality hay.
		12	Interview a professional in an equine field you are interested in. This can not be a parent.
		13	Volunteer 4 hours at a King County Horse 4-H event.
		14	Come up with your own personal development skill: present this to your leader and get their approval. Report back to them..
		15	Help organize and run your clubs community service project, report on why you chose it, what you did and how it impacted those you helped.

I have observed this member correctly completing tasks in the Youth Merit Program. My initials are by the tasks that I have checked off for this member. I understand that I am not maintaining the integrity of this program and not helping the member if I check them off without satisfactory and correct completion of the task.

NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____