

A word cloud graphic centered on the page. The words 'YOUTH' and 'MERIT' are the largest and most prominent, written in a bold, green, sans-serif font. Below them, the word 'program' is written in a smaller, lowercase, green, sans-serif font. Surrounding these main words are numerous other words in various sizes and colors (including green, red, and blue), representing different values and skills. The words are arranged in a way that they appear to be floating around the central text. Some of the visible words include: 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

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
LEADERSHIP

Member Name: _____

Date Started: _____

Club: _____

Developed in 2017 by the King County 4-H Horse Program for all enrolled members

PROGRAM INSTRUCTIONS

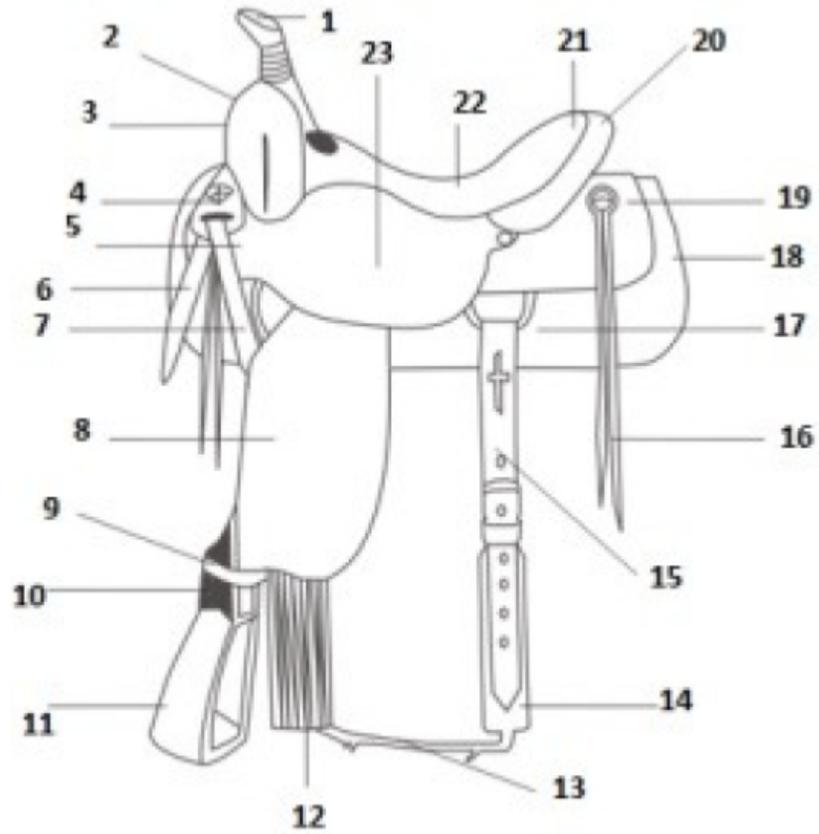
- This program is meant to broaden the members knowledge through experiences, research and interaction.
- This is open to all age groups.
- There are 2 segments: Youth Tiers 1-4 and Advanced Tiers 1-4.
- New members should start at Tier 1, advanced members may start at later Tiers.
- Members and leader should work together to find the start point that is correct for the member, member should be challenged.
- At the completion of a 6 step Level member should be presented with a Youth Merit Completion Certificate at a club meeting.
- At the completion of a Tier, member should be presented with a Youth Merit Medal at a club meeting.
- Members earning certificates and medals will also be recognized at any county wide end of year awards event.
- Club leader may assign other resource leaders, within the club, to coordinate checking off tasks. Several leaders are suggested.
- Each task may only be either collected, reported to or demonstrated to one of the resource leaders assigned by the club leader.
- Member participating may never be checked off by a family member.
- Tasks must be witnessed by the leader in charge, not informed of completion elsewhere. Open rides are a great opportunity for this.
- There will be no “mixing” of tasks to create a complete level.
- It is the member’s job to arrange times to present a task to the leader.
- Worksheets for certain tasks are included in book, other worksheets will not be accepted.
- Key answers will be available to leaders on the FLO page of the website.
- Member does not need to have a horse to complete this program, they can borrow one, it does not have to be a project horse.
- Every task must be checked off on a level before the level is completed.
- A level must be completed before member moves to the next level.
- All levels in a Tier must be completed before member moves to next Tier.
- Keep in a safe place, lost advancement sheets will require tasks in current level, or completed levels not yet awarded, to be redone.
- All leaders “checking off” members must sign, print name and date the back of the members book.
- Those that falsely represent themselves as completing tasks will immediately forfeit any future participation in the Youth Merit Program and will return any medals awarded.
- Learn things!
- Work together!
- Make connections!
- Have fun!

Youth Tier 1 Level 1

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	Show and explain the proper use for 5 grooming tools
		2	Parts of the western saddle (worksheet 1)
		3	Parts of the english saddle (worksheet 2)
		4	Parts of the western bridle (worksheet 3)
		5	Parts of the english bridle (worksheet 4)
		6	Draw a diagram or demonstrate to show how to measure a horse for a blanket

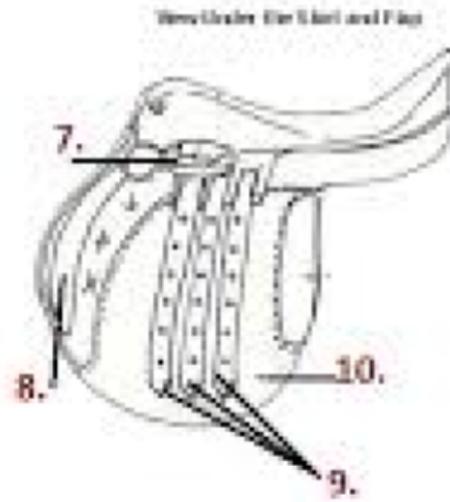
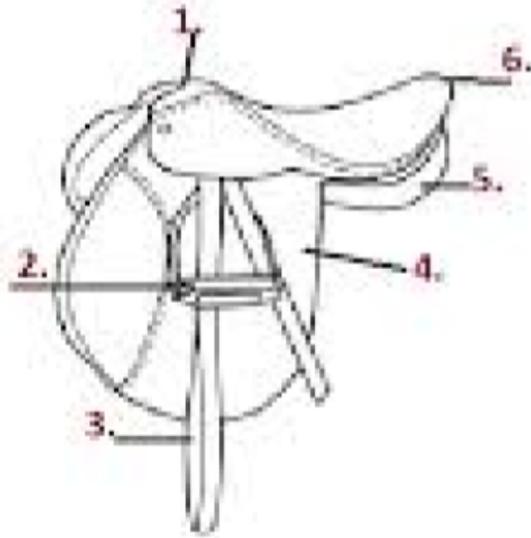
Member Name: _____

Youth Merit Program Worksheet 1



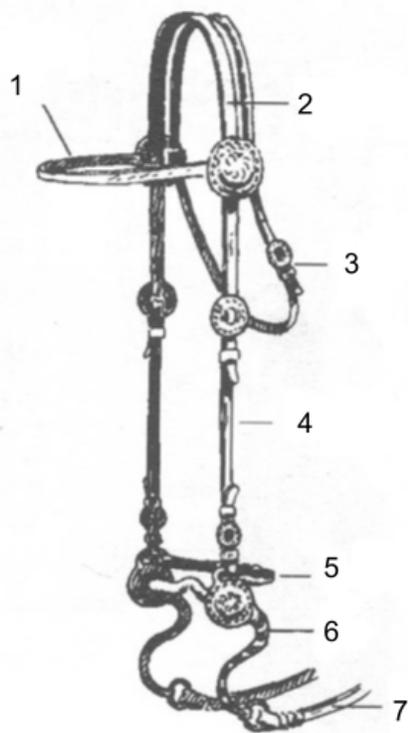
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Youth Merit Program Worksheet 2



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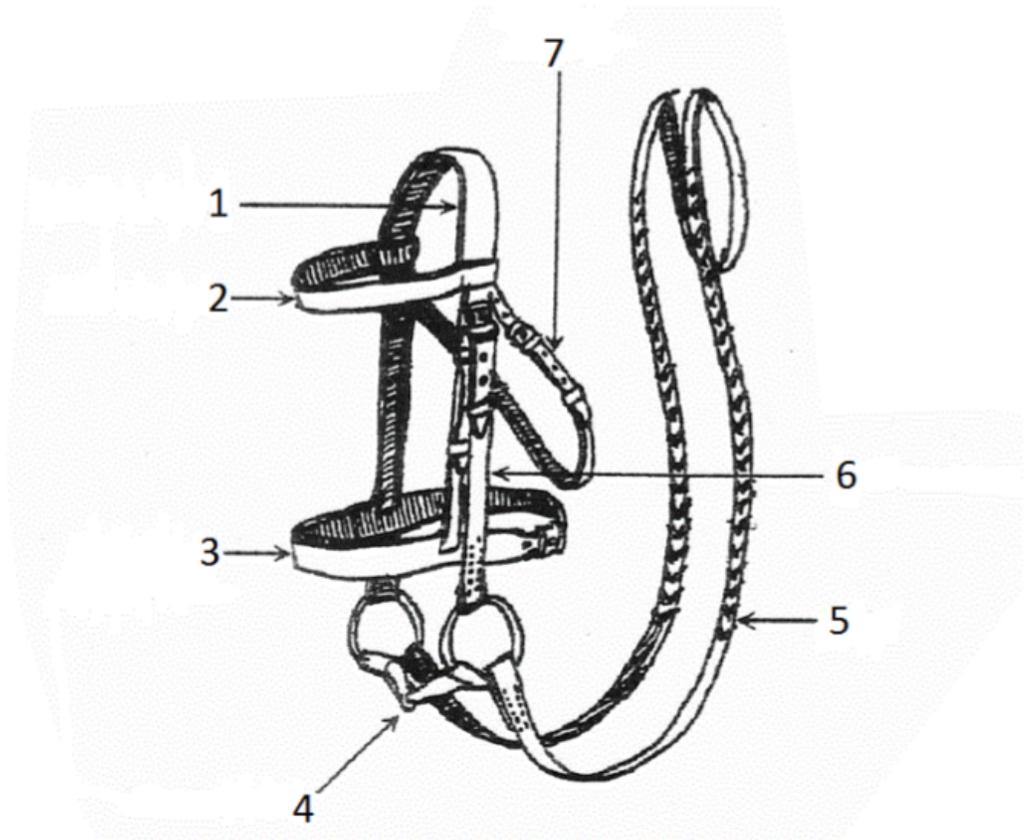
Youth Merit Program Worksheet 3



Bridle

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Youth Merit Program Worksheet 4



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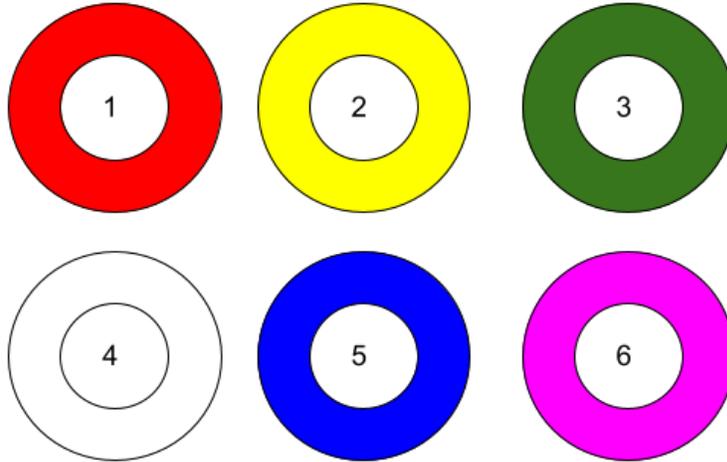
Youth Tier 1

Level 2

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	Draw a picture and label to show the 5 basic coat colors
		2	Complete warning ribbon in the tail colors (worksheet 5)
		3	Complete parts of the horse (worksheet 6)
		4	Complete face markings (worksheet 7)
		5	Draw a picture to demonstrate how many beats in the: walk, jog/trot and lope/canter
		6	Pick a horse breed, read about it, and list 10 interesting facts about that breed that you learned

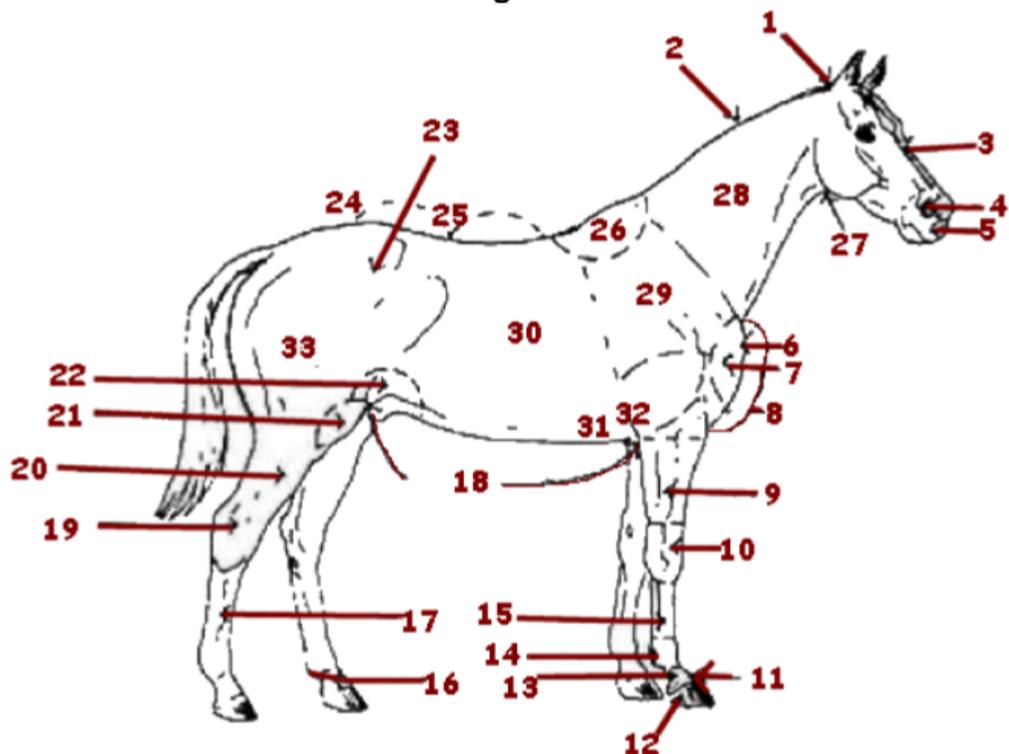
Member Name: _____

Youth Merit Program Worksheet 5



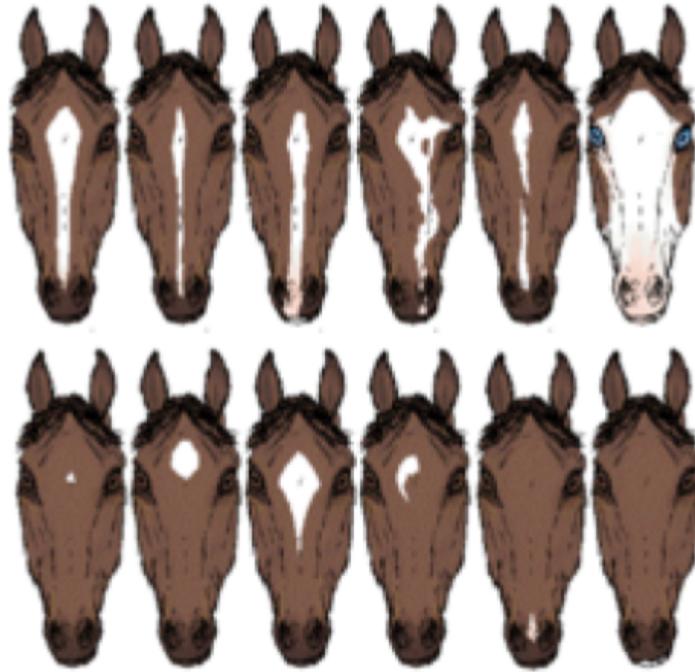
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Youth Merit Program Worksheet 6



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4	5	6
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10	11	12
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19	20	21
22	23	24
25	26	27
28	29	30
31	32	33

Youth Merit Program Worksheet 7



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5	6
7	8
9	10
11	12

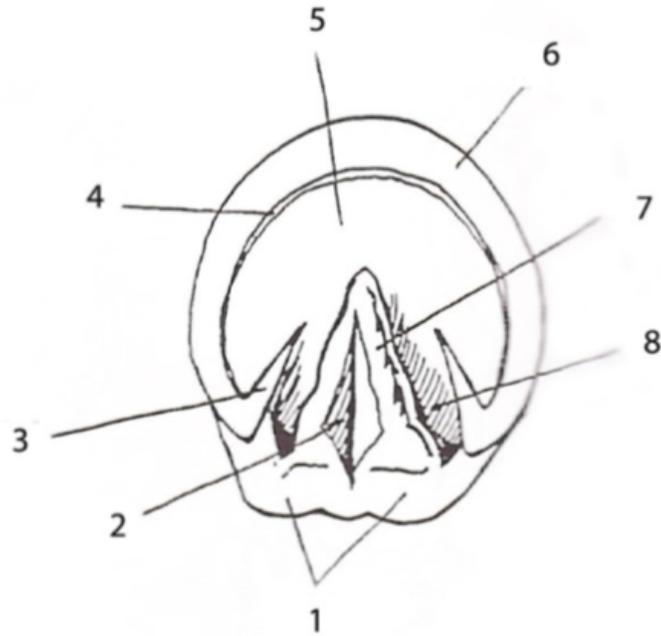
Youth Tier 1

Level 3

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	Define the following; mare gelding stallion colt filly foal weanling yearling sire dam
		2	Explain proper equitation
		3	Show the proper way to hold a showmanship lead
		4	Show how to jog with your horse in Showmanship
		5	Label parts of the hoof (worksheet 8)
		6	Draw a diagram of horses teeth

Member Name: _____

Youth Merit Program Worksheet 8



1

2

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4

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7

8

Youth Tier 1 Level 4

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	Show how to measure an english saddle
		2	show how to measure a western saddle
		3	Explain the term "bight"
		4	Demonstrate how to ride "on the buckle"
		5	List 5 natural aids
		6	list 3 artificial aids

Member Name: _____

Youth Tier 2 Level 1

Date completed	Leader initials	Tasks
		1 List 5 more coat colors not in the basic 5
		2 List the appropriate clothing for a hunt seat class
		3 What are the certification letters to show the helmet is approved
		4 Ask a judge: how long they've been a judge, Why did they become a judge. What did they do to learn how to become a judge? What is their favorite thing about being a judge? What is the hardest thing about becoming a judge?
		5 Show how to "close your back"
		6 Demonstrate a proper back

Member Name: _____

Youth Tier 2 Level 2

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	What event can the horse wear boots or leg wraps, excluding gaming events.
		2	List the appropriate clothing for a western class
		3	What are 3 ways you could get an "off course" in gaming
		4	Ask a farrier: how long they've been a farrier? Why did they become a farrier? What did they do to learn how to become a farrier? What is their favorite thing about being a farrier? What is the hardest thing about becoming a farrier?
		5	List 5 trail obstacles
		6	Look up pictures and label: western saddle, all purpose saddle, cut back saddle, side saddle, dressage saddle, barrel saddle, pack saddle and jump saddle

Member Name: _____

Youth Tier 2 Level 3

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	Draw a picture to show how many left turns are there in a barrel pattern
		2	Find pictures of and label 5 different roughage feeds
		3	List the appropriate clothing for a saddle seat class
		4	Ask a trainer: how long they've been a trainer, Why did they become a trainer? What did they do to learn how to become a trainer? What is their favorite thing about being a trainer? What is the hardest thing about becoming a trainer?
		5	How many lead changes are there in a poles pattern
		6	Look up and label: egg but snaffle, kimberwicke, bradoon snaffle, weymouth curb, tom thumb, pelham, little s, mechanical hackamore, bosal, articulating curb, solid curb, slow twist snaffle,

Member Name: _____

Youth Tier 2 Level 4

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	What are the letters in a dressage short court
		2	What are the letters in a dressage large court
		3	How many seconds are added to a time for a downed obstacle in western games
		4	Ask a vet: how long they've been a vet, Why did they become a vet? What did they do to learn how to become a vet? What is their favorite thing about being a vet? What is the hardest thing about becoming a vet?
		5	Demonstrate the correct way to run up your irons on an english saddle
		6	Look up and label: pad shims, half pad, riser pad, build up pad, dressage pad, cutback pad, air ride pad, wither relief pad

Member Name: _____

Youth Tier 3 Level 1

Date completed	Leader initials	Tasks
		1 Show how to take a horse's pulse
		2 Take a video to show how you tell if a horse is dehydrated
		3 Explain what cushings is
		4 Explain what PSSM is
		5 Explain what tying up is
		6 Show how to check capillary refill on a horse

Member Name: _____

Youth Tier 3 Level 2

Date completed	Leader initials	Tasks
		1 Explain 3 different "clips" and why you would do each
		2 Observe a body work professional work on a horse, list 2 things you learned
		3 Watch a horse get its teeth floated, list 2 things you learned
		4 Demonstrate the proper way to lunge a horse
		5 Demonstrate how to load and unload a horse from a trailer
		6 Demonstrate the proper way to hold the reins for the following: romel, split, english single, english double

Member Name: _____

Youth Tier 3 Level 3

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	Describe barn sour
		2	Describe ring sour
		3	Describe weaving
		4	Demonstrate a sitting trot
		5	Demonstrate a 2 point position
		6	Demonstrate a correct simple lead change

Member Name: _____

Youth Tier 3 Level 4

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	Demonstrate the correct way to mount and dismount a horse
		2	Demonstrate a figure 8 at the jog/trot
		3	Demonstrate a serpentine at the jog
		4	Demonstrate a reverse on the diagonal
		5	Name 5 famous horses and tell why they are famous
		6	Demonstrate the correct way to ride a posting trot

Member Name: _____

Youth Tier 4 Level 1

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	Explain the purpose of a slow feed hay net
		2	List 3 ways you can help prevent ulcers in horses
		3	What is the formula for figuring a horse's weight with a tape measure
		4	List 5 types of hay
		5	List your horses diet, including weighing hay, explain what you feed and why
		6	Explain how to clean your brushes

Member Name: _____

Youth Tier 4 Level 2

Date completed	Leader initials	Tasks
		1 Demonstrate the correct way to put sports medicine boots on a horse
		2 Show the correct way to put polo wraps on a horses leg
		3 Show how to put bell boots on a horse
		4 Show how to put splint boots on a horse
		5 Explain the point of fetlock boots and how they go on
		6 Show how to put skid boots on

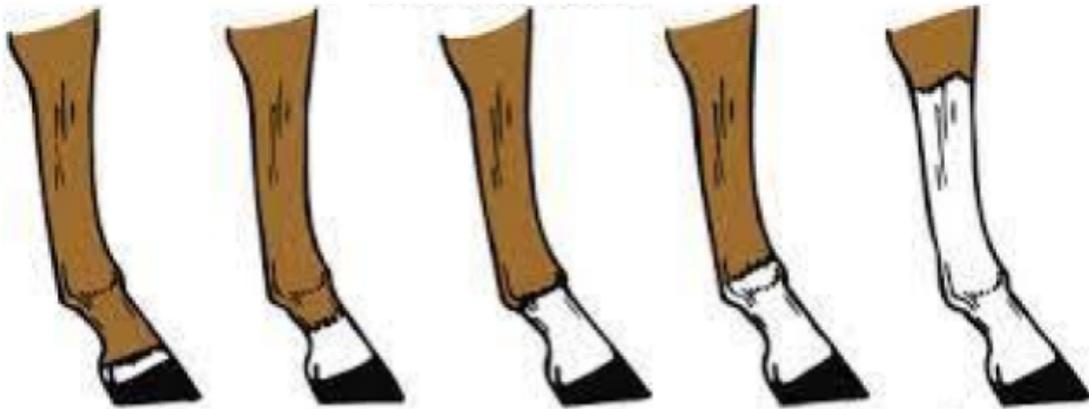
Member Name: _____

Youth Tier 4 Level 3

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	Explain the difference between "near side" and "off side" and show how to walk and trot a horse for each one
		2	Show how to pick up a horse's front foot for Showmanship
		3	Show a correct forehand pivot
		4	Demonstrate the "quartering" method
		5	Show the correct way to sidepass a horse from the ground
		6	Label leg markings (worksheet 9)

Member Name: _____

Youth Merit Program Worksheet 9



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Youth Tier 4 Level 4

Date completed	Leader initials	Tasks
		1 After talking to an adult walk your leader through a safety check of your trailer
		2 In a straight load 2 horse trailer tell your leader what side the horse should ride on and why
		3 In a slant load trailer explain where the weight should be distributed and how it works as you add additional horses
		4 Explain appropriate and additional protective equipment that your horse can wear when being trailered
		5 Is grain an appropriate feed for in the trailer? Explain why or why not
		6 When is it appropriate to have bedding in the trailer with your horse?

Member Name: _____

Youth Tier 5 Level 1

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	Show how to correctly de-worm a horse with paste de-wormer
		2	What is a fecal count
		3	Where do you find bot eggs
		4	What is the best wormer for dealing with bot larvae and what time of year should you treat it
		5	Explain de-wormer rotation
		6	Talk to a vet about de-worming your horse and explain what you learned

Member Name: _____

Youth Tier 5 Level 2

Date completed	Leader initials	Tasks
		1 Sit in on a leaders meeting
		2 Ride someone else's horse and learn their cues
		3 Talk to someone that rides a different style than you, list 5 things you learned (Style would be talk to a gamer if you are a jumper)
		4 Put a 5 step riding pattern together and video yourself riding it or video someone else riding it. Give the pattern and video to your leader, be sure to include a gait key
		5 Create a 7 step showmanship pattern, video yourself executing it. Give the pattern and video to your leader, be sure to include a key
		6 Show how to reverse on the diagonal

Member Name: _____

Youth Tier 5 Level 3

Date completed	Leader initials	Tasks
		1 Show the correct way to clip a horses head (ears, bridle path, muzzle, jaw)
		2 Show the correct way to clip a horses legs
		3 Show how to clean and condition a saddle
		4 Describe and demonstrate the correct fit of a riding helmet and what can compromise it
		5 Show how to clean and polish boots
		6 List 10 things you need to bring to a horse show

Member Name: _____

Youth Tier 5 Level 4

Date completed	Leader initials	Tasks
		1 Identify 5 toxic weeds
		2 Weigh and record your horses hay and grain for 7 days
		3 Create a feed budget for your horse, or a friends horse, for 1 month
		4 Call 3 feed stores and price comparison the hay and grain you feed.
		5 Take the labels of 2 senior grains and compare the nutrients
		6 Create a chart comparing the nutrients of 4 different joint supplements

Member Name: _____

Advanced Tier 1 Level 1

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	Tie a quick release knot
		2	List what should be in a trailer safety kit
		3	Demonstrate and explain the proper use of a piece of training equipment
		4	Demonstrate the correct way to fasten rear leg straps on a blanket
		5	Name 5 ways to encourage a horse to drink to prevent dehydration
		6	What is thrush, how can you prevent and treat it

Member Name: _____

Advanced Tier 1 Level 2

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	Name the pressure points for the bits of 3 different disciplines
		2	What to look for in proper western saddle fit
		3	What to look for in proper english saddle fit
		4	Show and explain a properly fitted western bridle
		5	Show and explain a properly fitted english bridle
		6	Explain how a direct rein bit and how a leverage bit work in the horse's mouth

Member Name: _____

Advanced Tier 1 Level 3

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	What is the normal heart rate, temp and respiration of a resting horse
		2	What should be in your basic barn first aid kit
		3	List 5 reasons you would need to call a vet to see your horse
		4	What are the causes and signs of colic
		5	How do you figure out how much a horse weighs
		6	What are the signs a horse might have ulcers and how does it get diagnosed

Member Name: _____

Advanced Tier 1 Level 4

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	Explain proper conformation for a stock horse
		2	Explain proper conformation for a saddle horse
		3	Explain proper conformation for a hunter horse
		4	List the difference between a paint and a pinto
		5	Draw a picture demonstrating the difference between; overo & tobiano
		6	Draw a picture showing the difference between: overo, tobiano, tovero, sabino and splash white

Member Name: _____

Advanced Tier 2 Level 1

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	Explain cribbing, the causes and the consequences
		2	Explain founder, what can causes it, the results and how to heal it
		3	Explain laminitis, causes and treatments
		4	Explain pssm, and treatments
		5	Explain tying up, possible causes and treatmets
		6	Explain cushings, symptoms and treatments

Member Name: _____

Advanced Tier 2 Level 2

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	Draw a diagram to show pigeon toed
		2	Draw a diagram to show cow hocked
		3	Draw a diagram to show bow legged
		4	Draw a diagram to show a club foot
		5	Draw a diagram to show "over at the knee"
		6	Describe an egg bar shoe and what it does

Member Name: _____

Advanced Tier 2 Level 3

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	Show a correct stirrup length for both western, hunt seat and saddle seat
		2	place the correct age by each diagram for the age of the horse based on their teeth (worksheet)
		3	List the names of 4 internal parasites
		4	Explain the effect of parasites on a horse
		5	Draw a diagram to explain the life cycle of internal parasites
		6	List 5 ways you can recognize the presence of parasites

Member Name: _____

Advanced Tier 2 Level 4

Date completed	Leader initials	Tasks
		1 Demonstrate how to properly vaccinate a horse
		2 Explain what an abscess is and how to treat it
		3 Explain what thrush is, what causes it and how to treat it
		4 Explain white line disease, what causes it and how to treat it
		5 Explain mud fever, what causes it and how to treat it
		6 Explain a boil boot, what it's used for and why

Member Name: _____

Advanced Tier 3 Level 1

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	Explain monocular vision
		2	Explain binocular vision
		3	Identify 2 spots where a horse can not see, and at what distance a horses vision becomes clear
		4	Explain how a horse is aware of the riders heart rate and breathing
		5	Explain the herd synchronization
		6	Explain ways we can control a horse's winter hair coat

Member Name: _____

Advanced Tier 3 Level 2

Date completed	Leader initials	Tasks
		1 Explain fright and flight
		2 Demonstrate how to stretch a horse prior to mounting
		3 Explain how to stretch a horse in warm up while mounted
		4 Show how to tell if your horse has a sore back
		5 Demonstrate a flexion test
		6 Explain PEF and what it does

Member Name: _____

Advanced Tier 3 Level 3

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	What diet has a suitable level of selenium
		2	How much water does a horse drink on average
		3	What is the best source of vitamin D
		4	Define roughage
		5	Define concentrate
		6	What mineral is important for proper bone development

Member Name: _____

Advanced Tier 3 Level 4

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	Identify 6 farrier tools and their use
		2	identify 5 different horse shoes and their purpose
		3	Explain the advantages of hot shoeing
		4	Other than to cool it down, explain why a shoe is dipped in water after it's heated up
		5	Explain the use of venice turpentine and what it does
		6	Explain the difference between hoof hardener and hoof dressing

Member Name: _____

Advanced Tier 4 Level 1

Date completed	Leader initials	Tasks
		1 Explain the difference between, impaction colic, sand colic, gas colic, spasmodic colic, twisted gut, strangulation colic, cribbing colic
		2 Show the proper places and process to give an intramuscular injection
		3 Explain proper dosage and use for banamine, bute, ace, bio sponge and electrolyte paste
		4 Define prebiotic feeds
		5 Define probiotic feeds
		6 Explain the benefits of adding oil to a horses diet

Member Name: _____

Advanced Tier 4 Level 2

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	Demonstrate how to properly ground drive a horse
		2	Demonstrate a leg yield
		3	Demonstrate proper haunch and forehand 360° pivots from the ground
		4	Show 3 stretches you can do with your horse from the ground
		5	Explain how a leverage bit works, give examples of bits
		6	Explain how a direct rein bit works, give examples of bits

Member Name: _____

Advanced Tier 4 Level 3

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	Demonstrate proper haunch and forehand 360° pivots while mounted
		2	Demonstrate how to perform a rollback
		3	Demonstrate a correct interrupted lead change
		4	What are the correct distances between poles for walk overs, jog overs and lope overs
		5	Identify 4 ways of traveling faults: Paddling, Forging, Striking and Interfering
		6	Learn how to handle a rope, if you already know, teach someone else. Demonstrate to your leader.

Member Name: _____

Advanced Tier 4 Level 4

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	Define the terms: over grazing, rotational grazing and sacrifice or holding area
		2	Lead an educational activity at a club meeting
		3	Run a game at fair
		4	Show how to listen for gut sounds in both the hind gut and foregut
		5	Identify feeds that provide high levels of: protein, carbohydrates and fats
		6	Explain appropriate manure disposal and utilization methods

Member Name: _____

Advanced Tier 5 Level 1

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	Define and explain the following terms: Balance, Smoothness, Blending of Parts, Correctness, Slope, Straightness, Forequarter, Barrel & Rearquarter
		2	Assist a member of your leadership run a program event
		3	Demonstrate how to correctly ground drive a horse
		4	Compare the conformation of 2 horses, list the positives and negatives of each in comparison format
		5	List 3 leg faults, if they can be corrected and if so how
		6	Explain "Swayback" and give exercises you can have the horse do to help prevent it

Member Name: _____

Advanced Tier 5 Level 2

Date completed	Leader initials	Tasks
		1 Help a young 4-H'er at a horse show
		2 Run an educational game at your club meeting
		3 Set a goal for something with your horse, or within the program if you don't have a horse. Work to achieve the goal and report the progress to your leader
		4 List 3 human foods that are poisonous to horses
		5 What are 2 tools you can use to give your horse a massage and demonstrate how to use them
		6 What can a farrier do to help a horse that is "over at the knee"

Member Name: _____

Advanced Tier 5 Level 3

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	On an orange demonstrate the correct way to give intramuscular vaccinations
		2	Take a horses complete set of vitals in the presence of your leader (respirations, temp, heart rate, capillary refill, gut sounds)
		3	Show 3 ways (locations) to check a horses bpm
		4	Demonstrate how to put stable and pillow wraps on a horses leg
		5	What is white line disease and how do you treat it
		6	What is thrush and how do you treat it

Member Name: _____

Advanced Tier 5 Level 4

Date completed	Leader initials		Tasks
		1	What is Pergolyde and what is it used for
		2	What is Equiox and what is is used for
		3	What is Banamine and what is it used for
		4	What is White Lightening and what is it used for
		5	What is Venice Turpentine and what is it used for
		6	What is Furazone and what is it used for

Member Name: _____

CLUB AUDITORS

I have observed this member completing tasks in the Youth Merit Program. I have been appointed to this position by our club leader. 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 each task.

Name: _____ Initials: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____ Initials: _____

Signature: _____