

BOULDER COUNTY
4-H HORSE PARTICIPANT YEAR END AWARD
POINTS ACCRUAL PROCEDURE
(revised 10/1/2007)

In 1998 the Boulder County 4-H Horse Leaders Council began a program to award Year-End High Point Awards for each of the achievement levels in the horsemanship program. The awards are intended to increase interest in competing at Boulder County 4-H horse shows. There are two award categories: an individual High Point Award, and a Club Participation Award. All references to "High Point Award" in this document refer to the Horse Leaders Council High Point Award, not to other shows or competitions.

GENERAL RULES

1. Before the annual Horse Leaders show in March, the Horse Leaders Council will identify which shows are considered "eligible" for competition in the program during the show season and will appoint a point tracker for the season. It is recommended that show management for each eligible show submit the show bulletin to the point tracker for determination of eligible classes before mailing the show bulletin. Classes which are eligible for the High Point Award may be specially marked on the show bulletin (underlined, italicized, or marked with an asterisk).
2. All members who wish their points to be tracked throughout the year MUST call or e-mail the point tracker, or they may register at any one of the eligible shows by signing a provided form at the beginning of the show. A member must provide his/her name, the level s/he rides at the time of enrollment in the program, his/her club name, and his/her telephone number. Members' points will not be tracked until they have registered. Members must be in compliance with the current Boulder County Horse Project and Show Rules.
3. All eligible shows MUST use the official Exhibitor Log and official Show Results sheet to provide show results within two weeks after the show to the point tracker. If the show is less than two weeks before the Boulder County Fair 4-H Horse Show, the results must be provided to the point tracker no less than FOUR DAYS before the Fair 4-H Horse Show.
4. Year end awards will be announced during Championship Day at the Fair 4-H Horse Show.
5. Individual winners may pick from a "prize book" containing numerous prizes. Horse Leaders Council shall set the value of the individual prizes based on the amount of money available to the program and the number of awards to be presented. The prizes will be presented at the Boulder County 4-H Achievement Night.
6. The point tracker shall use a spreadsheet program, such as Excel^R, to record and total the points in both categories. The point tracker must also keep the individual records of each show available so that all calculations can be clearly demonstrated. Participants may obtain their point totals at any time during the year.
7. A member who wins the High Point Award for their level (and discipline), is not eligible to win in succeeding years at the same level. This rule is intended to encourage members to move into

the next level of competition once the High Point Award has been achieved. The only exception is for those members who hold a Level IV card – these members will continue to be eligible for the High Point Award each year.

8. Two High Point Awards will be given for each level: one awarded to the participant with the most points in English and Showmanship for each level and one awarded to the participant with the most points in Western and Showmanship in each level. Showmanship points will accumulate toward both disciplines. In the event there is a tie in the final results the point tracker will use the Showmanship points to break the tie. If the tie cannot be resolved by the Showmanship points than the point tracker will defer to the participant with the highest score on the written test at the Boulder County Fair.
9. Points are accumulated using the descriptions below and are NOT influenced by individual shows' high point calculations or other summary awards.

INDIVIDUAL LEVEL AWARDS

One High Point Award will be given for the participant earning the most points in each of the following categories:

Unrated English/Showmanship	Unrated Western/Showmanship
Level I English/Showmanship	Level I Western/Showmanship
Level II English/Showmanship	Level II Western/Showmanship
Level III English/Showmanship	Level III Western/Showmanship
Level IV English/Showmanship	Level IV Western/Showmanship

An achievement certificate will be awarded to the top participant and the second-high participant in each of the above achievement levels.

1. Points are accumulated on the participant as of the date of enrollment in the program (via telephone call, e-mail or sign-up at an approved show). There is no retroactive accrual of points – if a participant registers in April, no points will be accumulated from March. This is intended to increase the participant's responsibility, and to allow the point tracker to be aware of how many participants must be tracked, rather than attempting to track all participants through the entire show season.
2. Participants may exhibit any project horse during the season. Points are accumulated solely on the participant. It is expected that the show management of each show will enforce any 4-H rules concerning use of project horses or other horses or participant eligibility. Enforcement of these rules or determination of a horse's or participant's eligibility shall not be the responsibility of the point tracker. Horse Leader's Council will mediate in the event of a dispute.
3. Points will be tracked for classes which do not limit participants to a particular talent or age grouping. For example, classes designated "novice", "senior", "junior", "first year", etc. will not qualify for tracking. The class must offer an opportunity for all participants to participate. Exception: Because points are accumulated according to participant level, classes which are open to certain levels ARE eligible for accrual, as long as no further restrictions are imposed (such as allowing only exhibitors over a certain age or with a certain breed of horse). Points

will be accumulated for all “common” show classes which are not limited by type of participant or horse. Examples include: Showmanship, English Equitation, English Pleasure, English Control, Western Horsemanship, Western Pleasure, Trail, Reining, Western Riding, Ranch Horse, etc.

4. Gymkhana or speed classes will not be eligible to be included in the individual High Point Awards.
5. Points are awarded on the following basis in accordance with the judge’s placing of the class:

First Place	6 points
Second Place	5 points
Third Place	4 points
Fourth Place	3 points
Fifth Place	2 points
Sixth Place (or reserve)	1 point

Points are awarded on the above scale regardless of number of entrants in the class. Even if there is only one entrant in the class, the entrant is awarded 6 points if the judge places the entrant in first place.

6. Participants will be tracked for the level at which they were competing at the time of registration. **Example: if a participant rides and exhibits at Level II at the time of enrollment for the award, but is advanced to Level III during the show season, the points will be accumulated toward the Level II award. This rule is enforced because if a member changes levels late in the year (most likely due to under-rating and subsequent outstanding performance at the lower level), and brings forward with him/her the many points accumulated at the lower level, into a higher level, the participant has an advantage over other participants who have ridden at the higher level for the entire year (and have not had the opportunity to accumulate ‘easy’ points because of being underrated). If a participant advances to a higher level during the show season after their initial registration and elects to compete for the award at the higher level, they may notify the point tracker of this intent. From the date of notification forward they relinquish all prior points accumulated at the lower level and start accumulating points at the new level. This election means that they are competing at the higher level for the award, and if they receive the award will be required to be rated according to the Boulder County Horse Project and Show Rules.*
7. If a participant advances levels during the show season, only those classes which are open to the level of the award will be tracked and count toward this participant’s points; classes which are not available to the lower level and thus not eligible to other participants at that level will not be tracked. **Example: if a participant changes from Unrated to Level I; no classes which are open to only Level I and not available to Unrated will be tracked for said participant such as Control, Trail, Reining, etc.*
8. All participants must register for and take the written test at the Boulder County 4-H Fair Horse Show to be eligible to receive a High Point Award.

CLUB PARTICIPATION AWARD

One “club participation” award is given to the club whose exhibitors have ridden in the most classes on a “per competing member” basis.

1. For the club participation award, all exhibitors are tracked for all clubs, for all eligible shows. The point tracker does not need to track enrollment dates or eligibility of individuals.
2. Each club receives one point for each rider in each class, regardless of the class type or rider's placing. ALL classes are eligible for tracking, including gymkhana classes, classes limited by ability, horse or rider type, etc. Levels are not tracked.
3. Points are tallied using the Exhibitor Log. The point tracker will award one point per class that each club member has entered according to the Exhibitor Log. Example: if a member of Boulder Valley Riders has entered four classes at a show as documented on the Exhibitor Log, the point tracker shall award four points for Boulder Valley Riders.
4. Once the club points from all shows have been totaled, the point tracker shall determine the total number of exhibitors from each club during the course of the year. This is done by counting the number of exhibitors from each club on each show's Exhibitor Log (not by horse project enrollees or total club enrollees).
5. The point tracker shall divide the total number of points for each club by that club's number of exhibitors to achieve a "per member" class number. This ensures that all clubs are rated for participation according to the number of classes ridden per member, and does not cause a disadvantage for smaller clubs. Example: if Rocky Mountain Riders members entered a total of 80 classes over five shows, and there were 10 total exhibitors, the "per member" average would be 8.00.
6. The club participation award is presented to the club with the highest "per member" average.