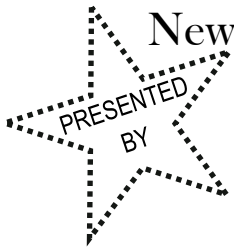


# 2023 New England 4-H Judges' School

New England 4-H Horse Show Rules & Judge Education Program

*a program of the New England Land Grant Universities*



**March 25 - 26, 2023**

Smith College (Saturday)  
Northampton, MA

Mount Holyoke College (Sunday)  
South Hadley, MA



## Thank you for your interest in the New England 4-H Judges' Program!

The New England 4-H Horse Show Rules & Judge Education Program will be hosting the 2023 New England 4-H Horse Judges' School (NEJS) on March 25-26, 2023 located at Smith College & Mount Holyoke College. We have been hard at work to ensure this is our best event to date and we hope you will join us. Education is our focus and we believe that a consistent educational message will provide 4-H exhibitors throughout our region a professional, fair and top-quality evaluation of their equine skills. Once again, our school is approved for application for a Pony of America (POAC) national judge's card. We are pleased to continue offering a Steward/Show Management track.

### Things You Need to Know Before Attending Judges' School

#### Hotel Information

##### **Fairfield by Marriott**

229 Whiting Farms Road, Holyoke, MA 01040

413-533-2800

[www.marriott.com/bdlho](http://www.marriott.com/bdlho)

Call to request the group rate: **NE 4-H Judges' School** for 3/24 & 3/25

Room rate: \$129/night (before taxes)

Please check with the hotel for all other specifics, including check in and out times, room amenities etc.

**\*\*\*Reservations must be received on or before February 15th\*\*\***

#### COVID-19 Protocols

Smith College strongly encourages on-campus visitors be fully vaccinated for Covid-19.

Currently, masks are not required on either campus; however as we have come to know, circumstances can change so please follow email and our Facebook page for timely updates. If you are feeling ill, please refer to CDC guidelines. Please contact Deb Danforth, Program Chair with any questions or concerns.

#### Are you a New England 4-H Carded Judge or Steward?

Your card must be renewed annually to remain a current New England 4-H Horse Show Official.

Additionally, judges must attend an accepted judges' school every **three** years, including the live judging session, and complete the rulebook test attaining a minimum score of **85%**.

Judges who last attended an accepted school in **2019 or before, must attend in 2023** to remain eligible for the New England list. If this is the only card you hold, please note there will not be another New England School until 2025. Judges currently on our list may renew without attending school in 2023, providing they send proof of attendance at an accepted 4-H judges' school in 2021 or 2022.

The New England 4-H Horse Show Rules & Judge Education Program accepts attendance at multiple 4-H judge's schools. To find out if your attendance at another school would qualify for renewal, please contact Deb Danforth, Program Chair at 802-468-1223 Office / 802-353-6034 Cell or

[deborah.danforth@castleton.edu](mailto:deborah.danforth@castleton.edu)



**\*\*\*In order to remain current, you must register to renew by 2/17/2023\*\*\***

**SCAN HERE for the current New England 4-H Judge & Steward List**



## First Time Attending New England 4-H Judges' School?

Welcome! We look forward to meeting you and we are eager to know how you first heard about New England Judges' School. A wealth of knowledge and a network of experienced judges and mentors awaits you. For your initial application, our program developed the below prerequisites for each carded level:

**Novice Judges** – These are individuals just embarking on their judging career. They have a good working knowledge of horse judging and may or may not have been part of a 4-H, youth or college horse judging team. They may currently be judging with experienced judges. They are qualified to judge small shows independently.

### Novice Level Prerequisites

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Complete application
- Must attend an accepted school in initial application year
- Complete NEJS live judging session
- Complete rulebook test with score  $\geq 85\%$

**Skilled B Judges** – These are experienced judges qualified and interested in judging most shows. May or may not be interested in judging extremely large shows.

Skilled B Level Prerequisites	Ready to Level Up? Novice to B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be at least 18 years of age</li> <li>• Complete application</li> <li>• Must have current, active judging experience (4-H background preferred)</li> <li>• Submit resume of industry/horse judging experience</li> <li>• Maintain &amp; submit a judging log including:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Name &amp; location of show judged</li> <li>⇒ Type/Size of show</li> <li>⇒ Show management contact information</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Three letters of reference outlining candidate's judging expertise (remain on file)</li> <li>• Complete NEJS live judging session in initial application year <b>OR</b> attend an accepted school with live judging session &amp; submit written verification</li> <li>• Complete rulebook test with score <math>\geq 85\%</math></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judged and/or scribed at least 6 shows over a minimum 3 year period</li> <li>• Submit at least 3 evaluation forms of shows judged or scribed under NE "A" judge, including judge's comments.</li> </ul>

**Skilled A Judges** – These are experienced judges who would be qualified and interested in judging large shows, including County/Regional/State Shows.

Skilled A Level Prerequisites	Ready to Level Up? Skilled B to Skilled A*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete all above B Level requirements</li> <li>• Must successfully complete an interview with the New England Program's Selection Committee during attendance at NEJS</li> <li>• Must be willing to assist/teach if asked at NEJS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judged at least 6 shows in the last 3 years (<i>not including novice experience</i>)</li> <li>• Submit at least 3 evaluation forms of shows judged or scribed under NE "A" judge, including judge's comments.</li> </ul> <p><b>* currently only offered at in-person NEJS</b></p>



**Complete Your Registration Early!**

Registration is now open until **February 17, 2023**. **No on site registration will be allowed!**

- *Attending the 2023 New England 4-H Judges' School for certification?*  
**\$75 SINGLE CARD      \$85 JUDGE/STEWARD COMBO CARD**  
 Includes all educational sessions, annual card fee and lunch on Saturday.
  
- *Renewing your card but not attending this year?*  
**\$50 SINGLE CARD      \$60 JUDGE/STEWARD COMBO CARD**  
 Includes annual card fee  
 Verification of attendance to an accepted alternate school **must** be provided with renewal application (between 2021-2022).
  
- *Auditing the 2023 New England 4-H Judges' School for the education?*  
**\$50**  
 Includes all educational sessions and lunch on Saturday.

**Registration Refund & Cancellations**

Refunds will be made in full for cancellations received in writing by March 1, 2023. **No refunds will be issued for cancellations after this date.**

The New England 4-H Horse Show Rules & Judge Education Program reserves the right to cancel or postpone any course activity due to insufficient enrollment, inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances. If school is canceled or postponed, the program will refund registration fees but cannot be held responsible for other costs, charges or expenses, including cancellation/change charges assessed by hotels, airlines or travel agencies.

**Rulebook Test**

Upon receipt of your registration, a written test will be emailed to you. Your completed test must be postmarked on or before **March 13, 2023** to:

New England 4-H Horse Show Judge Education Program  
 C/O Carol Birdsey, Judge's Application Coordinator  
 2 Randolph Road  
 Middletown, CT 06457  
[newenglandjudgesschool@gmail.com](mailto:newenglandjudgesschool@gmail.com)

**Materials Library** *(to access scan QR code with a mobile device)*

New England 4-H Horse Show Rulebook *(revised 2022)*

New England 4-H Horse Show Bit Rules & Guidelines *(revised 2020)*

New England 4-H Horse Sample Forms & Scoresheets *(revised 2022)*

[4-h.extension.uconn.edu/forms](http://4-h.extension.uconn.edu/forms)

**Awarding of Judge's Card and Verification of Attendance**

Verification of participation will be provided following completion. All 2023 New England Judge's & Steward's Cards will be awarded to successful candidates following the completion of school and evaluations turned in. To receive attendance credit, officials must sign in both days.

If you are renewing by mail, you should receive your card approximately three weeks after school closes. Auditors will be provided with a certificate of attendance.



## 2023 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY, March 24th

- 5:00—9:00pm\* Interviews for Skilled Level A Candidates  
*\*Subject to change due to number of applicants. TBD*

### SATURDAY, March 25th *Smith College*

- 8:00—8:45am **REGISTRATION** - *Coffee, tea and water available*
- 8:45—9:00am Welcome/Housekeeping/POAC information
- 9:00—9:30am Keynote Address
- 9:35—12:00pm Breakout sessions (*more details to come*)
- 12:00—1:15pm **LUNCH**
- 1:15—5:00pm Breakout sessions (*more details to come*)

### SUNDAY, March 26th *Mount Holyoke College Equestrian Center*

- 8:30am Live Judging: Interactive discussion
- 11:00am Wrap Up/Receive Certificates/Dismissal





# 2023 Registration for New England Judges' School

Please **LEGIBLY PRINT** all information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_



ESE Alumni 18-25 only

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Contact # \_\_\_\_\_ Contact # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I will be attending the **2023 New England Judges' School**.

Enclosed is a check in the amount of **\$75 / \$85** which includes educational sessions, card fee and lunch.

\_\_\_\_ I **attended another accepted 4-H Judges' School** in 2021 or 2022 and choose **only to renew** my New England Judges' Card at this time.

Enclosed is a check for **\$50 / \$60** which includes the annual card fee. I have included a **COMPLETED** renewal application.

\_\_\_\_ I will attend the program as an educational auditor. I realize this does not qualify me as a carded judge.

Enclosed is a check in the amount of **\$50** which includes educational sessions and lunch.

**Return this completed registration form with payment by February 17th and you will receive an email confirmation. No registrations will be accepted after February 17th.**

**\*\*Make all checks payable to *CT Horse Advisory Council*\*\***

*Note: There will be a \$40 returned check fee for any checks with insufficient funds*

**Mail by February 17, 2023 to:**

New England 4-H Horse Show Rules & Judge Education Program  
C/O Carol Birdsey / Judge's Application Coordinator  
2 Randolph Road  
Middletown, CT 06457  
E-mail: [newenglandjudgesschool@gmail.com](mailto:newenglandjudgesschool@gmail.com)



New Application       Renewal Application

**STEWARD/JUDGE APPLICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contact numbers: 1<sup>st</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Are you over 18 years of age?      Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate which level for which you wish to apply or renew. Refer above for level requirements.

\_\_\_ Skilled A    \_\_\_ Skilled B    \_\_\_ Novice    \_\_\_ Steward

**Please rank all of the following classes based on your judging experience (using numbers 1-5—1=most confident, 5=least confident; you may use numbers more than once):**

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| ___ Western Horsemanship/Equitation                               | ___ Halter                |
| ___ Hunters/Jumpers over fences                                   | ___ Lunge Line            |
| ___ Saddle Seat Equitation/Pleasure                               | ___ Discipline Rail       |
| ___ Hunt Seat Equitation/Pleasure                                 | ___ Timed Driving Classes |
| ___ Driving Reinsmanship/Pleasure                                 | ___ Gymkhana              |
| ___ Miniature Horses (multiple types of classes)                  | ___ Gaited Horses         |
| ___ Donkeys and Mules (multiple types of classes)                 | ___ Fitting & Showmanship |
| ___ Draft Breeds (Halter and driving)                             | ___ Trail                 |
| ___ Dressage ___ English ___ Western                              | ___ Command               |
| ___ Reining   | ___ Ranch Riding          |
| ___ High School/College Equestrian Teams                          |                           |
| ___ Horse Judging Contests (must assign cuts & give oral reasons) |                           |

Check Associations that you currently hold an Approved Judges Card from:

All 4-H Cards: \_\_\_\_\_

AQHA     AMHA     NSBA     APHA     AHSA     ApHC     IBHA     PHBA

PtHA     POAC     Mini: \_\_\_ AMHA    \_\_\_ AMHR/ASPC

Other: \_\_\_\_\_ **(Proof required – please attach)**

Attendance at a New England 4-H Horse Program Committee approved judges' clinic is required before finalizing your approval as a New England 4-H Horse Program carded judge. Attach proof or email of person who can verify your attendance at clinic.

Date 4-H Judges' School was attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of 4-H Judges' School attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Were you ever a 4-H member? \_\_\_ leader? \_\_\_ volunteer? \_\_\_ (check all that apply)

Brief description, if any, of your 4-H experience:

How many years have you been judging? \_\_\_\_\_ stewarding? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever had a novice judge work under your direction? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

**A listing of all shows judged with contact person for each show judged in 2022 (a completed evaluation for each show judged will be accepted in place of a listing of shows as long as there is contact information for a show official on that evaluation). Please indicate if show was group rail classes or individual rides. (ex. dressage shows, trail, hunter/jumper, etc)**

If no shows judged please tell us why:

Not Asked

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been suspended from an association? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

If yes, please explain with attached documentation.

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

If yes, please explain with attached documentation.

I verify that all information on this form is complete and accurate. I also agree to abide by the Expectation of Ethics, and understand that failure to do may result in my removal from the New England 4-H Horse Judges' List.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Return by February 17, 2023 to:**

New England 4-H Horse Show Judge Education Program  
C/O Carol Birdsey / Judge's Application Coordinator  
2 Randolph Road  
Middletown, CT 06457  
E-mail: [newenglandjudgesschool@gmail.com](mailto:newenglandjudgesschool@gmail.com)







## New England 4-H Horse Show Rules & Judge Education Program DESIGNATION OF OFFICIALS

The designation of being a New England 4-H Horse Show Judge or Steward is a privilege. Qualifications that the New England 4-H Horse Show Rules & Judge Education Program is searching for include equine expertise, personal character and an interest in the New England and all 4-H Youth Horse Programs. Professional conduct is expected at all times. Status as an approved New England 4-H Horse Show Judge or Steward may be revoked by the New England 4-H Horse Show Rules & Judge Education Program's Selection Committee at any time without a formal hearing. As a courtesy, the Program's Selection Committee may grant a 60-day notice if possible. No privilege of appeal shall be available. A rejected applicant may re-apply one year after date of rejection. An additional fee is required for this application.

The information on this application is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge. I fully understand any inaccuracies or discrepancies will be considered unfavorable in my application. Furthermore, I understand that the designated authorities of the New England 4-H Horse Show Rules & Judge Education Program have the right to accept or deny this application, as well as the right to withdraw my name from the New England 4-H Horse Judges' List at any time. I will not challenge the Program's acceptance or rejection of my application, or its decision to remove me if so moved. I agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the New England 4-H Horse Show Rulebook & Guidelines, and the Code of Conduct in consideration for the addition of my name to the New England 4-H Horse Judges' List. I also understand that failure to do so may result in my removal from said list.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name



## CODE OF CONDUCT

***Please initial next to each statement in order to be in compliance with our code of conduct.***

\_\_\_ My primary responsibility is to provide a safe, educational 4-H Program environment and experience for children ages 5 – 18, abiding by all state and federal laws.

\_\_\_ I will represent the 4-H Program in a professional manner in all dealings, respecting diversity of people, ideas, and organizations.

\_\_\_ I will master the rules of this sport and do my best to enforce them fairly and equally.

\_\_\_ I will prepare myself physically and mentally, and dress professionally to maintain the high standards of our industry.

\_\_\_ I will fulfill all my contractual obligations when hired and contracted for a job. In the event I am unable to (emergency), I will notify event managers as soon as possible and help find my replacement.

\_\_\_ I will work with show managers and officials in a cooperative manner.

\_\_\_ I understand that being a New England 4-H Horse Show Rules & Judge Education Program Judge and/or Steward is a privilege, not a right, and I will uphold my status with dignity and respect. At any time if my conduct violates this, my status could be revoked by the board of this committee.

\_\_\_ I will refrain from any alcohol use before and during my official duties.

\_\_\_ I will report to the Committee anything that could be a bribe, or an attempt to bribe me in my judging capacities.

\_\_\_ I agree to act professionally at all times, treat each person and animal with respect, and make decisions ethically with integrity and with the intent to grow the industry and educate both children and adults to the best of my ability. I also agree to use social media in a professional manner and I understand that my status as a judge could come into question should I violate the use of social media.

\_\_\_ I recognize that 4-H is a positive youth development education organization, engaging youth and volunteers in their area of interest and fostering a sense of belonging in members and volunteers and I will frame any communications with youth and volunteers with this in mind.

\_\_\_ I agree to continue my education and look for ways to learn and grow as a judge, with the priority being to stay current on all rules and regulations, along with industry standards.

\_\_\_ I agree to place each class in accordance with the rules and class specifications of the New England 4-H Horse Show Rule Book & Guidelines.

\_\_\_ I agree to be courteous and respectful, demonstrate good sportsmanship and deal with conflicts in a tactful manner.

\_\_\_ I will be a positive role model for youth.

\_\_\_ I agree to dress professionally in accordance with the event I am judging. I am a representative of 4-H and I will conduct myself in a responsible and respectful manner while at any event I am attending as an official.

\_\_\_ I agree to stand for the welfare of all living animals and in the event I am witness to any abuse, neglect or other actions that would question the health or safety of an animal, I will report it to the show management and also follow up with any report or information the show officials may need in order to guarantee that animals will be checked on and cared for now and in the future.

*(Continued on Next Page)*



# CODE OF CONDUCT

I have been provided with the opportunity to review the above code of conduct and have been given the opportunity to ask questions, and any questions have been answered satisfactorily. By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to adhere to the code of conduct described in this document. I understand that failure to comply with this code of conduct may result in disciplinary action or termination as a Horse and Pony Judge for the New England 4-H Horse Show Rules & Judge Education Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
New England Extension Representative Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Representative



## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

### Have you included all the necessary items required?

- School Registration Form
- Completed Application
  - Designation of Officials
  - Code of Conduct
  - Verification Documentation (if applicable)
- Payment
- Rulebook Test (*separate from this packet*) Returned by March 13, 2023



### More Questions?

Follow us on Facebook!

@New England 4-H Horse Show Rules & Judge Education Program

Contact Us:

**Deb Danforth, Chair**

**New England 4-H Horse Show Rules & Judge Education Program**

802-468-1223 Office / 802-353-6034 Cell

[deborah.danforth@castleton.edu](mailto:deborah.danforth@castleton.edu)

Your email or call will be returned as soon as possible

**Carol Birdsey, Judge's Application Coordinator**

860-344-1804

[newenglandjudgesschool@gmail.com](mailto:newenglandjudgesschool@gmail.com)

\*\*All communication will be via email unless you specifically request communication via USPS\*\*

*“Make the Best Better”*

