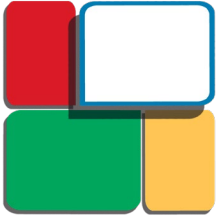


# WHAT IS HIPPOLOGY?

NEW JERSEY 4-H EQUINE PROGRAM



## CONCEPT

- Participate in a Hippology type contest.
- Learning and responding to questions on horses.

## AUDIENCE

Intended for youth in grades 4-13 (one year out of high school). The activity can be conducted individually or in teams.

## PRIORITY AREA

- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- STEM

## LIFE SKILLS

- Decision making
- Critical thinking
- Cooperation
- Teamwork



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Hippology is the study of horses. Learning hippology helps 4-H members build a strong foundation in equine knowledge by exploring how horses are built, how they function, how they are managed, and how they fit into the horse industry.

Topics studied in hippology include:

- Anatomy and physiology
- Breeds and genetics
- Horse health, diseases, and parasites
- Reproduction
- History and uses of the horse
- Nutrition and management
- The modern horse industry

### 2026 EDUCATIONAL TOPICS

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Reproduction
- Evolution
- History and Uses
- Management

## CONTEST OVERVIEW

The 4-H Hippology Contest is composed of four phases, each designed to test knowledge, critical thinking, and teamwork.

Contest Phases:

- Written Phase
- Judging Phase
- Team Problems Phase
- Stations Phase

At the New Jersey 4-H State Hippology Contest, youth compete within their respective age divisions. The contest is divided into Junior and Senior divisions, with additional opportunities available for Cloverbud members.

Each year, the highest-scoring Senior participants earn the opportunity to represent New Jersey 4-H at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Round-Up in Louisville, Kentucky.

Hippology is a fun and rewarding way to learn about horses while working alongside other horse enthusiasts — just like you!

## MATERIALS

The following materials are available on the NJ 4-H Hippology page of the NJ State 4-H Competition Resource site. These materials are intended to support learning, practice, and contest preparation:

- **Written Exam Resources** – Links to junior- and senior-level sample written exams with answer keys to help members practice equine knowledge and test-taking skills
- **Slide Deck/ID Exam Resources** – Sample slide decks and identification materials that allow members to practice recognizing anatomy, breeds, equipment, health conditions, and management topics
- **Stations Resources** – Practice station materials and curated educational references from Extension and industry organizations covering a wide range of hippology topics
- **Team Problem Resources** – Sample team problems and guidance to help members practice working together to analyze real-world horse industry scenarios and present solutions

*All materials are provided for educational purposes and may be updated throughout the year. Participants should refer to the current contest rules for specific requirements.*

- Explore the resource materials to learn about the contest structure and topics.
- Begin with basic topics and gradually introduce more advanced material as you gain confidence.
- Practice written exam questions, slide identification images, and station materials.
- Design a mini-contest using practice materials.

## REFLECT

- How did you feel answering the written and identification questions?
- Which topics were familiar to you, and which ones were new or challenging?
- What strategies helped you remember information at the stations?
- Would you be interested in learning more or participating on a hippology team?

## APPLY

- Compete as an individual or with a team at county or state 4-H Hippology events.
- Practice regularly using written questions, slides, and stations at club meetings.
- Use interactive tools such as slide presentations, videos, or online quizzes to reinforce learning.
- Explore how hippology knowledge can improve horse care, management, and decision-making—even if you do not own a horse.

## RESOURCES

- New Jersey 4-H Hippology Contest Rules
- American Youth Horse Council (AYHC) *Horse Industry Handbook and Horse Smarts: An Equine Reference & Youth Activity Guide*. <https://www.ayhc.com>
- Illustrated Dictionary of Equine Terms, New Horizons Equine Education Center <https://www.alpinepub.com>
- Feeding and Care of the Horse (2nd ed.), Lon D. Lewis. <https://www.wiley.com>
- The Coloring Atlas of Horse Anatomy, Robert A. Kainer & Thomas O. McCracken. <https://www.alpinepub.com>
- The Horse (3rd ed.), J. Warren Evans et al. <https://www.waveland.com>

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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