



PA 4-H Horse Program Horse Cloverbud Evaluation Form

PLEASE NOTE:

- The Horse Cloverbud Evaluation Form is required for all 4-H Cloverbud youth in the PA 4-H Horse Program who plan to participate in any mounted exhibition only events or county mounted activities. It is recommended this form be used for all Cloverbud members participating in mounted club activities as well.
- Youth should be evaluated on the horse/rider combination.
- Evaluation forms should be kept on file in county extension offices.
- All Cloverbud policies apply (see PA 4-H Cloverbud Guide and PA 4-H Horse Cloverbud Policy & Safety Guidelines).

Name _____ County _____

Horse's Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

4-H age (age on Jan. 1st of the current 4-H year) _____

Club Name _____

Club Leader(s) _____

Exhibition Level to be Evaluated: *(please check box below)*

☐ **Lead Line:**

- The youth is mounted and led by a handler, who is 18 years of age or older and has horse related experience.
- Youth must be capable of holding the reins in their hands.
- Youth will not be asked to back their horse.
- Youth may participate in the exhibition level in the Cloverbud Lead Line Division.

☐ **Walk/Trot or Walk/Jog:** ☐ **with handler** ☐ **with supervision**

- Youth is mounted and able to ride safely in walk/trot or walk/jog situations, with or without a handler.
- Youth is not expected to know their diagonals.
- Youth will not be asked to back their horse.
- Youth must be able to control their horse in a group setting.
- Youth may participate in the exhibition level in the Cloverbud Walk/Trot or Walk/Jog Division.

Parent Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

** Parent/Guardian Signature - signifies that the child and parent are interested in this child having a Horse Cloverbud Evaluation and experience; and that the parent is giving their approval for this evaluation to be performed and will comply with evaluation outcome.*

EVALUATION

SUITABILITY OF HORSE & MEMBER

- Does the horse's disposition match the youth's Horse Cloverbud Evaluation level? yes no
- Is the training level of the horse appropriate for this youth? yes no

Other comments about this child's riding evaluation _____

This youth has been evaluated and approved to ride as a Cloverbud at the (check the appropriate riding level below):

- ☐ This Cloverbud rider and horse combination is not quite ready to participate in county events. Please continue to work on horsemanship skills at home and club events and re-evaluate when appropriate.
- ☐ **Lead Line** – Youth has demonstrated an ability to maintain balance, a proper riding position and basic safety around horses.
- ☐ **Walk/Trot or Walk/Jog with a handler** – Youth has demonstrated an ability to maintain balance and a proper riding position at the walk and trot/jog with the assistance of a handler. Also demonstrates basic safety around horses.
- ☐ **Walk/Trot or Walk/Jog with supervision** - Youth has demonstrated an ability to maintain balance and a proper riding position at the walk and trot/jog in a group setting with adult supervision. Also demonstrates basic safety around horses.
- ☐ **Ready to move on to Level 1 Horsemanship Skills** – You show skills beyond the Horse Cloverbud Evaluation and are ready to test in the PA 4-H Horsemanship Skills Program.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Reevaluation must occur when youth is changing mounts or riding levels.
- The evaluation team must consist of 3 knowledgeable adults, including at least one approved Level 1 and 2 Horsemanship Skills Examiner plus two adults with suitable horse and riding experience to perform the evaluation, which may include 4-H volunteers, instructors or county educator.
- *A child may not be evaluated by their own parent or guardian.*

Evaluation Date: _____ **Evaluator Names:** _____

Office:

- *Copy of Evaluation filed in appropriate county extension office*
- *Recommendations reviewed and accepted by:*

County Educator's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Use the following scale to evaluate the child's skills:

0= not at all	1 = little skill	2 = fair amount of skill	3 = good skills	4 = excellent skills
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GROUND SKILLS: APPROACH, DEMEANOR & PREPARATION AROUND THE HORSE

Does the child: (circle the appropriate number)

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| • Show the desire to ride and possibly exhibit a horse? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| • Demonstrate the ability to understand and follow instructions? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| • Have an adequate attention span for riding and possibly exhibiting a horse? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| • Show respect for the horse and the fact that horses can hurt you? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| • Know that they must always wear a riding helmet when riding a horse? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| • Know that they must always wear equestrian footwear with a distinguishable heel when riding a horse? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| • Show a relaxed, confident attitude about being around the horse? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| • Work quietly around the horse, without being loud? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| • Work softly around the horse, without quick and abrupt body movement? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| • Know how to move around and behind the rear of the horse? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| • Know that they should mainly work from the near side of the horse? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| • Know the near side from the off side of the horse? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| • Have the ability to lead a horse safely with adult assistance? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| • Work safely around the horse? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

SAFETY CHECK

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| • Is the tack safe for riding?* | yes | no |
| • Does the tack fit the horse properly? | yes | no |
| • Does the tack fit the child properly? | yes | no |
| • Does the child's helmet fit properly?* | yes | no |
| • Is the child wearing equestrian footwear with a distinguishable heel?* | yes | no |

**If any of these items are marked as "no", these safety issues need to be addressed before the Cloverbud is permitted to continue with the mounted section of this evaluation.*

Use the following scale to evaluate the child's skills:

0= not at all 1 = little skill 2 = fair amount of skill 3 = good skills 4 = excellent skills

MOUNTED

Please note: Only evaluate the child at the gaits or in the situation necessary for the level for which the child is seeking evaluation. Never ask a child to perform at a gait that you do not feel the child is capable of, regardless of what level the child is seeking evaluation.

(circle the appropriate response)

WALK

- Appear to have the muscle strength to maintain a proper riding position and hold their head in position when wearing a riding helmet? 0 1 2 3 4
- Demonstrate that they have adequate balance to stay in position when riding the horse for the level of riding being considered? 0 1 2 3 4
- Can the youth safely handle the horse at the walk? 0 1 2 3 4
- Does the youth stay in balance with the horse at the walk? 0 1 2 3 4
- Does the youth understand basics going from halt to walk? 0 1 2 3 4

HALT

- Can the youth stop the horse safely and quickly? 0 1 2 3 4

TROT/JOE

- Can the youth safely handle the horse at the trot or jog with a handler? 0 1 2 3 4
- Does the youth stay in balance with the horse at the trot or jog? 0 1 2 3 4
- If applicable, does the youth know their diagonals? NA 0 1 2 3 4
- Is the youth successful at riding on the correct diagonal? NA 0 1 2 3 4
- Does the youth understand how to move the horse from walk to trot or jog? 0 1 2 3 4

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