

2026 Licking County 4-H Horse and Pony Queen | King & Princess | Prince Royalty Program

Dear 4-H Member:

Licking County is proud to have 4-H members that show an interest in running for Licking County Horse & Pony QKPP Royal Court. This shows us that you are interested in spreading the good will that 4-H has to offer children throughout our county.

If chosen as the representative you may be asked to speak at various functions such as 4-H banquets, to participate in parades, assist with opening ceremonies at county shows, and pass out ribbons and trophies at 4-H Horse Shows. In all areas you will be expected to show good sportsmanship and be a true 4-H member in good standing.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS...

QUEEN & KING

- Ages 14 -18 years of age (as of Jan. 1)
- A 4-H member in good standing and eligible for full participation at the Hartford Fair
- Male (King) or Female (Queen)
- No limit as to the number of candidates from the same 4-H club
- A 4-H member at least one year prior to current year
- Must be an Advanced, Intermediate , or Therapeutic Rider

PRINCESS & PRINCE

- Ages 9 -13 years (as of Jan. 1)
- A 4-H member in good standing and eligible for full participation at the Hartford Fair
- Male (Prince) or Female (Princess)
- No limit as to the number of candidates from the same 4-H club
- A 4-H member at least one year prior to current year
- Must be "Second Year Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Therapeutic, or have taken a "horseless horse" project the year before and be a current "First Year Beginner" Rider

EXPECTATIONS OF THE REPRESENTATIVE...

1. Must be able to attend Licking County 4-H Horse Program Functions:
 - a. Participate in opening ceremonies at County 4-H Shows.
 1. This may be split depending on class disciplines.
 - * Contesting, Western, English
 - b. County 4-H Shows & Hartford Fair (Pass Out Ribbons).
 1. Must report to the entry booth and pass out ribbons for a minimum of 4 classes each show day.
 - c. Help at 4-H Clinic April 25, 2026
 - d. Attend Fall Banquet September 20, 2026 (tentative)
2. Attend at least 1 community parade, or more if possible
3. Send thank you notes to all merchants and 4-H clubs that donate items for the royal court contest
4. Attend 4-H club functions (i.e.: meetings, work sessions, banquets) when invited
5. **Attend the 2026 Crowning Program event - June 20, 2026 - 4-H Western Horse Show during 30 min break.**
6. Attend two to three Community Events
7. Must represent oneself in a positive, moral, upstanding manner, reflecting the ideology of 4-H, the Equine program and the Licking County 4-H Horse and Pony Council.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Application must be completed only by the candidate. It must be typed through use of a computer. Contestant does not need to use the original Application Form; however, it must include all information in the same order that is on the original Application form.
2. The candidate may only hold the position he/she is qualified for one year. (Ex. Once you are crowned Princess/Prince you may not run again; however, you can run for Queen/King when you are eligible. Once you are crowned Queen/King you cannot run again.)
3. There will be 2-3 judges present during candidate interviews and public speaking and 1 judge during the horsemanship.
4. Attendance to all scheduled contest events is expected. Judging in all areas must be completed to be eligible for Queen & King / Princess & Prince.
5. Numbers will be assigned to each candidate to designate the order that candidates will participate in the contest. This number will follow the contestant throughout the contest. Queen/King will have even numbers, Princess/Prince odd numbers.
6. If for any reason the representative is unable to fulfill their obligations as Queen/King /Princess/Prince, their crown will be passed to the runner-up. The runner-up will be eligible to run again for that position, if age allows.
7. Horseless Horse project members are not eligible for this competition because they do not have their own project animal.
8. Individual awards will be combined as: Queen & King | Princess & Prince – To be presented at the June 20 show.

PROCEDURES are as follows:

Obtain Royalty Packet: www.licking.osu.edu > 4-H Youth Development > Royalty

Online Only: Please contact your advisor for more information / questions or Heather McClain at 740-404-8714
Email: hmmjemm@yahoo.com

- **Application & Essay Deadline: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 by 10:00p.m.**
- **Interview | Public Speaking | Skillathon: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 (6:30p.m.)**
 - To Be Held – Licking County Extension Office
 - QKPP Dress Code: Business Casual (girls: skirt, dress, or dress pants/boys: dress pants and button shirt)
- **Horsemanship Class: Saturday, April 25, 2026 @ 8:00a.m.**
- **Crowning: Saturday, June 20, 2026 at June 4-H Show (during the 30 minute break)**

Contest Components / Details:

Application to be submitted March 31, 2026 (may be hand-delivered to Heather McClain at March Council meeting or mailed to her at 12884 Staddens Bridge Road, Heath, OH 43056.)

Application should be typed. Contestant does not need to use the original application form; however, it must include all information in the same order as listed on the original application form. Spelling and punctuation will be evaluated. **List accomplishments in a bullet format, starting at the current year and then work backwards.**

Essay needs to be typed / submitted with Application by March 31, 2026.

- Essay must be typed.
- **The only identification on paper will be the assigned number given to the contestant.**
- There will be separate topics for Queen/King and Princess/Prince to write. All essays shall consist of no less than 200 words. Maximum word amount will be 500 words.
- Essay will be evaluated for context, flow of answer, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Interview/Public Speaking to be held on April 15, 2026 – 6:30p.m. (Extension Office)

- Interview/public speaking in front of a panel of judges
- After all contestants have finished a dessert and social gathering will take place.

Skill-A-Thon to be completed on April 15, 2026 –6:30 p.m. (Extension Office)

- Each contestant will complete 40 questions.
 - Identification of horse parts equipment, feed, tack, etc.
 - Resources: project books 190R, 173, 174, 175, 177

Horsemanship to be held on Saturday, April 25, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. (Hartford Fairgrounds)

- Horsemanship will count for 20 points of the overall total score. The horsemanship competition will be held at the Hartford Fairgrounds. (before the start of the 2026 Spring Clinic) Note: If Spring Clinic is not able to be held, all contestants will receive full points in this area.

Scoring System:

- **Application - 10 points**
 - (Graded on neatness, grammar, spelling, and punctuation)
- **Essay - 20 points**
 - (Graded on correct amount of words, grammar, spelling, punctuation, originality, & style.)
- **Interview | Public Speaking - 30 points** (Poise, appearance, personality, response to 4 questions)
- **Skill-A-Thon - 20 points** (40 questions) (1/2pt each)
- **Horsemanship - 20 points** (Basic equitation abilities, performance and ability, presentation)
- **Highest Possible Score: 100 points**

Contestants MUST use their 4-H project horse (horse on ID form) for the entire contest.

The purpose of this category is to select the Contestant who rates the highest in:

1. Horsemanship: Control of mount and the way each situation that may occur is handled
2. Balance- ability to sit correctly in the saddle (or proper posture in cart)
3. Position of hands, feet, and seat
4. The understanding and skill of the contestant will be judged and not the horse or equipment
5. Presentation - one's ability to show. Contestants should remember that this will be judged on how the contestant cues the horse, not the horses' ability. Contestants should strive for a smooth pattern.
6. On the day of the competition contestants will draw for positions. Upon completion of drawing parents, trainers and anyone else associated with the contestants will be asked to take a seat in the stands until the judging is completed. Each contestant will be allowed to have one person (groom) remain with them in the paddock area during the horsemanship portion of the competition.
7. Contestants are to wear Driving, English or Western show attire, helmet and boots for the "horsemanship" portion of the contest.
8. Each contestant will be judged on her ability to control their horse and the response their horse has to their commands. Horse and rider should be good working partners.
9. Once the last contestant is finished, all contestants will enter the arena and line up in numerical order in the center of the arena so the judges can make their final scores. Note: Although it is not your horse or tack being judged you should still take pride in your attire and the cleanliness of your horse and tack. The horsemanship portion of the competition will consist of rail work and a horsemanship pattern.
10. First go-round: This round will consist of rail work. All contestants will enter the arena in order of drawn position. You will have to walk, trot, lope (King/Queen) and reverse direction as the announcer requests.
11. During rail work for Princess/Prince there will be no loping
12. Second go-round: This round will consist of pattern work. All contestants will individually enter the arena and complete the pattern in order of the drawn position. Please see the attached pattern.

Tie Breaking

If a tie in overall points occurs then a contest winner will be determined using the top three scores in individual testing categories (i.e. Skill-a-thon, essay, interview/public speaking). If candidates scored the same or equal high scores in two categories, then the highest Interview/Public Speaking score will determine the contest winner.

2026 Licking County 4-H Horse & Pony Queen/King & Princess/Prince

Application

Name: _____

4-H Project Book # and Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Grade in School: _____ (2025/2026 school year)

Name of School Attending: _____

4-H Club Name: _____

Advisor(s): _____

Royalty Number: _____ Age (As of Jan 1): _____

Number of Years in 4-H: _____

Current 4-H Riding level ie: Therapeutic/2nd Year Beginner/Intermediate/Advanced: _____

Extracurricular Activities:

ESSAY QUESTION:

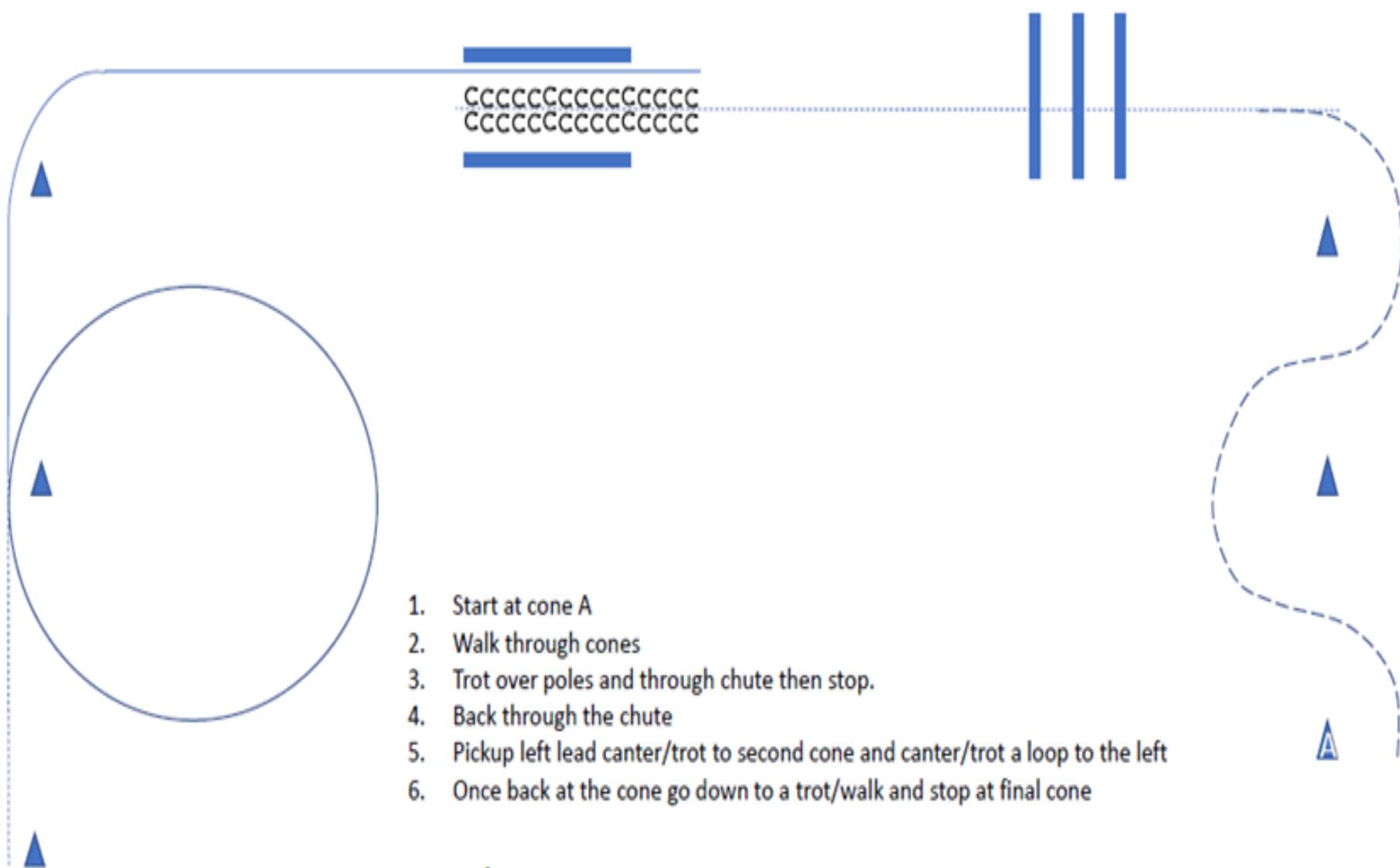
Please use the appropriate question depending on which royalty for which you wish to be considered.

Essays should be typed and no more than 500 words.

- King and Queen – use this topic:
 - o Why do you feel that you would be a good representative for the Licking County Equine Royalty program, and how would you help the program grow?

- Prince and Princess - use this topic:
 - o Why do you feel that you would be a good representative for the Licking County Equine Royalty program, and how would you help the program grow?

Royalty Horsemanship Pattern



1. Start at cone A
2. Walk through cones
3. Trot over poles and through chute then stop.
4. Back through the chute
5. Pickup left lead canter/trot to second cone and canter/trot a loop to the left
6. Once back at the cone go down to a trot/walk and stop at final cone

prince/princess will trot at 5 and walk at 6