



# 2024 Berrien County 4-H Versatility Scholarship Event



## **Purpose:**

The purpose of the Berrien County 4-H Versatility Event is to identify and recognize the most versatile 4-H teen-member and horse team in the Berrien County Horse and Pony Project. We encourage the 4-H youth to further his/her post high school education or training.

## **Sponsor:**

Berrien County 4-H Horse Leaders Association.

## **Date:**

Sunday, August 11, 2024, 3:00 PM at the beginning of the Berrien County Youth Fair. All participants must check in and have tack inspected no later than 2:30 PM. New this year, exhibitor packets will be available for pick up during the exhibitor meeting on Sunday, August 11, 2024 at 1:00pm under the Horse Grand Stands. Additionally, event class patterns, if applicable will be posted starting on August 1 online at:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/berrien\\_county\\_4\\_h/associations-committees-/berrien-county-4-h-horse-leaders](https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/berrien_county_4_h/associations-committees-/berrien-county-4-h-horse-leaders) and be sent to exhibitors via email that is listed on application form.

## **Eligibility:**

Open to any Berrien County 4-H member who is 14–19 years of age **and** has completed the ninth grade. Maximum years participating in the event not to exceed five. Age/grade determined as of January 1, 2024.

Exhibitors must be enrolled in the Berrien County 4-H Horse and Pony Project by July 1, 2024. You can verify your eligibility through the Michigan State University Extension Office in Berrien County at 269-927-5674.

It is required for all participants, or a representative, to volunteer for a minimum of two (2) hours. Volunteer service hours need to be related to the horse and pony project. Example of volunteer service hours projects include but are not limited to:

- Assisting at a local Horse Show as a gate attendant or entry office
- Assisting at the We Can Ride 4-H Club
- Assisting cleaning out stalls at the Berrien County Youth Fair

Volunteer service hours must be submitted no later than **August 1, 2024**, to receive credit. Volunteer service hours must be done between **June 1, 2024 – August 1, 2024**, to be counted. Volunteer service requirements can be submitted online at: [https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bjYC7ytg0XA9VVVs](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bjYC7ytg0XA9VVVs) or to Gail Freehling, 4-H Versatility Scholarship Event Chair, at [gail.a.freehling@gmail.com](mailto:gail.a.freehling@gmail.com).

The horse used for the Berrien County 4-H Versatility Scholarship Event must be registered, verified, and exhibited at the Berrien County Youth Fair by the 4-H member and on the grounds during Fair week.

Member and horse must have registration forms completed and postmarked for the Berrien County 4-H Versatility Scholarship Event by **July 15, 2024**. Registration forms must be mailed to:

Gail Freehling  
4-H Versatility Scholarship Event  
17483 Avery Rd  
Three Oaks, MI 49128-9517

A headshot photo of the exhibitor and their equine should be e-mailed to [gail.a.freehling@gmail.com](mailto:gail.a.freehling@gmail.com) in jpeg format no later than July 21, 2024.

### **Classes:**

1. Showmanship: (Western or English) Riders and horses to be correctly appointed.
2. English Equitation: Riders may ride a hunt seat, dressage or saddle seat. Approved ASTM safety helmets are required.

Mandatory Tack Change (4 minutes)

3. Western Horsemanship: Riders and horses to be correctly appointed.
4. Gymkhana: **Speed and Action** (Western or English) - Tack and apparel to complement one another. Approved ASTM safety helmets are required. Horse and rider must maintain a minimum jog/trot and not lose forward motion.

### **Rules:**

1. The exhibitor and parent/leader are responsible for all written rules.
2. One horse/one rider combination.
3. "The Michigan 4-H Horse & Pony Show Rules and Regulations and General Rules" apply to this event.
4. Once the horse and rider enter the arena, neither may leave until the completion of the Versatility Event without direct permission from the chairperson.
5. The exhibitor must participate in Showmanship, English Equitation, the Mandatory Tack Change, Western Horsemanship and Gymkhana. Failure to participate in the required classes and tack change will result in disqualification from the Versatility Event and no points will be given.
6. Four minutes will be allowed for the tack change. The time does not start until all grooms are in place inside the ring. Any participants not ready to compete, in proper tack and attire, at the end of the 4 minutes will be disqualified from the Versatility Event.
7. Two grooms are allowed per exhibitor; they will be the only ones allowed in the makeup arena area during the Event.
8. Horse and rider must have proper tack and attire for each class.
9. All patterns will be posted on the pattern wall by the Jack Dean make up ring by noon on Saturday, August 10, 2024. Patterns will also be emailed to registered participants starting on August 1.
10. Grievances must be submitted, in writing and signed to the Berrien County 4-H Horse Leaders Association, Versatility Committee, at the BCYF Horse Show Office, within one hour of completion of the last class.
11. Calling the event due to unforeseen circumstances (i.e. weather, etc.) will be at the discretion of the Versatility Committee.
12. Due to ring space limitations and safety considerations, classes maybe split at the discretion of the Berrien County 4-H Horse Leaders Association Versatility Scholarship Event Committee if there is over 18 youth participants. Class splits will be at the discretion of the Berrien County 4-H Horse Leaders Association Versatility Scholarship Event Committee. Youth will be notified of the split class assignment upon pickup of Exhibitor packet.

## **Judging:**

The Versatility Committee will hire two judges for the Event.

A maximum of 10 points per judge, per contestant, will be awarded in each class.

If a horse is deemed to be out of control, at the judges' discretion, the exhibitor will be asked to come to the center of the ring and will receive no points for the class.

Based on the judges' scores, final placings will be tallied and awarded by the Versatility Committee.

Individual points will be posted no earlier than one hour after the completion of the last class, if there are no grievances pending.

## **Tie:**

The tie breaker judge will be Judge A and based upon 4-H Horse and Pony project question(s).

## **Awards:**

Placing ribbons will be awarded to the top ten participants, participation ribbons will be awarded to the remainder of the exhibitors. There will also be a Champion and Reserve Champion Scholarship awarded. No BCYF premiums. The Champion will receive a \$500.00 education scholarship from the Berrien County 4-H Horse Leaders. The Reserve Champion will receive a \$250.00 educational scholarship. The Champion and Reserve Champion will also receive a keepsake plaque in addition to the traveling trophy. All Berrien County 4-H Horse Leaders scholarships awarded must be used by the recipient to further his/her education within one year of their high school graduation. **If it is not used within that time, the Berrien County 4-H Horse Leaders Association will consider a donation back to the Berrien County 4-H Horse Leaders Association in the amount of the scholarship.**

**Peer Sportsmanship Award:** Exhibitors participating in the Versatility Event will vote on a fellow exhibitor who exhibits the most positive and appropriate sportsmanlike behavior throughout the Versatility Event. The award will be given prior to the Event's placings. In the event of a tie, duplicate awards will be given.

## **Examples of Announcements:**

Example #1 – Not Ideal Statement:

Sarah is riding her 15-year-old Quarter Horse gelding, Zips Big Shadow. Sarah enjoys sports and competing on the Bridgman Equestrian Team. She will be a freshman at Lake Michigan College with plans of majoring in Business Management. This is Sarah's first year with the River Valley Wranglers 4-H Club and her eighth year in 4-H, where she participates in Horse, Sheep, and Craft Projects.

Example #2 – Ideal Statement:

Emma has been a member of the Great Expectations 4-H Club for 5 years and is the current Treasurer. She is the daughter of Julie and Dan Smith of Berrien Springs. Emma is riding her mare, Sugar Coated Rapper, also known as "Sugar." They have been a team for 3 years. In the fall, Emma will be a senior at Berrien Springs High School. There she is on the Equestrian Team, Varsity Softball, and Volleyball team.

**DO NOT TURN APPLICATION INTO THE BERRIEN COUNTY YOUTH FAIR OFFICE**

**2024 Berrien County 4-H Versatility Scholarship Event  
Registration Form**

Please print or type all of the following information:

4-H Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Names: \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Completed: \_\_\_\_\_ High School Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Horse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Alt. Horse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Provide a brief description of the horse and rider to be used for announcements and publicity (e.g., 4-H Club, number of years in 4-H, 4-H activities, awards, number of years with this horse, sports and extracurricular activities)

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We have read and understand the rules and information concerning the 2024 Berrien County 4-H Versatility Event and agree to hold the Berrien County 4-H Horse Leaders Association harmless.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

**Registrations must be postmarked by July 15, 2024, and mailed to be eligible:**

Gail Freehling  
4-H Versatility Scholarship Event  
17483 Avery Rd  
Three Oaks, MI 49128-9517

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