

It's Fundraising Time...

For those who are new to the Macomb County 4H Horse Program, Welcome! For those who are returning we have rolled out a new format so please take the time to review all the information on our annual fundraising for the 2025 program!

What is the fundraiser? This year we will be using a calendar format to allow the youth to ask local businesses, friends, family etc.. to help sponsor days of the month. For example, Trisha asks her mom if she is willing to help sponsor Lily for the 2025 4H season. Kathy chooses to sponsor the 10th, 20th and 30th of the month of March which will bring in \$60 towards Lilys fundraising goal. Another example, my neighbor is willing to sponsor the 23rd of March and gives \$23 towards my son's 4H fundraising goal. The goal is to sell the whole month (every day)!

How often do we fundraise? Typically in the past we have only had one fundraiser before the start of show season. This typically allows the committee to determine what funds are available to allocate to what areas. Being this is a new format we will be rolling out two fundraisers (March and April Sponsorship) in hopes we can continue the success of the 4H horse program moving forward.

Who do I give the fundraising money to? Each participant will be responsible for turning in funds to their 4H leader who then tracks the data and turns the funds into Michelle Short.

Why do we fundraise? The total cost for the 2024 season was \$13,547.34. All of the money raised each year is given back to the youth to allow them an affordable experience with their equine partner and in addition be recognized for their hard work and efforts throughout the year. We are able to keep the cost to show at a minimum (\$100 or less for the entire season) and this allows the youth to compete at 3 shows with one being double judged.

What about the registration fee I pay? This allows a 4H participant to show at the county's shows and covers the baseline of costs like covering some of the judges fee and a minimal amount of funds towards ribbons at the shows. In order to keep the costs affordable for the youth the fundraising makes up the difference to allow for awards, banquet prizes, quality judges etc.. (Excluded from this is your banquet ticket cost)

What does the funds go to from fundraising? Below is an overview of all the costs for the 2024 season. This will give participants and families a clear picture of how critical it is to raise enough funds in order to continue the program year after year.

2024 Banquet Awards - \$5636.34

2024 Banquet Door prize for the kids- donated by Trisha (\$75)

2024 Banquet centerpieces/Dessert Table - \$177

2024 Top ad seller prizes - \$55
2024 Judges - \$4375
2024 Ribbon Cost - \$1545
2024 Insurance - \$571
2024 State Show - \$685
2024 Misc Grounds fee - \$428
Total - \$13,547.34

Registration fees brought in - \$8215
2024 Fundraising collected - \$6585

What happens if we do not raise enough from fundraising? Without enough funds raised the cost of registration will have to increase or cuts will have to be made. This can include eliminating the banquet, lesser quality prizes, elimination of ribbons, less shows made available etc..

How much money should each participant aim to raise? For the 2025 season we will be asking that each participant ***aim*** to raise a total of \$200 per person. Please note that more is always better so anyone who raises over the goal is so appreciated and will only make our program that much better! Last year we received great feedback on the banquet. We would love to make it even better for our youth! Fundraising specifically will allow for better banquet prizes, weekend highpoints, bigger and better rosettes at each show, more opportunity to grow the program, covering inflation that happens year after year etc.

What if I have multiple kids in the program? Each participant will be expected to participate in the fundraiser. We ask that you review the cost overview from the previous season (listed above) and what went into each individual to allow them a successful year. We need everyone to participate and work together to allow for another stellar season and for each participant to be recognized for their hard work and efforts.

What if I am not comfortable or have the time to ask businesses, friends, family etc. for sponsorship? Participants are more than welcome to cover the difference they would make from fundraising and turn it in to Michelle Short.

*******The deadline for Fundraising (same as registration) will be May 1, 2025. Please fill out the attached tally sheet that allows each participant to track what was collected.**

