



THE 2023-2024 LOUISIANA 4-H EQUINE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

OUR MISSION

The Louisiana 4-H Equine Ambassador program provides an opportunity for 4-H youth in grades 9th to 12th to be empowered with knowledge of the Equine industry in order to serve as strong advocates for agriculture, mentors for younger 4-H member with the horse project, and educators in the importance of the equine industry our state and country.

AS A LOUISIANA 4-H AMBASSADOR, MEMBERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO

- Participate in state-wide in-depth training and orientation for the Equine Ambassador Program.
- Demonstrate a solid knowledge basis of both agriculture and animal science at the state and national level through program evaluations and formal testing.
- Be an active member of the Louisiana 4-H Youth Development Program.
- Serve as a positive role model as an Equine Ambassador at the parish, region, and state levels. This role includes assisting with parish, regional, and state horse project trainings, horse shows, and other events as deemed necessary by parish, regional, or state 4-H program leadership.
- Complete any necessary reporting requirements related to outreach and hours served as an Equine Ambassador.
- Participate in all of the Equine Ambassador meetings, both virtual and in-person.
- Develop a variety of Equine educational activities which can be presented within the 4-H program or at outreach events to educate individuals on topics such as the importance of agriculture, animal welfare, agriculture supply chain, agriculture policy, and others which the ambassador may have an interest in.
- Maintain a strong and clear communication link with Equine Ambassador Coordinator, which includes responding to phone call, emails, posting on social media, and/or online internet projects.
- Assist with horse-related educational programs at 4-H University, LSU AgCenter State Horse Show, and other applicable events when recruited.
- Provide their own transportation to events, when necessary.
- Complete at least 40 hours of documented outreach education and/or service at the parish, regional, or state level.
- Submit Equine Ambassador contract, read entire member packet, and pay membership dues by June 24, 2023

COSTS

- Each Louisiana 4-H Livestock Ambassador should plan to pay approximately \$500 to \$1,000 annually for participating in the program until a substantial funder is secured. Costs include:
 - In-depth college level educational experiences through state-wide orientation and training.
 - Polo and other wearable identifying youth as an official Louisiana 4-H Equine Ambassador
 - Louisiana 4-H Equine Ambassador nametag

ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

Most of the Equine Ambassador Activities will be conducted during the annual training as well as by email, online website, and/or telephone. 4-H'ers will need to be responsible, dependable, and dedicated to their role as an Equine Ambassador. Dates may be changed due to circumstances beyond control. Other activities may be planned throughout the year. If a required event is not attended, that ambassador will be put on probation until they complete the required make-up tasks.

June 20, 2023	Equine Ambassador Team Interviews at 4-H University
July 24-27, 2023	Equine Ambassador Team Training
June 2024	4-H University
July 2024	LSU AgCenter State Show
*Schedule set by Team at July training	Quarterly Virtual Team Meetings

APPLYING TO BE A LOUISIANA 4-H LIVESTOCK AMBASSADOR

Before a 4-H member is officially named an Equine Ambassador they must:

1. Submit a COMPLETED online application by the deadline: May 5, 2023.
2. Participate in the Equine Ambassador Team Selection Process in June
3. Participate and complete the state-wide orientation and training.
4. Successfully pass a written exam over vital agriculture and animal science fundamentals.

Application Process

1. Please carefully read the entire process and instructions prior to beginning your online application.
2. Applicant will complete an online Louisiana 4-H Livestock Ambassador application. Incomplete applications will not be submitted and applicants are encouraged to NOT wait until the last minute to submit an application due to the letters of recommendation and other requirements of the application process.
3. A paper version of the application has been provided below as a reference and worksheet for what will be required for the online application.
4. The online application can be found here: <https://fs10.formsite.com/lsuagcenter/2324equine/index>

2023-2024 LOUISIANA 4-H EQUINE AMBASSADOR APPLICATION

(Paper version for reference only. DO NOT submit this version of the application. Use the link provided in the above section to access the online application.)

SECTION I: APPLICANT'S INFORMATION

NAME:

(First)

(Middle Initial)

(Last Name)

MAILING ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

HOME PHONE:

CELL PHONE:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

2023-2024 GRADE:

CURRENT AGE:

DATE OF BIRTH:

ARE YOU ATTENDING 4-H UNIVERSITY?

☐

YES

☐

NO

POLO SHIRT SIZE:

SECTION II: PARENT/GUARDIAN(S) INFORMATION

Parent/Guardian's Name:

Parent/Guardian's Cell Phone:

Parent/Guardian's Email Address:

SECTION III: LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATIONS/REFERENCES

Two (2) recommendation letters must be submitted in order for your application to be considered. Below are the requirements for your letters of recommendation.

- The letters CANNOT be from your 4-H agent or a family member. Examples of accepted individuals are: club leader, teacher, coach, employer, advisory, mentor, clergy, etc.
- The letter should be signed by the individual who wrote. Electronic signatures are acceptable.
- The letter must be a PDF document that can be uploaded or sent by email.

SECTION IV: WRITTEN RESPONSE

Please provide a written response to each of the prompts below. Please write between 50-400 words for each response.

1. Summarize or list your experiences, activities, and projects in 4-H, school, and/or your community that relate to the Equine Ambassador Team.
2. Please list all of the horses that you have exhibited, and the number of years shown and accomplishments.
3. Why are you interested in applying for the Equine Ambassador Team?
4. Why do you think the Equine Ambassador Team is an important opportunity for Louisiana 4-H and its members?

SECTION V: VIDEO SUBMISSION

You are required to submit a 2 minute introduction and justification video on why you feel you should be chosen to be an Equine Ambassador. Please paste the YouTube link to your video in the space provided below. Please remember this should only be 2 minutes maximum. This should ONLY be submitted via a YouTube link to the video. You will need to check specifications for YouTube upload to reduce confusion after you film your video. You may set your video as **unlisted** (not private) to ensure privacy of your video. This will allow only those with the link to view the upload. This is a *required* component of the application.

Please print this page, have all parties sign it, scan it, and upload it to Section 5 of the online application. If you don't have the ability to print and scan electronic signatures from the appropriate parties are acceptable.

SECTION VI: EQUINE AMBASSADOR TEAM AGREEMENT

YOUTH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT

I have reviewed the objectives, expectations, and requirements of the Louisiana 4-H Equine Ambassador Team. I understand the responsibilities and I am committed to upholding them. I will represent the Equine Ambassador Team, the 4-H Program, and the LSU AgCenter; and I will conduct myself in the highest standards expected of a Louisiana 4-H member. If my conduct does not meet these expectations, I understand that I may be dismissed from the Equine Ambassador Team.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT

I understand that my son/daughter wishes to serve as an Equine Ambassador. I will support him/her in fulfilling the responsibilities of an Equine Ambassador.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____

4-H AGENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT

I certify that the above named 4-H member is enrolled, active, and in good standing in our parish program. I support his/her application to be an Equine Ambassador.

4-H AGENT SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____