



# Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards Western Riding Level 1 (WR-1)

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

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard MS = Meets Standard DNMS = Does not Meet Standard

<b>Riding Courtesy and Horse and Rider Turnout</b>	ES _____
Rider in safe and neat attire	MS _____
Horse groomed with feet picked out, showing regular farrier care	DNMS _____
Discuss how to safely approach another horse and rider while mounted	
Comments:	
<b>Tack</b>	ES _____
Tack safe, neat and properly adjusted, with assistance if necessary	MS _____
Demonstrate how to check fit of cinch	DNMS _____
Comments:	
<b>Riding</b>	ES _____
Mount and dismount, with assistance if necessary	MS _____
	DNMS _____
Comments:	
Hold the reins correctly at the halt	ES _____
Shorten and lengthen the reins correctly at the halt	MS _____
Drop and regain stirrups without using hands	DNMS _____
Comments:	
Ride at the walk and jog with control, keeping the horse on the rail.	ES _____
	MS _____
	DNMS _____
Comments:	
Demonstrate a simple change of direction at the walk and jog	ES _____
	MS _____
	DNMS _____

**Maryland 4-H Youth Development Program**

Maryland 4-H Center, 8020 Greenmead Drive, College Park, MD 20740  
 Phone:(301)314-9070 Website: <http://www.maryland4h.org>



Comments:	
Perform gradual transitions from a walk to jog and walk to halt	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Demonstrate a correct seat at the walk and jog	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Walk over ground poles in a straight line	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

ES: _____
MS: _____
DNMS: _____

Comments/Suggestions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Maryland 4-H Youth Development Program**

Maryland 4-H Center, 8020 Greenmead Drive, College Park, MD 20740  
Phone:(301)314-9070 Website: <http://www.maryland4h.org>





# Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards Western Riding Level 2 (WR-2)

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

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard MS = Meets Standard DNMS = Does not Meet Standard

<p><b>Riding Courtesy and Horse and Rider Turnout</b>  Rider in safe and neat attire  Horse groomed with feet picked out, showing regular farrier care  Mane and tail combed and free of debris  Appropriate areas of hair trimmed as suitable to discipline  Discuss general precautions that should be taken when riding in a group</p>	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<p><b>Tack</b>  Tack safe, neat and clean, with attention to stitching, girth and stirrups  Demonstrate how to check proper length of stirrups  Describe tack on horse and reasons for use</p>	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<p><b>Riding</b>  Mount and dismount independently  Shorten and lengthen reins at the halt and walk</p>	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<p>Demonstrate control while maintaining a safe, balanced position at the walk and jog in both directions</p>	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<p>Perform simple circles and figure 8's at the walk and jog  Ride without stirrups at the walk</p>	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

**Maryland 4-H Youth Development Program**

Maryland 4-H Center, 8020 Greenmead Drive, College Park, MD 20740  
Phone: (301)314-9070 Website: <http://www.maryland4h.org>



Back three to four steps in a straight line without resistance by the horse	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Demonstrate a balanced stop from the walk and jog on a straightaway	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Demonstrate a correct seat at the walk and jog	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

ES: _____
MS: _____
DNMS: _____

Comments/Suggestions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Maryland 4-H Youth Development Program**

Maryland 4-H Center, 8020 Greenmead Drive, College Park, MD 20740  
Phone:(301)314-9070 Website: <http://www.maryland4h.org>





# Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards Western Riding Level 3 (WR-3)

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

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard MS = Meets Standard DNMS = Does not Meet Standard

<p><b>Riding Courtesy and Horse and Rider Turnout</b>  Rider in safe and neat attire  Horse groomed with feet picked out, showing regular farrier care  Tack safe, neat and clean  Discuss and demonstrate (if possible) rules of courtesy that should be followed when riding with others in a ring and on a trail</p>	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<p><b>Riding</b>  Demonstrate an increase and decrease of speed at the walk and jog</p>	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Ride without stirrups at the walk and jog	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Demonstrate control at the walk, jog and lope in both directions	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Perform large circles at the walk, jog and lope with correct lead in both directions	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	



Demonstrate a balanced stop from the walk, jog and lope on a straightaway	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments	
Demonstrate a balanced, secure position throughout all work	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Complete the riding pattern in Appendix E demonstrating balance, control, and proper execution. Candidates may use USDF Training Level Test 1 in place of riding the pattern.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

ES: _____ MS: _____ DNMS: _____
---------------------------------------

Comments/Suggestions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Maryland 4-H Youth Development Program**

Maryland 4-H Center, 8020 Greenmead Drive, College Park, MD 20740  
Phone:(301)314-9070 Website: <http://www.maryland4h.org>





# Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards Western Riding Level 4 (WR-4)

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

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard MS = Meets Standard DNMS = Does not Meet Standard

<b>Horse and Rider Turnout</b>	ES _____
Tack safe, clean and well adjusted, metal polished	MS _____
Describe how to recognize properly fitted tack	DNMS _____
Horse thoroughly groomed with attention to mane, tail and feet	
Comments:	
<b>Riding</b>	ES _____
Perform basic suppling exercises for the rider	MS _____
	DNMS _____
Comments:	
Ride at the walk, jog and lope, showing smooth transitions and performing circles and figure 8's with a correct bend at each gait, showing simple changes of lead.	ES _____
	MS _____
	DNMS _____
Comments:	
Demonstrate aids for moving the horse away from the rider's leg at the halt and walk	ES _____
	MS _____
	DNMS _____
Comments:	
Describe three artificial aids and their use	ES _____
	MS _____
	DNMS _____
Comments:	
Ride without stirrups at the walk and jog	ES _____
	MS _____
	DNMS _____
Comments:	



Demonstrate a jog, to an extended sitting jog, back to a jog in both directions	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Rider should show firm basic balanced position throughout flatwork, developing a light, steady feel of the horse's mouth	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Explain appropriate distances between jog and lope poles at used in a trail class.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Demonstrate completion of a poles pattern and barrels pattern at the jog or lope. Patterns are included in Appendix E. Candidates may use USDF Training Level Test 4 in place of riding the pattern.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<b>Longing</b> Discuss reasons for longing, necessary equipment and safety procedures	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

ES: _____ MS: _____ DNMS: _____
---------------------------------------

Comments/Suggestions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Maryland 4-H Youth Development Program**

Maryland 4-H Center, 8020 Greenmead Drive, College Park, MD 20740  
Phone:(301)314-9070 Website: <http://www.maryland4h.org>





# Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards Western Riding Level 5 (WR-5)

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

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard MS = Meets Standard DNMS = Does not Meet Standard

<b>Horse and Rider Turnout</b> Tack safe, clean and well-adjusted, metal polished and reflecting regular care. Explain the purpose of equipment used on own horse Horse thoroughly groomed with attention to mane, tail and feet, reflecting regular care	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<b>Riding</b> Ride at the walk, jog and lope, showing smooth transitions and performing large and small circles, and serpentines with a correct bend while maintaining an even rhythm with smooth transitions	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Discuss appropriate horse and rider warm up routines for three different activities	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Ride without stirrups at the walk, jog, and lope, maintaining balance and control.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Develop an extended lope from a collected lope and return smoothly to the collected lope	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Demonstrate the aids for moving a horse away from the rider's leg at the jog	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____

## Maryland 4-H Youth Development Program

Maryland 4-H Center, 8020 Greenmead Drive, College Park, MD 20740  
 Phone: (301)314-9070 Website: <http://www.maryland4h.org>



Comments:	
Stop squarely and stand for five seconds	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Rider should show confidence and control throughout all work demonstrating a basic balanced position	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Perform AQHA Western Riding Pattern 1 (Appendix F)	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments	
<b>Longing:</b> Discuss at least 3 exercises used when longing a horse. Longe a horse for the purpose of exercise in an enclosed area.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

ES: _____
MS: _____
DNMS: _____

Comments/Suggestions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Maryland 4-H Youth Development Program**

Maryland 4-H Center, 8020 Greenmead Drive, College Park, MD 20740  
Phone:(301)314-9070 Website: <http://www.maryland4h.org>





# Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards Western Riding Level 6 (WR-6)

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

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard MS = Meets Standard DNMS = Does not Meet Standard

<b>Horse and Rider Turnout</b>	
Tack safe, clean and well-adjusted, metal polished and reflecting regular care. Explain the purpose of equipment used on own horse. Horse thoroughly groomed with attention to mane, tail and feet, reflecting regular care	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<b>Riding</b>	
Demonstrate an appropriate warm-up for a chosen activity, discuss and evaluate performance with examiner	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Demonstrate the ability to perform circles, half-circles and straight lines with and without stirrups at each gait.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Discuss and demonstrate the difference between lengthening stride and increasing speed at each gait.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Demonstrate moving the horse away from the rider's leg at the trot and canter	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	



Demonstrate 360° turns with two revolutions in each direction	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Perform AQHA Western Riding Pattern 2 (Appendix G)	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Rider should show confidence and control throughout, demonstrating a basic balanced position and developing a light, steady feel of the horse's mouth	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<b>Longing:</b> Longe in an enclosed area to a horse's level of ability, demonstrating free forward relaxed movement, rhythm, correct bend, and smooth transitions Discuss and demonstrate properly fitted equipment as appropriate	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

ES: _____ MS: _____ DNMS: _____
---------------------------------------

Comments/Suggestions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

