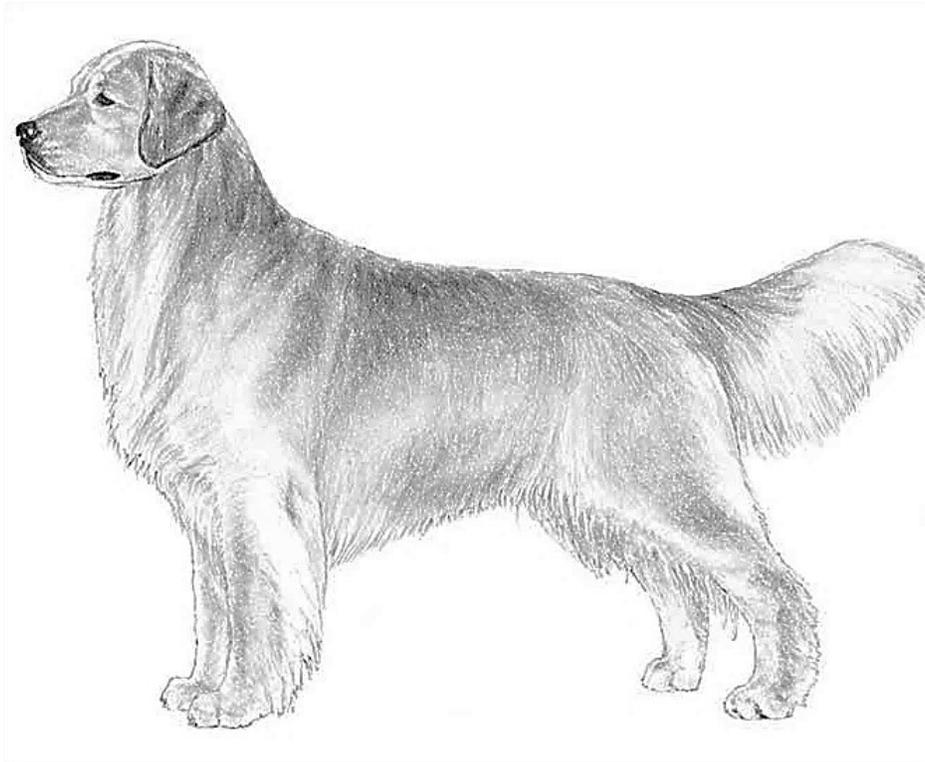




SKAGIT
COUNTY
4-H DOG AND
ASSISTANCE DOG
HANDBOOK



October 2024

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Skagit County 4-H Dog Program! This handbook was created to provide an overview of the 4-H Dog Project and its purpose, requirements, rules, events, and awards.

The purpose of the Skagit County 4-H Dog Program is to involve youth in fun and rewarding learning experiences relating to the world of dogs, while teaching members how to train and care for their dog. 4-H promotes character growth in leadership, responsibility, community service, and sportsmanship. Dogs do not need to be owned by a 4-H member, but they must have regular access for training, and as stated in the EM0758, *Washington State 4-H Youth Program Policy*, the dog must be under the 4-H member's care and training at least 60 days before any qualifying show.

AGE DIVISIONS:

CLOVERBUD Ages 5 to 7 years old on October 1st

Cloverbuds are non-competitive, participatory only, and therefore will not be scored in any event. A special Cloverbud ribbon will be given for each event entered. They may exhibit their dogs on their designated Fair day(s) only and follow all exhibitor and Herdsmanship rules. Leaders and parents are encouraged to have their 4-H Cloverbuds enter, making this a fun beginning experience. Classes include: Showmanship, Obedience, Breed Poster, Educational Poster, Costume Contest, Trick Dog Contest, Skill-a-thon, Dog Bowl, and Public Presentation.

JUNIOR Ages 8 to 10 years old on October 1st

INTERMEDIATE Ages 11 to 13 years old on October 1st

SENIOR Ages 14 to 18 years old on October 1st

WASHINGTON STATE 4-H DOG PROGRAM POLICIES

Section II: General Rules; D. 4-H Ground Rules for Youth and Adults

Leaders and Parents: Please make your members aware of these “Ground Rules” when they participate in 4-H activities.

Breaking any of the following rules may result in dismissal by the show superintendent from a show or fair and forfeiture of all awards. Also, any gross abuse of these rules may cause the removal of a 4-H member from the 4-H program.

4-H events are provided for under the auspices of Washington State University Extension. For youth safety, we ask that you help us enforce these rules:

1. Volunteer staff must adhere to the policies affecting volunteers in *Washington State 4-H Youth Program Policy, EM0758*.
2. All volunteers, participants, and parents must adhere to the Washington 4-H ethics code; see *C1000, A Valuable Partnership*.
3. No alcoholic beverages.
4. No drugs.
5. No smoking or tobacco products.
6. No abuse of dogs.
7. No coaching of youth while they are in the ring or showing their dogs.
8. Adults may not groom or school a show dog while on the grounds. Designated adults may help members with the project.
9. The ring is off limits to everyone except working show personnel.
10. Approach the judge for information only, not to dispute a placing, and only after judging is completed.
11. Show personnel may dismiss a visibly ill dog from participation.
12. All exhibitors must participate in Herdsmanship, if offered.
13. Leaders will ask a member of their club to leave the show grounds with his or her dog if behavior is unacceptable.
14. Only dogs entered in Pre-Novice, Beginner Novice, Novice, and higher classes may be off leash at any time and these only in the show or practice ring.
15. At a benched show, there is no eating or drinking in the benching area.
16. Prong, spike collars, head collars, electric collars and muzzles are not allowed on the show grounds. ***This rule has been modified for Skagit County Fair exhibitors; see Skagit County Fair Rule 16 on page 20 of this Handbook.*
17. Dogs may be shown with minor, non- contagious ailments. However, this is a show management decision and a veterinarian’s certificate may be required.
18. Running or rowdy behavior is not allowed.

19. DRESS CODE:

4-H participants, (defined as; 4-H members, Leaders, and Parents or other adults), must dress tastefully and conservatively. Sandals may be worn with stockings. Bare feet and exposed midriffs are not allowed. All shirts must have at least 3 finger width straps at the shoulders. Low-cut necklines or sexually provocative clothing will not be permitted. Mesh or see through (sheer) clothing is not allowed. Underwear may not be exposed. Clothing that advertises alcohol, drugs, tobacco, gang affiliation, sexually explicit messages or obscenities will not be allowed. Skirt lengths will not exceed 2 inches above the top of the knee. All clothing and shoes must be clean and in good repair. 4-H participants may not participate in any 4-H activity unless they acknowledge and comply with the above dress code.

If, in the opinion of the activity or event officials, a participant does not comply, the participant shall be given one opportunity to correct the problem. If participant fails to correct the problem, they will be asked to leave the activity or event and all awards and premiums shall be forfeited. Variations of this dress code may be allowed for specific events by the event coordinator as they deem necessary. (For example; Hot weather at County fairs or Club events, Pool or Beach parties, Agility trials, etc.)

- a. Please note that participants are 4-H members, Leaders, and Parents or other adults participating in the activity/event.
 - b. State, County or Club events may vary the dress code to meet specific, weather or activity/event criteria. It is up to the event coordinator to specify if allowances are to be made. This should be stated ahead of time with the event rules/guidelines.
- It is suggested that these “Ground Rules” be posted at each and every 4-H function.

WASHINGTON STATE 4-H DOG PROGRAM POLICIES is available for download on the State 4-H website <https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2050/2023/05/WA-State-4-H-Dog-Program-Policies-APRIL-2023-.pdf>

SKAGIT COUNTY 4-H DOG SAFETY POLICY

Training dogs is the core of our project and to ensure success, it is imperative that 4-H members have a dog that is safe for themselves and for others they interact with at 4-H meetings, fair, and other events.

As stated in the *Washington State 4-H Dog Program Policies*, "Dogs that exhibit aggressive, and/or unsocial, and/or problem behavior, that cannot be controlled by their handler, are a serious safety issue. Leaders and Superintendents have the *immediate* authority to excuse or place restrictions on such dog's participation in 4-H activities. Leaders and Superintendents must inform their 4-H staff of their decision and the appropriate plan of action would follow. It is up to each county to decide what the action would be. Every effort should be made to see that the member is not excluded or excused. Alternative suggestions should be offered to the 4-H member and family."

Any friendly purebred or mixed breed dog may be used as a 4-H project, provided the member can effectively manage the dog without assistance. Leaders may provide a safety evaluation prior to admittance to 4-H training meetings should there be any question about a dog's suitability as a 4-H project. Leaders must use their discretion to determine whether a dog is safe and suitable for the 4-H member, and reserve the right to evaluate a dog at any time if safety is a concern. During an evaluation, leaders will consider the age and skill level of the 4-H member as it relates to the dog being considered for a project.

The evaluation will consist of a minimum of:

- 1) Determining whether the member can walk the dog on lead without assistance
- 2) Determining whether the dog can walk safely by another non-reactive dog without lunging, barking, or exhibiting otherwise unfriendly or aggressive behavior

If it is determined a dog cannot be effectively and independently managed by a member, leaders may offer alternative suggestions such as securing training outside of 4-H for the dog and/or handler, borrowing a suitable dog from a family member or friend, and/or participation in part with a trained 4-H dog, if one is available. Leaders may recommend local trainers upon request. Every effort will be made to include the member in all other 4-H activities and events. Once a dog has a successful evaluation, the member may resume 4-H training meetings with their dog.

Approved March 20, 2023

SHOWMANSHIP

The goal of 4-H Showmanship is to teach 4-H members how to properly care for and exhibit their animals. This includes the animal's grooming, condition, and cleanliness. Showmanship also refers to the 4-H member's ability to present their dog to its best advantage before a judge as if they were showing in breed conformation.

Premium points will be awarded according to the Skagit County Fair Premium Book.

Guide dogs will follow the same age and class criteria in their judging.

Classes will be divided by age group; Cloverbud, Junior, Intermediate, and Senior.

CLASSES:

NOVICE: For 4-H members in their first year, or exhibiting at the fair for the first time.

OPEN: For 4-H members in their second year or above who have not received an Award of Merit at State Fair on county day.

SPECIALS: Any Junior, Intermediate, or Senior 4-H member who has received an Award of Merit at State Fair on county day must compete in the Specials Showmanship class at county fair the following year. *Leaders may recommend the Specials class for a member who competes in AKC Junior Showmanship, if the member demonstrates skills more advanced than their peer counterparts.* Once an exhibitor advances to the Specials class, with any dog, they must compete in the Specials class for the remainder of their 4-H career. Effective October 21, 2019/Revised to include Junior Specials March 2022/Revised October 2023

Ribbons will be awarded for the following scores:

Blue ribbon 85 – 100

Red ribbon 70 – 84.5

White ribbon 0 – 69.5

WASHINGTON STATE GUIDE TO 4-H SHOWMANSHIP and Scorecard are available for download on the State 4-H website at

<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2050/2019/08/4Hshowmanship-Rev2019.pdf>

https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2050/2023/04/Showmanship_score_sheet_2015andback.pdf

OBEDIENCE

The 4-H Dog Obedience program is designed to instruct the 4-H member how to train his or her dog to be obedient. Basic obedience training is essential to make your dog a compatible member of the household and a well-behaved canine citizen in the community.

It is recommended that each 4-H member (family) obtain a copy of the AKC Obedience Regulations and a copy of the Washington State 4-H Dog Project Guide to Obedience Classes and Handling Guide.

Premium points will be awarded for regular 4-H Obedience Classes only, as listed in the Skagit County Fair Premium Book. All non-regular Obedience classes receive ribbons only. 4-H members may only enter one regular Obedience class at the Skagit County Fair per dog. Obedience classes are based on the skill of the 4-H member and their dog. Non-regular Obedience classes will only be held if time permits.

Classes will be divided by age group; Cloverbud, Junior, Intermediate, and Senior. All classes are judged on a point system with each class, except Team, having a maximum of 200 points. Ribbons will be awarded according to the standard set by the State 4-H Fair.

The Washington State 4-H Dog Project Guide to 4-H Dog Obedience Classes and Scoresheets are available for download on the State 4-H website at

<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2050/2023/05/WA-State-Guide-to-4-H-Dog-Obedience-Classes-approved-for-APRIL-2023.pdf>

<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2050/2023/05/Ob.-Scoresheets-Rev.APRIL-2023.pdf>

See your club leader for the publication: Washington State 4-H Dog Project Obedience Handling Guide

CLASSES AND DIVISIONS:

- A. TIER 1
 - Sub-Novice
 - Beginner Novice
 - Pre-Novice
- B. TIER 2
 - Novice
- C. TIER 3
 - Advanced Novice
 - Graduate Novice
 - Pre-Open
- D. TIER 4
 - Open
- E. TIER 5
 - Graduate Open
 - Pre-Utility
- F. TIER 6
 - Utility
- G. Other
 - Versatility
 - Veterans/Modified
 - *Rally (not a State Fair class)*
 - *Introductory Obedience (not a State Fair class) FIRST YEAR members ONLY*
 - *Alternative Introductory Obedience (not a State Fair class) CLOVERBUD ONLY*

NON-REGULAR CLASSES:

H. Brace Obedience

- Sub-Novice
- Novice
- Advanced Novice

I. Team Obedience

- Sub-Novice
- Novice
- Advanced Novice

STATE FAIR QUALIFICATIONS:

Sub-Novice, Beginner Novice, Pre-Novice, and Novice exhibitors receiving a blue ribbon in both Obedience and Showmanship are eligible for State Fair competition, followed in order of preference, by (starting with highest scores):

- Blue in Showmanship - Red in Obedience
- Red in Showmanship - Blue in Obedience

Advanced Novice and above exhibitors receiving a blue ribbon in Showmanship and a minimum score of 100 points and passing a total of at least half the number of exercises in their Obedience class, or with a red ribbon in Showmanship and a blue ribbon in Obedience are eligible for State Fair competition.

Exhibitors must qualify as part of the county quota. Exhibitors receiving a red ribbon in both Showmanship and Obedience or a white ribbon in either Showmanship or Obedience are not eligible for State Fair competition.

Point breakdown is as follows:

For Sub-Novice, Beginner Novice, Pre-Novice, and Novice

- Blue Ribbon 185 - 200 points
- Red Ribbon 170 – 184.5 points
- White Ribbon 0 - 169.5 points

For Advanced Novice, Graduate Novice, Pre-Open, Open, Graduate Open, Pre-Utility, and Utility

- Blue Ribbon 170 - 200 points
- Red Ribbon 100 - 169.5 points
- White Ribbon 99.5 and below

Exhibitors with two or more dogs may be eligible for State Fair competition with a blue or red ribbon in Showmanship and a qualifying score in Obedience. The dog that qualifies in Obedience must be the dog entered for State competition and must be entered in the same class in which they qualified at the county level. If both exhibitor's dogs qualify for State 4-H Fair competition, the exhibitor must choose which dog to enter with the exception that **Intermediate** and **Senior** members may enter two dogs if space is available in their county allocation. Two dogs may be entered in the same class or different classes.

RULES FOR ADVANCEMENT:

If an exhibitor receives a blue ribbon in Obedience at State Fair with a given dog, they are required to enter another class on the same tier or move to the next higher tier. If they have received 2 blue ribbons at State Fair on the same tier, they are required to move to the next higher tier.

AGILITY

Patterned after equestrian show jumping, dog agility combines the elements of a dog's agility, briskness, confidence, and a handler's control over an obstacle course designed for dogs. It is a fun sport with great spectator appeal.

Premium points and money will be awarded according to the Skagit County Fair Premium Book. Classes will be divided by age group; Junior, Intermediate, and Senior.

CLASSES:

- A. *Pre-Agility (for first year Juniors and Cloverbuds)*
- B. *Standard Beginners (on leash, therefore not a State Fair class)*
- C. Standard Elementary
- D. Standard Pre-Novice
- E. Standard Novice
- F. Standard Open
- G. Standard Excellent
- H. Jumpers Elementary
- I. Jumpers Pre-Novice
- J. Jumpers Novice
- K. Jumpers Open
- L. Jumpers Excellent

These classes will be further divided by height as follows:

- a. Standard Beginners
 - i) 10" or under at the withers
 - ii) 14" or under at the withers
 - iii) Over 14" at the withers
- b. Standard Elementary, Pre-Novice, Novice, Open, Excellent and all Jumpers classes
 - i) 10" or under at the withers
 - ii) 14" or under at the withers
 - iii) 18" or under at the withers
 - iv) 22" or under at the withers
 - v) Over 22" at the withers

STATE FAIR QUALIFICATION:

There is no County Quota for Agility. The dog must be entered in Obedience at a County Qualifying event. If the exhibitor has earned a blue ribbon in Showmanship at a County Qualifying event, the dog will qualify for the State Agility Trial by earning a blue or red ribbon at a County Qualifying Agility Trial. If the exhibitor has earned a red ribbon in Showmanship at County Qualifying, the dog will qualify for the State Agility Trial by earning a blue ribbon at a County Qualifying Agility Trial. If the same dog has qualified for State Fair in both Agility and Obedience, the exhibitor must choose which class will constitute the Premium class. The other class will be ribbons only. If the same dog has qualified only for Agility, the exhibitor will exhibit in Showmanship the same day as the State Agility Trial prior to the trial being run. A dog who is entered in a Standard or Jumpers Agility class at State Fair must have qualified in that same class at a County Qualifying Agility Trial. A dog may enter one Standard Agility and one Jumpers Agility class at State Fair.

Ribbons will be awarded for the following scores:

- a. Blue Ribbon 85 - 100 points
- b. Red Ribbon 70 - 84 points
- c. White Ribbon 0 - 69 points

WASHINGTON STATE 4-H AGILITY RULES are available for download on the State 4-H website <http://extension.wsu.edu/4h/projects/stem/dog/dog-project-resources/>

RALLY OBEDIENCE

4-H Rally is a sport in which the dog and handler complete a course that has been designed by the rally judge. The judge tells the handler to begin, and the dog and handler proceed at a brisk pace through a course of designated stations (10-20, depending on the level). Each of these stations has a sign providing instructions regarding the next skill that is to be performed. The dog and handler team moves continuously at a brisk but normal pace with the dog under control at the handler's left side. There should be a sense of teamwork between the dog and handler both during the numbered exercises and between the exercise signs; however, perfect heel position is not required. Any faults in traditional 4-H Obedience that would be evaluated and scored as a one-point deduction or more should be scored the same in rally, unless otherwise mentioned in the 4-H Rally Rules. After the judge's "Forward" order, the team is on its own to complete the entire sequence of numbered signs correctly. Unless otherwise specified in these rules, handlers are permitted to talk, praise, encourage, give additional commands and/or signals using one or both arms, clap their hands, pat their legs, or use any verbal means of encouragement. The handler must move in a natural manner. The handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position. At any time during the performance, loud or harsh commands, intimidating signals, touching the dog (unless otherwise specified by these rules) or any physical corrections will be penalized. There will be a penalty for any dog that is picked up or carried at any time in the rally ring while under judgment. Note: A dog is under judgment until it leaves the ring.

4-H Rally is a companion sport to 4-H Obedience. Both require teamwork between dog and handler along with similar performance skills. Rally provides an excellent introduction to 4-H Companion Events for new dogs and handlers and can provide a challenging opportunity for competitors in other events to strengthen their skills.

Classes will be divided by age group; Cloverbud, Junior, Intermediate, and Senior. All classes are judged on a point system with each class having a maximum of 100 points. Ribbons will be awarded according to the standard set by the State 4-H Fair. Rally Obedience is NOT currently a State Qualifying event.

CLASSES:

- A. Rally Novice: All exercises are judged on leash (fabric or leather and long enough to provide adequate slack); 10-15 stations (start and finish not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of 5 stationary exercises per class.
 - Rally Novice A: For 4-H members in their first year, or exhibiting at the fair for the first time.
 - Rally Novice B: For 4-H members in their second year or above who have who have competed in Rally Novice Obedience at prior fairs, regardless of ribbon award, must choose the class designated as Novice B for their age division.
- B. Rally Intermediate: All exercises are judged on leash fabric or leather and long enough to provide adequate slack); 12-17 signs (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of seven stationary signs. Intermediate courses will have a minimum of three Advanced level signs. There are no jumps in this class.
- C. Rally Advanced: All exercises are judged off leash, and all dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash. Rally Advanced must have between 12 to 17 stations (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of seven stationary exercises. A dog is required to jump once in the Advanced class. Courses shall have a minimum of three Advanced level stations plus the one required jump.
- D. Rally Excellent: All exercises are judged off leash. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash. Rally Excellent must have between 15 to 20 stations (Start, Finish and Call marker not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of seven stationary exercises. Two jumping exercises must be used in the Excellent class utilizing one or two jumps. Courses shall have a minimum of two Advanced level stations and a minimum of three Excellent level stations, plus the two required jumps and the Sit Stay

exercise per class. Unlike in the Rally Novice and Advanced classes, in Rally Excellent, handlers are not allowed to pat their legs or clap their hands to encourage the dog. Verbal encouragement, multiple commands and/or inaudible signals using one or both arms and hands are allowed; the handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position at any time. Handlers may not touch their dog or make any physical corrections.

Jump Heights - The dog's jump height shall be given on the entry form. Entries will be arranged according to the jump height of the dogs, from either high to low or low to high.

<u>Height of dog at withers</u>	<u>Height to be jumped</u>
Less than 10 inches	4 inches
10 inches to less than 15 inches	8 inches
15 inches to less than 20 inches	12 inches
20 inches and over	16 inches

Ribbons will be awarded for the following scores:

- a. Blue Ribbon 85 - 100 points
- b. Red Ribbon 70 - 84 points
- c. White Ribbon 0 - 69 points

RULES FOR ADVANCEMENT:

Members competing in Introductory or Sub-Novice obedience classes shall compete in the Rally Novice class. Members who received a blue ribbon in Rally Novice the previous year and/or are competing in Beginner Novice or Pre-Novice obedience classes, shall compete in the Rally Intermediate class. Members competing in advanced obedience classes with off leash exercises and/or jumps, shall compete in Rally Advanced or Rally Excellent classes, depending on their experience and skill level.

If a member earns a blue ribbon, they are encouraged to advance to the next highest Rally class that is comparable to their current obedience class. Members may only compete in off leash Rally classes if they are currently competing in an obedience class with off leash exercises.

WASHINGTON STATE 4-H RALLY OBEDIENCE RULES are available for download on the State 4-H website <https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2050/2020/10/4-H-Rally-Guide-2019.pdf>

JUDGING CONTEST

The purpose of the 4-H Dog Judging Contest is to increase a 4-H member's problem solving and discretionary abilities. It is also designed to challenge 4-H members to increase their knowledge of their chosen project area.

Judging classes will be in three major areas. To qualify for the State Fair Judging Team, each member must complete all three areas of this contest.

- A. Multiple placement classes
- B. Oral reasons
- C. One Obedience or Showmanship class placement (any level)

Participants may not take papers or books into the judging area and may not talk after the contest starts. Any participant found conferring with anyone during the contest, except by permission of the person in charge, shall be disqualified.

The 5 highest scoring Intermediates and Seniors will be selected to form the Skagit County Dog Judging Teams to participate at State Fair. A special certificate and/or ribbon will be awarded to each team member selected to compete at State Fair. Placings will be given through 10th place. This is a ribbon only event, no premiums will be given.

*An exception may be made by Skagit County Dog Leaders to qualify a 4-H member for individual State Fair Dog Judging competition if there are not enough qualifying members to form a team of 3 or more. Approved October 21, 2019

WASHINGTON STATE 4-H DOG JUDGING CONTEST GUIDELINES are available for download on the State 4-H website at <https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2050/2024/06/Dog-Judging-Contest-updated-2023.pdf>

DOG BOWL

Dog bowl was developed to encourage 4-H Dog members to learn more about their chosen project. It also teaches cooperation and develops public speaking abilities.

The top 5 scoring Intermediates and Seniors will be selected to form the Skagit County Teams to participate at State Fair. A special certificate and/or ribbon will be awarded to each team member selected to compete at State Fair. Placings will be given through 10th place. This is a ribbon only event, no premiums will be given.

WASHINGTON STATE 4-H GUIDE TO DOG QUIZ BOWL is available for download on the State 4-H website <https://extension.wsu.edu/4h/projects/animal-science/companion-performance/dog/>

SKILL-A-THON

The primary objective of the Washington State 4-H Dog Skill-a-thon Contest is to provide an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of animal science and management related to dogs in a competitive setting. Youth are also given the opportunity to expand their knowledge about dogs and be recognized for their comprehension of the different aspects of care for dogs and how they can benefit society.

The Skill-a-thon offers age-appropriate quizzes and stations that are designed to test youth's knowledge of dogs. Some stations may include visual diagrams or equipment, or hands on activities to demonstrate a dog related technique. The contest's coordinators strive to provide an educational experience for participants and spectators.

Contest Rules

General:

- 1) **This is a contest in which individuals compete. There will be NO team entries.**
- 2) There is no limit to the number of individuals that each county may enter in this contest.
- 3) Statewide competition will be governed by the prescribed procedures and regulations. Additional rules may be added for specific purposes. Contestants not complying with the rules will be disqualified. Coaches and/or spectators not complying with the applicable Procedures and Regulations will be dismissed from the contest area. **All challenges to the contest, including stations, official's decisions and results, must be submitted in writing to the State 4-H Animal Specialist within 24 hours of the contest.**
- 4) Each participating county is requested to provide contest helpers as follows:
 - a. an adult to help score the contest,
 - b. an adult to serve as a station monitor or group leader.

Contestants and Eligibility:

- 1) Contestants must be enrolled 4-H club members approved by the 4-H Extension Educator of their respective county.
- 2) Attire: Clothing that identifies the contestant's 4-H county/city may not be worn. All participants must abide by the 4-H Dress Code.
- 3) All electronic devices (cell phones, tablets, calculators, etc.) are prohibited. Contestants are advised to leave these devices either in their car or with their parents or coaches prior to the start of the contest. If a contestant's phone should ring, or if they are discovered using such electronic devices during the contest, the contestant will be disqualified.
- 4) Contestants requesting special accommodations must indicate the need on the contest registration form.

Judges:

Official judges shall work with the contest superintendent to place the stations. They will then score the individual contestants on the appropriate score cards and assure they are delivered to the superintendent.

Contest Phases:

- 1) **Quiz Phase** of the contest may include questions from the Washington State 4-H Dog Showmanship Questions Study Guide.
 - a. Juniors - 10 questions
 - b. Intermediates - 20 questions
 - c. Seniors – 30 questions

- 2) **Stations Phase** of the contest will consist of a series of stations or tables where contestants will respond to the requirements of the station. Stations can be the same or different among age groups (i.e. Juniors can do some of the intermediate stations, etc.) but age level should be taken into consideration.
 - a. Juniors - 3 stations,
 - b. Intermediates - 6 stations
 - c. Seniors - 9 stations

Examples of stations which may be used include, but are not limited to:

- a. Breed Identification (must be recognized by AKC by January 1st of the current year (miscellaneous and foundation stock are not to be included))
- b. Care and Behavior
- c. Equipment Identification – includes care, grooming, handling, showing and dog sports, training
- d. Nutrition and Feeds Identification
- e. Health and Diseases
- f. Insects and Parasites
- g. Anatomy and Physiology – includes external parts, skeletal, internal organs, parts of gastrointestinal tract, male/female reproductive organs

Scoring:

- 1) Each question in the quiz phase is to be worth 2 points.
- 2) Each station in the station phase is to be worth 50 points.
- 3) Ties in the overall contest will be broken in the following order:
 - a. Highest score in the Quiz Phase; if still tied then,
 - b. Highest total score in the Station Phase; if still tied then,
 - c. the scores at each station, in order, may be used.
- 4) Ties within any phase of the contest are to be broken using the overall score first and then the same sequence as above.
- 5) Contest stations will be available for viewing for a limited time following the contest and official keys will be displayed at each station.

Awards:

TBD

[WASHINGTON STATE 4-H DOG SKILL-A-THON](https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2050/2024/05/WA-State-Dog-Skill-a-Thon.pdf) guide is available for download at <https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2050/2024/05/WA-State-Dog-Skill-a-Thon.pdf>

DOG COSTUME CONTEST

Classes will be divided by age group; Cloverbud, Junior, Intermediate, and Senior. This is a ribbon only event, no premiums will be given.

DOG BREED POSTER

Dog posters will be judged on educational quality, effectiveness and force of impact, simplicity, clarity, and originality. Age and experience of exhibitor will be considered in placings. The poster is about the breed of dog being exhibited. A rosette will be awarded in age group and/or skill division. This is a ribbon only event, no premiums will be given.

EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS

Educational Displays will be judged on the following: Design (color, lettering, illustration, layout), Originality and Creativity, and Educational Value. Scorecard can be found in the How-To Guide. Exhibitors are limited to 4 entries.

Premium points and money will be awarded according to the Skagit County Fair Premium Book. Cloverbuds are ribbon only, no premium.

Skagit County 4-H Educational Display HOW-TO GUIDE is available for download on the Skagit County 4-H website at <https://extension.wsu.edu/skagit/4-h/resources/>

ASSISTANCE DOG EVALUATION

All assistance dogs will participate in the evaluation unless excused by their leader and/or dog superintendent. This is a preset course to help the handler and dog work on any problems they may have with distractions and control. This event is not judged. It is a learning experience for handler and dog. This is not a contest, but rather an evaluation for the handler and school representatives to get an idea of what needs to be worked on and what you are doing well on; a time to swap ideas and learn. Participation ribbons and/or certificates only, no premiums will be given.

TRICK DOG CONTEST

The Trick Dog Contest will be offered to 4-H members of all ages. Classes will be divided by experience level and age group. Novice handler and dog teams must perform a minimum of 2 tricks on leash. Open handler and dog teams must perform a minimum of 5 tricks off leash. Advanced handler and dog teams must perform a minimum of 10 tricks off leash. Treats may be used in this contest. Number of attempts varies by class. Entry forms will be provided to 4-H members on their designated fair exhibit days and must be submitted prior to the contest. Junior, Intermediate, and Senior members are eligible to receive premiums for completing the required number of tricks. Cloverbuds will receive a special ribbon.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

As a 4-H member, you are expected to give public presentations as part of your total 4-H experience. Public Presentations are divided into 3 general categories; Demonstrations, Illustrated Talks, and Persuasive Speech. A demonstration puts words into actions by telling others how to do something while you are doing it. Illustrated talks require you to use a series of posters, pictures, graphics, or other visual aids to show how to do something or illustrate a process without requiring a finished product. In a persuasive speech you take a point of view on a topic and attempt to convince others to share that same point of view. Public Presentations can be given by an individual or by teams of two. Public Presentations will be judged according to age group; Cloverbud, Junior, Intermediate, and Senior.

County Public Presentations are judged in March. To receive ribbons and premium money, 4-H members must give their Public Presentation at Skagit County Fair.

Premium points and money will be awarded according to the Skagit County Fair Premium Book. Cloverbuds are not eligible for premium, but will receive a special ribbon.

4-H Members with blue ribbon Public Presentations that are given again at Skagit County Fair are eligible to participate at State Fair.

GETTING TO THE POINT – How to do a 4-H Public Presentation EM4787E is available for download at the State 4-H website <https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2051/2021/07/em4787e.Getting-ToThe-Point.pdf>

RECORD BOOKS

As a 4-H member, you are expected to keep a Record Book. Keeping records helps you keep track of what you are learning and helps you develop a business sense. Record Books are due the Monday after State Fair for the completed year and judged by age group; Cloverbud, Junior, Intermediate, and Senior. A special award is given for the TOP record book in across all projects for Skagit County for each age group. This is a ribbon and recognition only, no premiums given.

SCORING:

Total points possible per project – 100

95 - 100	Gold Medal
85 - 90	Blue Ribbon
70 - 84	Red Ribbon
69 or lower	White Ribbon

A complete Level 2 C0934 Record Book for a 4-H Dog Project member should include the following, divided by labeled tabs:

- Exterior cover including 4-H member's full name, club's name, age division, and 4-H calendar year
- Cover Page
- (Divider) Calendar
- (Divider) Project Record
 - Project Record
 - **Project Journal – “See Animal Management and Time Invested Records”
 - Project Photos
 - Project Highlights
 - **Project Financial Summary – “See Animal Management Records”
- Skagit County Dog Project Add Sheets
 - Animal Management Record Book
 - Animal Time Invested Record Book
 - Dog Project Record Book C0794
- (Divider) Permanent Record Book C0935
- (Divider) 4-H Story
- (Divider) Supplemental Information

**Project Journal and Project Financial Summary are not used in the Dog Project but should be included in your record book with “See Animal Management Record Book” or “See Add Sheets” written across the page.

Skagit County 4-H Record Book Guidelines and Record book forms are available for download on the Skagit County 4-H website at <https://extension.wsu.edu/skagit/4-h/resources/>

QUALIFYING FUN MATCH GUIDELINES

There will only be two qualifying fun matches besides Skagit County Fair in which to qualify for State Fair Obedience competition. In the following, “match” refers to Qualifying Fun Matches only.

1. All matches shall be held more than 30 days prior to Skagit County Fair.
2. All contestants shall only be judged once per class – no re-judging is allowed unless there has been an error made by the Judge, in which case the exhibitor will be re-judged in that exercise only, as per AKC regulations.
3. Match results will be recorded on the Judge’s worksheet. The Judge’s worksheet must be **signed by the Judge** and turned in or mailed to the Superintendent within 5 days of the match. Other papers will not be accepted. Please make every attempt to have the sheets available to the Judge to fill out when the class starts. Scores should be recorded or verified by the Judge.
4. Matches must use an approved Judge. In the event a non-approved Judge is used, the club must notify exhibitors that it is a non-qualifying event. The club can choose to refund the entry fees.
5. Approved Judges may be used for the match any time AFTER their approval date. However, a Judge may only be used for two Qualifying Fun Matches per year, unless approved by a 2/3rds vote of the Leaders.
6. All Dog Leaders and Superintendents will receive an updated list of approved judges within 30 days of any changes to the list, other than address or phone number.
7. All dogs will be judged by the County rules. ****Any dog fouling the ring will receive a zero score in that exercise only.**
8. Danish system scoring will be used.

SKAGIT COUNTY FAIR

<https://skagitcounty.net/Departments/Fair/book.htm>

TO EXHIBIT AT THE FAIR: To exhibit at Skagit County Fair, 4-H members must be enrolled in the 4-H Dog Project by the first of January, and dog(s) must be under the 4-H member's regular care and management for 60 days prior to the official county exhibit activity. Exhibitors are required to register and pay all entry fees online. Proof of rabies vaccination by a licensed veterinarian is required for vet check. Each dog must pass Vet Check. All Washington State 4-H GROUND RULES and HERDSMANSHIP rules will apply. There are exceptions and additions listed under County Fair Rules that apply to the policy at the Skagit County Fair.

Washington State 4-H Dog Program Policies Section III: HERDSMANSHIP

A: Herdsmanship Rules:

Exhibitors must follow all the State Fair "Ground Rules" outlined in Section II.D. of these guidelines (pages 4 and 5 of this handbook).

1. No eating or gum chewing in the benching area.
2. Each dog must have suitable benching equipment, to include:
 - a. A benching chain made chain or plastic covered cable which is short enough to prevent the dog from falling off the bench. A bolt snap must be attached to each end of the chain.
 - b. A buckle or non-choking collar or a harness. No training (choke) collars are allowed on the bench.
3. There must be one 4-H member present at all times for each six dogs.

***This State Rule has been modified for Skagit County Fair exhibitors; see Skagit County Fair Rule #6 on page 18 of this Handbook.*

4. All counties must have an adult in the area to provide supervision at all times.
5. At benched shows, no one except 4-H members and their leaders are allowed in the benching area. Individual clubs may make further restrictions if desired.
6. Crates, cages, and exercise pens are not allowed at State Fair. Wire crates may be used with permission of the show superintendent or show manager.
7. No lactating bitches or bitches within 3 weeks of whelping.

B: Herdsmanship Judging Considerations:

Herdsmanship judging shall be based upon the following considerations:

1. Exhibitors will be judged on their personal cleanliness and neatness. They will also be judged on their friendliness and courtesy to the public, show personnel, and each other. Exhibitors should not block the public's view of the dogs if at all possible 4-H members on duty should be attentive and ready to answer questions.
2. Herdsmanship judges will check to see that dogs are benched with the proper equipment. Dogs should look comfortable and under control. They should not be barking on the bench. Dogs may be watered on the bench, but water must be promptly removed.

3. Benches should be neat and clean. Any equipment not in use should be put away. Exhibitors are required to keep their benching area and the area immediately in front of it clean at all times.
4. Clubs or counties should have a banner for identification. Decorations should be neat and tasteful and should not interfere with the public's view of the dogs. Decorations chosen should not endanger dogs or people in any way.
5. Each club or county should have some type of educational exhibit. This may include posters, displays, booths, etc. These may be items members have entered as individual educational material displayed.

SKAGIT COUNTY FAIR RULES:

The term "dog" will refer to all canines, i.e., dogs, bitches, assistance dogs, puppies, etc.

4-H members must follow all the "4-H Ground Rules for Youth and Adults" outlined in Section II.D. of the Washington State 4-H Dog Program Policies (pages 4 and 5 of this handbook), as well as any additions or modifications specific to Skagit County as follows:

1. Each club is responsible for their own Fair passes and entry fees.
2. All 4-H members, leaders, parents, and other adults will be expected to dress appropriately for any 4-H event, using the Washington State 4-H dress code on page 5 of this handbook as a guideline.
3. All dogs and assistance dogs must pass vet-check to exhibit at fair. Proof of rabies vaccination by a licensed veterinarian is required for vet check. NO EXCEPTIONS.
4. Any 4-H member who would like to enter a second dog in the Skagit County Fair must have a strong recommendation from their main club leader and approval from the Superintendent prior to fair entry deadlines. The Superintendent will evaluate benching space, leader recommendations, and make decisions on a first come first serve basis. 4-H members will be eligible for all ribbons, awards, and premium points for classes entered with both dogs.
 - A. 4-H members enrolled in both Obedience and Assistance Dog projects may enter a maximum of one dog per project at fair with approval from the Superintendent.
 - B. 4-H members may enter a second dog for Brace Obedience competition at fair with approval from the Superintendent. If approved, the second dog may be benched on the designated day of competition.
 - C. **Intermediate** and **Senior** 4-H members with more than one Obedience project dog may enter a maximum of two dogs at fair with a strong recommendation from their leader and approval from the Superintendent. Two dogs may be entered in the same class or different classes. If both of the exhibitor's dogs qualify for State 4-H Fair competition, the exhibitor may choose which dog to enter or request approval from the Superintendent to enter both dogs in the show. Approval will be based on leader recommendation and whether there is space available in the county allocation.
5. All 4-H members exhibiting at the Fair must complete a Skagit County 4-H Dog Superintendent Entry Form for each project dog being entered. Entry Forms will be provided by your club leader, who will submit the completed forms to the Superintendent no later than the third Monday in June. The exhibitor, leader, and/or parent/guardian may fill out the form. If under any circumstances you are unable to participate at the Fair, please notify the Superintendent as soon as possible. NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

6. Club T-shirts and other club clothing may be worn in the benching area and/or for public presentations, dog bowl, or the trick dog contest. No club T-shirts or Club identification are permitted in the ring during Obedience or Showmanship judging. Appropriate clothing for Showmanship is covered in the Washington State Guide to 4-H Showmanship and in the yearly handout from State 4-H distributed before county fair.
7. Cloverbud 4-H members may show their dog at Fair on their designated day(s) and give their public presentation. They must follow all 4-H exhibitor and Herdsmanship rules. They will not be scored but will receive special ribbons in all events in which they participate. They are not eligible for premiums.
8. 4-H Members are solely responsible and liable for the conduct of their dogs. Any dog that exhibits aggressive, and/or unsocial, and/or problem behavior that cannot be controlled by their handler, may be dismissed, and not allowed to return to fair.
9. 4-H Members are responsible for making sure their dog is attended at all times by a responsible person (club member/leader). At least one responsible person must be seated in the benching area at all times for every 1-3 dogs. It is a general rule that parents are not permitted in the benching area, except for times when all members must be away from the bench, such as during the county photo and/or awards ceremonies, unless otherwise directed by the Superintendent. It is required, that a parent or responsible adult be seated at the end of each club benching area at all times for every 1-10 dogs.
10. Every dog must have State 4-H approved benching equipment as stated in the Washington State 4-H Dog Program Policies, Section III: Herdsmanship, A, 2. (page 17 of this handbook). Materials other than chain, if sturdy, may be used for benching ties, provided it is short enough to prevent the dog from falling off the bench. No rope ties can be used. A harness, buckle collar, or other NON-CHOKING collar must be used. No training or martingale style collars are allowed on the bench. See example on page 20.
11. Dogs may be watered on the bench, but water must be promptly removed and stored out of sight. Under no circumstances may dogs be fed in the benching area.
12. Dogs must be groomed when brought onto the fairgrounds. No major grooming will be permitted, i.e., clipping coat, nail cutting, etc. You may clean eyes, do a quick ear check, or spruce up your dog's coat. Parents cannot help with grooming once dogs are benched. In addition, it is expected that 4-H members clean up after their dog.
13. Fair days are public exhibition days. Everyone entered in the Fair must participate on their scheduled days. Refusal to do so will mean forfeiture of all awards and premiums.
14. Dogs are brought to the fair each day on their designated day(s) for showing. All dogs must be kept on leash while at the Fair, except when permitted in the show ring. Dogs are to be kept away from the livestock. Dogs are only allowed in the dog barn, ring area, or potty pen except when entering and leaving the grounds. Any 4-H member and/or dog caught away from the specified areas without permission from the Superintendent will forfeit all premiums. Any dogs brought to the fairgrounds that are not entered in the fair may result in dismissal of the 4-H member and forfeiture of all premiums.
15. One regular Obedience Class will be allowed per dog entered. Non-regular Obedience classes will only be held if time permits.
16. First year 4-H members may use a head collar in Obedience with Superintendent approval, but will not be eligible for State Fair competition.

17. Bitches in season are allowed to exhibit at fair, but must wear 'britches' when in the dog barn. The show superintendent must be notified if a bitch is in season. It is strongly recommended that the bitch be given chlorophyll tablets or an equivalent to mask the odor. Bitches in season will always show last in their obedience class.

18. No classes will be held for late exhibitors. 4-H members must be at ringside when your exhibitor number is called.

19. Any grievances which may result in the loss of premiums or ribbons must be brought before the bench show committee before the end of Fair. The committee consists of the 4-H agent, the Superintendents, and the main leader of the offending 4-H member. Their decision is final.

20. To qualify for State 4-H Fair, members must compete (with the same dog) in both Obedience and Showmanship at their county fair or other designated qualifying event, and follow their county and state rules. See the Washington State 4-H Dog Program Policies, Section V. for more specific qualifications.

EXAMPLE:



RIBBONS AND AWARDS:

Showmanship: Champion and Reserve Champion rosettes will be given in each division and age group. A special award may be given to the Top Handler in each age group for Showmanship Finals.

Obedience: The highest scoring dog in each class for each age group with a blue ribbon qualifying score will receive a Champion rosette. A Reserve Champion rosette may be given to the next highest scoring dog in each class for each age group with a blue or red ribbon qualifying score. *For regular obedience classes only

Assistance Dog Evaluation, Judging Contest, Dog Bowl, Skill-a-thon, Costume, Trick Dog, Rally Obedience, Breed/Educational Posters:

Ribbons, certificates, or equivalent awards will be given for each age group and/or skill level.

HIGH COMBINED SCORES:

The Junior, Intermediate, and Senior 4-H member with the highest combined scores in Obedience and Showmanship at Fair will be awarded our High Combined Score rosette, sponsored by Doggy Come Play. In the event of a tie, the award will be given to the 4-H member with the higher Obedience score. *Assistance Dog exhibitors have their own criteria for this award because they are not allowed to participate in Obedience.*

STATE FAIR QUALIFYING SCORES:

All 4-H members who qualify for State Fair competition will receive a special rosette and/or certificate. This also applies to the State Agility Team, State Dog Judging Team, and the State Dog Bowl Team.

STATE FAIR QUALIFICATION:

To qualify for State Fair, you must have a blue ribbon or a combination of a blue and red ribbon in Showmanship and Obedience. A red ribbon in both Showmanship and Obedience or a white ribbon in either Showmanship or Obedience are not eligible for State Fair competition. Each year we receive a County Quota, or number of exhibitors, that we can send to State Fair and they are chosen as follows:

First Pick	Showmanship – Blue	Obedience – Blue
Second Pick	Showmanship – Blue	Obedience – Red
Third/Last Pick	Showmanship – Red	Obedience – Blue

If the County Quota is reached during any “pick,” the highest scores go first. If there are not enough eligible exhibitors, we will not fill our County Quota.

WASHINGTON STATE 4-H DOG PROGRAM POLICIES is available for download on the State 4-H website <https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2050/2023/05/WA-State-4-H-Dog-Program-Policies-APRIL-2023-.pdf>

SPECIAL AWARDS:

Local area Kennel Clubs, businesses, and the Dog Leaders Council may offer special awards. The criteria for these awards may vary from year to year to allow as many different members as possible the opportunity to receive these awards. **Additional and/or special awards may be announced at the fair and can be given at the discretion of the Judges, the Superintendents, and/or the Dog Leaders Council.*

The **MOUNT BAKER KENNEL CLUB AWARD** will be presented at County Achievement Night to a 4-H member from each 4-H Obedience class, i.e., Sub-Novice, Beginner Novice, Pre-Novice, Novice, and so on.

To be eligible for this award, 4-H members are required to participate at Skagit County Fair in Obedience and Showmanship, submit a Record Book for the county contest, and enter a minimum of three optional county fair contests from the following list: Public Presentation, Skill-a-thon, Judging, Dog Bowl, and/or Educational Poster.

Recipients are determined by combining the Obedience and Showmanship scores from Fair competition with the Record Book score. Points based on the following ribbon scale will be then be added for each optional county fair contest entered. 4-H Members who compete in more than the minimum of three required optional county contests will receive points for each contest entered, with the exception that only the highest ribbon earned for contests with more than one entry, such as educational posters, will be counted. Approved March 18, 2019

MERIT = 12 points	BLUE = 10 points	RED = 7 points	WHITE = 3 points
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The **SKAGIT COUNTY AGILITY AWARD** is sponsored by the former Tails Up 4-H Cub and will be presented at Skagit County Achievement Night to a 4-H member from each age division, i.e., Junior, Intermediate, and Senior.

To be eligible for this award, 4-H members are required to compete in a STATE FAIR Agility Standard and Jumpers class at the Skagit County Agility Trial and exhibit the same dog at Skagit County Fair. 4-H Members must receive a blue ribbon in each class, or a combination of a blue and red ribbon.

Recipients are determined by combining the FIRST RUN scores in each of their Standard and Jumpers class. Run times will be used to break any score ties. Please note that second run scores used to qualify for State Fair Agility will NOT count toward this award. Approved April 15, 2019/Updated November 2023

The **4-H DOG STATE FAIR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** is sponsored by the former Tails Up 4-H Club and will be presented at Skagit County Achievement Night to any members who qualify for and exhibit in all Washington State Fair 4-H Dog events currently offered for their age group. Intermediate and Senior members must exhibit in eight (8) Washington State Fair 4-H dog events, and Junior members must exhibit in seven (7) Washington State Fair 4-H dog events.

The required events are as follows: Obedience, Showmanship, Agility Standard, Agility Jumpers, Public Presentation, Educational poster, Dog Judging Contest, and *Dog Bowl.

**Dog Bowl participation is only required for Intermediate and Senior members if there is a qualified team going to State Fair.*

To be eligible for this award, 4-H members are required to provide proof of exhibit for each event. A photograph of the member participating in an event or a letter signed by the club leader will be accepted as proof of exhibit. Approved August 23, 2021

JUDGING PINS are sponsored by the former Tails Up 4-H Club and presented at Skagit County Achievement Night for exhibitors who place in the top 5 individuals in the State Fair 4-H Dog Judging Contest.

DOG MEDALS are sponsored by the former Tails Up 4-H Club and presented at Skagit County Achievement Night to any 4-H Dog Project member who received Top Oral Reasons at the State Fair Dog Judging Contest.