



## 2025 Washington 4-H State Livestock Judging - National Contest Team Travel

### RIGHT to TRAVEL to NATIONAL CONTESTS –

Washington 4-H is hoping to elevate the exposure of livestock judging teams on the national stage. Annually we offer the top 3 teams' eligibility to compete at national contests representing Washington 4-H. A team that qualifies for national travel eligibility that has individuals that they would like to save for subsequent years as they get older and more experienced, can petition to use other individuals (from teams that did not qualify or contestants that participated as an individual and placed in the top 20 of the individual contest who reside in other counties during the same contest year as the travel team) to travel as their team member to the national contest. The coach of the team that has won the right to travel will be responsible for coaching those added members to their roster. Teams will be challenged with raising the travel funds and will do so through fundraising and donation campaigns at the local level. With this program shift, teams are selected earlier to accomplish the gathering of funds. Washington 4-H is committed to finding sources of funding both for immediate use and long-term sustainability of the livestock judging program. There will be a campaign to create opportunities for travel awards for teams and their coaches in the future. This is one step to Washington 4-H regaining a national presence for youth.

### TEAMS are SELECTED –

The top three (3) highest scoring senior teams as determined during the Washington 4-H state livestock judging contest will be invited to represent Washington at separate national and regional contests. **The top 3 teams will be asked to secure their national contest preference, at the conclusion of the award ceremony June 28, 2025. All coaches of senior division teams must have determined prior to the end of the contest awards your first, second and third choice!** Teams will select their travel preferences in this order:

- The first-place team will have first choice of a **Tier 1** contest;
- The second-place team will have second choice of a **Tier 1 or can elect to go to a tier 2**; and
- The third-place team will be offered the remainder of the **Tier 1 contests or can elect to go to a tier 2**.

**Note:** Teams are not required to travel to participate in a national contest. You should read each contest guidelines which can be found on their websites to determine restrictions and limitations after participation. After participating in a tier 1 national contest, it may limit opportunities. **Teams and/or any of their members that have participated in the National 4-H Contest held during the North American International Livestock Exposition are ineligible to compete in the State 4-H Livestock judging Contest for the rest of the 4-H career\*\*.**

### **Tier 1:**

Teams are offered first right of refusal to 1 Tier 1 contest. If the contest(s) (**limited to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams**) that teams have the choice to select from limits future participation in State or National contests, then teams can select from the Tier 2 category and use travel support funds from the state office upon approval from Washington 4-H.

- **North American International Livestock Exposition, Louisville, KY\*\***
- American Royal, Kansas City, MO
- The National Western, Denver, CO

### **Tier 2:**

*Teams from the same state can compete at these contests and there is no restriction on repeat appearances. Additionally, competing at these tier 2 contests will not affect your participation in the three tier 1 contests if looking to participate in them during the same year –*

- Ak-Sar-Ben Contest, Grand Island, NE
  - Arizona National, Phoenix, AZ
  - Northern International Livestock Exhibition, Billings, MT
  - The Grand National Cow Palace, San Francisco, CA
- (Additional contest options may be added to tier 2 closer to the state contest)*