

# I Did It Myself



Washington County Horse 4-H

# "I DID IT MYSELF" AWARD OUTLINE

## Washington County 4-H Horse Advisory Board

### "I Did It Myself" Award Criteria –

- For Horse 4-H members who wish to train their own horse.
- All 4-H ground training rules apply. Reference materials include:
  - 4-H Horse Project – 4-H 130
  - 4-H Contest Guide – 4-H 13011
  - 4-H Horse Advancement Program – 4-H 1302R
- For horses, age 0 to 6, that are not yet broke.
- For older horses:
  - For retired race horses and BLM wild Mustangs that have no other training.
    - The horse can only have been raced prior to being purchased by the 4-H'er.
    - The 4-H member must retrain the horse in the case of the race horse.
    - Proof of the horse's racing career must be submitted with the "I Did It Myself" application.
    - Once the horse is entered into Equitation classes, the member has two years to complete the program.
    - All other rules apply.
- The 4-H member must exclusively train the horse – no one else!
- If the "I Did It Myself" horse is older, it may be broke to halter only.
- The horse cannot be a joint project with another child or adult before the "I Did It Myself" award is attained. If the horse is shared, the 4-H member must withdraw from the "I Did It Myself" program.
- If the horse is trained by either a professional trainer or a parent, the member must withdraw the horse from the "I Did It Myself" program.
  - The member may ask for verbal instruction as needed.
  - At no time, is anyone other than the member, to work with, ride, train, or demonstrate with the horse.
- The horse is not required to compete at Washington County 4-H Horse Fair the first year that it is eligible to ride.
  - Horses often take extra time to develop.
  - The member may choose to not enter the horse in fair up to the age of six.

- The member must, however, continue to apply to the “I Did It Myself” program to stay enrolled.
  - A green horse is a horse that is 5 years old or younger.
  - Contestants may do green horse until the horse is 6 years old.
  - Green horses must be ridden in a snaffle or bosal for all green horse classes.
  - Contestants may ride in regular fair classes before the horse is 6 if they choose to do so.
  - Western horses under 6 may be ridden in a shank bit if rider chooses to do so.
- Once the horse is entered a training level Dressage, Driving, or Equitation class at fair, it is eligible for the “I Did It Myself” award for two years, providing the horse remains age 6 or less for the duration of that period.
- The member may apply for the “I Did It Myself” award as many times as she or he would like.
    - If applying with more than one animal, separate application must be made for each horse.
- Application for the “I Did It Myself” Award must be made and submitted by June 1 along with the Fair Entry Form.
    - The application should be formatted as follows:
      - The application is to be neatly written or typed on 8 ½” by 11” paper.
      - Up to three pages of written material and two pages of pictures may be included.
      - A cover sheet should be included and all materials must be stapled together.
      - Please do not place your application in a binder of any kind.
      - The 4-H member’s name, age division (Junior, Intermediate, or Senior), club name, and the age, sex, and class of horse need to be included.
      - Classes that the horse will be entered in at 4-H Horse Fair should be included if the horse is going to fair.
      - Please note: The 4-H member, the 4-H member’s club leader, and the member’s parent must sign the application.
      - The application need to include documentation of both the horse’s and the member’s progress.
      - Past classes entered with class results should be included as well (e.g. last year’s fair results, horse shows, trail rides, etc.).
      - All applications will be kept by the “I Did It Myself” program coordinator until the horse graduates or is withdrawn from the program.
      - When the horse graduates or is withdrawn from the program, applications will be returned to the 4-H member.
    - The 4-H member must meet with the “I Did It Myself” program coordinator.
      - The 4-H member must make an appointment with the “I Did It Myself” program coordinator on the first day of Ground Training classes at Horse 4-H Horse Fair.
      - The member, with the member’s horse, will be interviewed by the “I Did It Myself” program coordinator.

- Application must be made every year if a horse is to remain in the “I Did It Myself” program. (e.g. If a horse is not going to be shown for the current year, but will resume showing the following year, the application for the off year must be completed and turned in to remain in the program.)
- Awards
  - To receive the “I Did It Myself” ribbon, the 4-H member and horse must earn one (1) blue ribbon in Showmanship and one (1) blue ribbon in one of the following classes at county fair.
    - Foals, yearlings, or two-year-olds may be shown in:
      - ❖ Ground Training and a mandatory Showmanship class.
    - Two to six-year-olds may be shown in:
      - ❖ A training level Dressage, Driving, Equitation, or green horse class, plus a mandatory Showmanship class.
  - Final Award –
    - The awarding of an “I Did It Myself” belt buckle will be based on all three of the following:
      - ❖ The 4-H member’s ability to handle the horse with a calm, confident, and quiet manner.
      - ❖ Qualifying for State 4-H Horse Fair in Showmanship and one of the following classes:
        - Training Level Dressage, Driving, or Equitation.
        - The recommendation of the “I Did It Myself” program coordinator.

Revision: 2/14/2017 by the Washington County 4-H Horse Leaders Advisory