

## WHAT CAN 4-H DO FOR YOU!

### Provide youth the opportunity to:

Learn all about horses: safe handling, horse judging, hippology and more! All under the competent leadership of specially trained adult volunteers.

Increase your knowledge of horses

Learn new skills

Belong to a club

Be a club officer

Make new friends

Gain leadership skills

Learn to work together

Take 4-H projects related to Horses and other topics

Practice and improve your skills

Participate in local shows and the VA State Horse Show

Participate in 4-H field trips related to the study of horses

Build self-confidence and a positive attitude

Learn to set realistic goals and strive to achieve them

Become more responsible

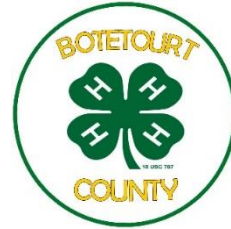
Improve public speaking and communication skills

Learn to manage time and other resources

*Receive awards for your effort*

*and have FUN!*

## Virginia Cooperative Extension Botetourt County



### For More Information Contact:

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## BOTETOURT 4-H HORSE & PONY CLUB



**For Boys and Girls**  
**Ages 5 – 19**  
**(as of September 30th)**



# BOTETOURT 4-H HORSE & PONY CLUB

## WHO ARE WE?

The Botetourt County 4-H Horse and Pony Club members are a diverse group – boys and girls, different backgrounds, various ages, and horse owners as well as non-owners with one great common interest - - - **a love of horses and a desire to know more about them.** The club was organized in 1986 for this reason, to provide the youth of Botetourt County with the opportunities to learn about and have fun with horses.

## WHO CAN JOIN?

The Club is open to any young person between the ages of 5 and 19 as of September 30<sup>th</sup> of the current year. Any young person with an interest in horses, who wants to learn more and be with others with similar interests may join. Not all club members are experienced riders; many do not own their horses.

## HOW TO JOIN?

Come to the club's monthly meeting! The Botetourt County 4-H Horse & Pony Club is open to all youth ages 5 – 19. Ages 5 – 8 are Cloverbuds and ages 9 – 19 are regular youth members. Cloverbuds and regular youth members meet on separate dates. Contact Virginia Cooperative Extension - Botetourt Office at (540) 928-3210 or [tpaint85@vt.edu](mailto:tpaint85@vt.edu) for club meeting dates, times & locations.

### "4-H Pledge"

#### *I Pledge*

*My Head to Clearer Thinking,  
My Heart to Greater Loyalty,  
My Hands to Larger Service,  
My Health to Better Living, for My Club, My  
Community, My Country, and My World*

## WHAT DO WE DO?

Monthly 4-H Club meetings

- Elect officers
- Conduct club business
- Educational programs & speakers
- Plan activities, field trips, clinics, etc.

Horse-related field trips and clinics offer basic information and "hands-on" training.

All members enroll in at least one 4-H project book and are encouraged to complete it to learn more about horses and record 4-H activities for the year.

Members are encouraged to participate in 4-H activities such as the Horseless Horse Show, 4-H Presentation Contest, Horse Shows, Team competitions, 4-H Camp, and other 4-H activities. The biggest club activity of the year is the club horse show. All members, whether they own a horse or not, have the chance to be in this show in which families get together for a picnic lunch and lots of fun.

Members participate in community service projects. Recent projects have included benefiting cancer research through the Relay for Life, raising money for both the Vinton Equine Rescue Center and the League for Animal Protection, and helping at the Roanoke Valley Horse Show.



## ANYTHING ELSE?

Competition teams for Horse Judging and Hippology also come from the ranks of the club.

**4-H Horse Judging** teaches youth to:

- Evaluate horses based on conformation and performance
- Understand the basic relationship between a horse's body structure and its performance
- Make consistent, logical decisions
- Orally defend their placing in the class by presenting oral reasons to a judge
- Work together as a team

**4-H Hippology** teaches youth to:

- Learn horse science – everything about the horse from nutrition to anatomy and physiology to proper barn construction
- Learn to identify different feeds, tack, and horse breeds and about the horse industry
- Work together as a team

District, Regional, State, and National competitions are available for both Horse Judging and Hippology. Both Horse Judging and Hippology Teams work hard and face stiff competition, but they enjoy the travel, and the comradeship gained by working together.

