RING STEWARD GUIDE FOR 4-H HORSE CLASSES

1. If you are not a currently enrolled 4-H Leader, you must read and sign the Oregon State University Conditions of Volunteer Service.

2. Dress appropriately for the ring. This includes long pants and boots or hard shoes, and your volunteer shirt.

3. Report to the volunteer table 15 – 20 minutes before the judging begins. Be sure to obtain your badge. Turn cell phone off when in the ring.

4. Be familiar with show & contest procedures and etiquette. Familiarize yourself with the pattern.

5. Assemble the class promptly.

6. Have all classes line up the same way, as instructed by the judge, so each exhibitor has the opportunity to approach the judge in the same manner.

7. Place yourself in a position so as not to interfere with judging or view of the spectators.

8. Be prepared to relay pre-arranged signals for change of gaits and line up instructions to the announcer if the judge asks you to do this.

9. Encourage exhibitors to keep their horses spaced. When lining up exhibitors, watch spacing. Treat exhibitors with extreme courtesy.

10. Keep exhibitors coming to the judge so as to avoid delay. Be ready to call out numbers to the judge if requested.

11. **Do not discuss or comment on any horse or exhibitor with the judge.** Do not say anything that might influence the judge. Limit conversation while in the ring. Do not repeat comments made by the judge. Leave what you see and hear in the ring.

12. Do not give any instruction or comment to any exhibitor unless given to the whole class or directed by the judge.

13. Watch for hazardous situations and conduct the class accordingly. It is appropriate to move unruly animals to the end of the line so they do not disturb the other exhibitors.

14. Follow orders as directed by the judge. Check with the superintendent on any abnormal situation.

15. Excuse yourself from the ring if your child is going to be an exhibitor in that ring. Obtain another steward to take the entire class.

16. In trail class: have next rider ready so as not to delay the judge. All obstacles are to be as close as possible to the same position for each exhibitor. No variation of obstacles.

17. Be sure to return your steward badge to the volunteer coordinator table when judging is completed.