SKLLATHON RULES

SUPERINTENDENTS

MACKENZIE DORE
Program Assistant, Ohio 4-H Animal Sciences,
The Ohio State University

GENERAL INFORMATION

A Skillathon is an event to test knowledge of specific subject matter using the experiential learning model of exploring, reflecting, and applying that knowledge. Skillathons are created from materials directly or modified from Learning Laboratory Kits, information provided in the Ohio 4-H Animal Resource Books, and other resources, along with input from industry experts.

Each Skillathon is comprised of four educational and challenging stations. Certain species Skillathons offer different age-appropriate stations, such as junior, intermediate, and senior. Youth move from station to station, attempting to perform the tasks they are given within the allotted time. A facilitator is present at each station to offer directions without helping the exhibitor perform the station tasks or offering answers.

RULES

1. All Skillathons are open to any Ohio 4-H member, age 8 and in the 3rd grade or age 9 and in any grade to age 18 as of January 1, 2024, and any Ohio FFA member. Therefore, 4-H and FFA members turning 19 on or before December 31, 2023, are too old to participate in the Skillathons. Youth are not required to be exhibitors at the Ohio State Fair to participate.

2. There are 10 age classes – 8/9-year-olds through 18 year-olds. A parent/guardian, or responsible adult, **MUST** sign the youth's Skillathon form at the Skillathon registration table verifying the youth is in the correct age class **BEFORE** the youth can participate in the Skillathon. If it is determined at the completion of the Skillathon that an exhibitor was entered in the wrong age class, the exhibitor will be disqualified from the competition and not eligible for placings or awards. **Parents/guardians:** Verify with your county Extension professional your child's correct 4-H age, as this is the basis for age classification.

3. Once a youth registers for the Skillathon, they should expect to go through the line when called. Once a youth enters the Skillathon judging area, they **CANNOT** leave. If they leave, the youth forfeits any further participation in that respective species Skillathon.

4. Skillathon participants are not permitted to bring study materials or electronic devices (including but not limited to cell phones and smart watches) into the Skillathon judging area.

5. Ties for overall Skillathon awards and age class placings will be broken by the following procedure:
1) Skillathon Station No. 2 score;
2) Skillathon Station No. 3 score;
3) Skillathon Station No. 4 score;
4) Within age group Skillathon Station No. 1;
5) Total score of common Skillathon Stations;
6) Scoring segments within stations (same order – Station 2, 3, 4, and 1); and
7) An additional test may be administered.

6. The four station categories for each species will be posted at *www.go.osu.edu/osfskillathons* on the respective species' Skillathon page.

> **Possible Skillathon Station Topics may include:** Quality Assurance; Breed I.D.; Nutrition; Animal Identification; Genetics; Meat Cut I.D.; Selection & Evaluation; Systems – Reproductive, Digestive, Nervous, Vascular, Skeletal, etc.; Animal Welfare and Handling – Housing, Environment, Health Care, etc.; Breeding; Diseases and/or Parasites

7. **DOCUMENTATION IS <u>REQUIRED</u> TO RECEIVE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE SKILLATHON.** Accommodations (e.g. timing, reading assistance, etc.) are available upon receiving formal documentation of needs. Facilitators will do their best to accommodate a youth member's specific needs as documented. To best accommodate youth, **bring a copy of a Winning 4-H Plan, IEP, or other appropriate and current documentation** related to the program (4-H or FFA) the youth is representing with the youth to the event.

8. Photographing and/or video recording of stations is strictly forbidden and may result in the disqualification of associated youth participants.

9. Verbal or written abuse of Skillathon volunteers is unacceptable and may result in the disqualification of associated youth participants.

10. Complaints must be submitted in the form of an email by August 31 to the State 4-H Office at 4HAnimalScience@osu.edu.

Poultry, Goat, Sheep, Swine, and Beef Participants

11. Specifically, for Poultry, Goat, Sheep, Swine, and Beef **in-person** Skillathon participants (Outstanding Market Exhibitor [OME]-eligible Skillathons). For the possibility of achieving the maximum potential score on the records section of a Skillathon, youth must bring their current year's completed record book (bring only 1 current book).

12. A separate award will also be given to the outstanding record book from each age class. Refer to the separate **RECORD BOOK CONTEST** rules for more specific details about book requirements.
- The record book will count as 6 pts towards the overall skillathon score.

SKILLATHON DATES & SUPERINTENDENTS

Horse
Monday, July 15, 2024 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Voinovich Livestock Center Mezzanine (2nd floor)
Debbie Manring, Janessa Hill & Tim Spoerl

Dog
Tuesday, June 18th 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Voinovich Livestock Center Mezzanine (2nd floor)
Sonja Hyer, Sarah Deakin & Kelly Rickabaugh

Goat
Thursday, July 18, 2024 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Voinovich Livestock Center Mezzanine (2nd floor)
Dawn Wallace, James Maynard & Dr. Braden Campbell

Sheep
Tuesday, July 23, 2024 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Brown Arena Wool Room
Jeanne Osborne, Tracy Dendinger & Jacci Smith

Dairy Cattle
Wednesday, July 24, 2024 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Voinovich Livestock Center Mezzanine (2nd floor)
Dr. Maurice Eastridge, Lindsey Bowen & Sherry Smith

Swine
Wednesday, July 31, 2024 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
O'Neill Swine Barn
Andrea Rees, Kevin Kremer & Kelly Morgan

Poultry
Wednesday, July 31, 2024 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Rabbit/Poultry Pavilion
Becky Barker, Dr. Michael Cressman & Adam Staley

Beef
Thursday, August 1, 2024 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Voinovich Livestock Center Mezzanine (2nd floor)
Dr. Steve Boyles, Garth Ruff & Jamie Stacy

Rabbits
Friday, August 2, 2024 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Rabbit/Poultry Pavilion
Vicki Bogan, Travis West & Christine Boes

SCORING

The skillathon will be worth a total of 100 points. Please see the separate Outstanding Market Exhibitor rules for the OME Skillathon score point breakdown.

- Station 1 = 25 pts.
- Station 2 = 25 pts.
  - OME Species – 6 points of this station will be dedicated to record book scores.
- Station 3 = 25 pts.
- Station 4 = 25 pts.

AWARDS

All participants will receive a respective species' Skillathon pin and a participation ribbon sponsored by the **Ohio State Fair**. Youth in each age class will receive 1st through 10th place ribbons sponsored by the **Ohio State Fair**.

The top three youth in each age class (8/9-18) will receive a monetary award from the **Youth Reserve Program**. This amount varies from year to year and will be announced during each Skillathon awards ceremony for each respective species.

Each age winner and the overall Skillathon champion or age-group champion will receive additional awards sponsored by **Cooper Farms** and the **Ohio State Fair**.