

2026 Tennessee State 4-H Horse Championships

Show Information and Entry Packet

TO: All Extension 4-H and ANR Agents

FROM: Aaron Fisher, Youth Livestock and Equine Specialist, Department of Animal Science
Email: fisher@utk.edu
Phone: (865) 974-7260

DATE: March 17, 2026

RE: 2026 Tennessee State 4-H Horse Championships
June 23-27, 2026
National Walking Horse Celebration Grounds, Shelbyville, TN

Please provide this information to each 4-H member participating in the 2026 Tennessee State 4-H Horse Championships.

Counties **MUST** have entries submitted through the online registration system by **May 15, 2026**. *Late entries will be assessed a \$50 per horse late fee.*

All entry forms can be found at the County Extension Office or on the UT Animal Science 4-H Horse website at: <https://uthorse.tennessee.edu/youth-shows/>

Exhibitors will submit State entry forms and fees to their County Extension Office. Counties will then submit State entries via the online entry system and mail hard copy forms to:

Aaron Fisher
UT Animal Science Department
2506 River Drive
Knoxville, TN 37996

Counties **MUST** submit all exhibitor entry fees to Aaron Fisher at the address above by **May 25, 2026**. *There will be NO REFUNDS for State entry fees, and late entries will be assessed a \$50 per horse late fee.*

Exhibitors are **REQUIRED** to proof State Entries at the Regional Show. No classes will be added at the Regional Show. *Absolutely NO changes will be made to entries upon check-in at the State Show.*

Thank you in advance for keeping the entry process as smooth and error free as possible!

REMINDERS AND CHANGES FOR 2026

All riders (including adults) at 4-H events and activities will be required to wear properly fitted ASTM/SEI-certified helmets with chin straps properly fastened while mounted or while in a vehicle being pulled by equine. This includes ALL divisions, ALL warm-up arenas, and ALL areas of the showgrounds. For riders over 18 years of age, a helmet waiver may be signed at the show office.

The 2026 Tennessee 4-H Horse Championships will follow rules and guidelines outlined in PB 1760, The Tennessee 4-H Horse Championships Handbook. The handbook can be accessed at: https://uthorse.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/105/2026/03/2026_4-H_Horse_Handbook_Final.pdf

Important Reminder from Section 5.7 of Horse Handbook (page 6)

A 4-H member may be excused from his/her regional show and still participate in the Tennessee State 4-H Horse Championships if:

- A. A letter, signed by both the 4-H member and his/her respective Extension agent, is written stating the reason for the 4-H member's desire to be absent from the regional show.
- B. This letter is submitted to and approved by the 4-H Animal Science OR Equine Specialist in Knoxville.
- C. The 4-H member, family, leader or Extension agent completes a state entry form along with an entry fee.

The following section summarizes changes and additions for the 2026 show.

Schedule

The basic schedule that has been used the past couple of years has been changed. Some disciplines are earlier in the week, some are later in the week, and one is now over two days. Please check out the schedule changes at: <https://uthorse.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/105/2026/03/2026-General-Schedule.pdf>

Hunter & Jumper Division

New divisions include:

- **Walk/Trot Hunter** – Only open to beginner riders (grades 4-12) in their first two years of showing across any breed, discipline or organization including Tennessee 4-H. Includes all ponies and horses. The maximum eligibility for the Walk/Trot Division is two years. Rider may not cross-enter any other division that allows for walk, trot, and canter. Fence height is cross-rails.
- **Novice Hunter** – Open to riders who are in their first four years of showing across any breed, discipline or organization including Tennessee 4-H. Includes all ponies and horses. The maximum eligibility for the Novice Division is two years. Division winners from Novice A or B cannot return to the same division in their second year (ex. Novice A winner cannot re-enter Novice A in second year; must enter Novice B in year 2). Simple changes are allowed. Riders may not cross-enter into any Under Saddle, Equitation, Hack or Over Fence class other than Novice. Novice A and B exhibitors will compete in Hunter Under Saddle and Equitation Flat together.
 - Novice A – Fence height is cross-rails.
 - Novice B - Fence height is 2 feet.
- **2-foot Hunter** – Open to all riders (grades 4-12) and includes all ponies and horses. Flat classes are competed by Age division of the youth (Jr, Jr High, Sr) with fence height at 2 feet with flying changes optional.

- **2-foot, 3-inch Hunter** – Open to all riders (grades 4-12) and includes all ponies and horses. Flat classes are competed by Age division of the youth (Jr, Jr High, Sr) with fence height at 2 feet, 3 inches with flying changes.
- **2-foot, 6-inch Hunter** – Open to all riders (grades 4-12) and includes all ponies and horses. Flat classes are competed by Age division of the youth (Jr, Jr High, Sr) with fence height at 2 feet, 6 inches with flying changes and oxers.

Walking/Racking/SSH Divisions

- Change HIO WHOA. The biggest difference with this change will be a few updates to shoeing requirements and class names. Please see the updated handbook for details. This will also provide a larger, more diverse pool of judges.

Dressage Division

- Addition of First Level Dressage classes.
 - 909 – First Level Hunter Dressage
 - 910 – First Level Western Dressage
 - 911 – First Level Ranch Dressage

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM AND SHOW DETAILS

1. Divisions

The grades for 4-H member age divisions as of January 1, 2026, are as follows:

Junior: 4-5 Junior High: 6-8 Senior: 9-12

NOTE: If a Junior High class does not exist, Junior classes will be for 4-8 grades.

2. Pony Heights

All ponies will be measured each year EXCEPT those that were previously measured and were six (6) years of age or older AND have a pony measurement card on file with the State 4-H Horse Show Office. *Exhibitors need to indicate if their pony has been measured on their entry form.*

3. Graduating Seniors

Graduating seniors will be recognized at the banquet held on Tuesday, June 23, 2026.

Indicate Graduating Senior on the exhibitor's entry form or contact fisher@utk.edu if the graduating senior is not showing but would like to attend the banquet for recognition.

Graduating senior form is available at: <https://tiny.utk.edu/2026HorseGraduatingSenior>.

Registration and payment for the banquet is due by June 18, 2026.

4. Tennessee 4-H Horse Scholarship

The purpose of the Tennessee 4-H Horse Scholarship is to award a deserving 4-H Horse participant with a post-secondary education scholarship. The winner will be selected based upon their participation within the Tennessee 4-H Horse Program, scholastic achievement, and submitted application materials. Current graduating seniors are eligible to apply for the scholarship. Applications must be submitted to Aaron Fisher (fisher@utk.edu) by May 15, 2026. Application materials can be found at: <https://uthorse.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/105/2026/03/TN-4-H-Horse-Program-Scholarship-Application-2026.pdf>

5. Awards Banquet on Tuesday, June 23, 2026

All youth, parents, volunteers and agents are welcome to attend the awards banquet. Registration and payment for the banquet must be completed through the below online payment link by June 18, 2026. No registrations will be accepted after June 18.

https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=3315&SIN_GLESTORE=true

6. Printed and bound horse show line-up programs can be pre-ordered at the below link. They are \$5 and will be available at Barn 10 at the state 4-H horse show.

https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=3316&SIN_GLESTORE=true

FACILITY AND SHOW GROUND INFORMATION

1. **ALL HORSES MUST ENTER THROUGH GATE A FOR HEALTH INSPECTION.** Gate A is located on the upper end of Calsonic Arena off of Celebration Drive. Do not bring horses through any other gate. Be sure that original Coggins test results accompany the horse(s) to the show; no copies will be accepted. Horses must have a negative test for EIA within 12 months of the opening date of the show (June 23). These papers will be checked upon arrival at the Show grounds! Please have Coggins Tests for all horses contained in the trailer in the VEHICLE PULLING HORSE TRAILER.

2. Please check in upon arrival at the Horse Show Office, located in Barn 10 adjacent to the practice arena. Stable assignments, exhibitor numbers and other information can be collected at this time. Do not unload and/or stable horses until checked in at the show office has been completed. Stable assignments will also be available online a week before the show.

3. Grounds will be open Tuesday, June 23 at 7:00am. **NO HORSES ALLOWED ON GROUNDS BEFORE THIS TIME.**

4. Exhibitors are responsible for paying for their stalls. Stalls (horse and tack) are \$14 a day. Stall fees must be paid with entry fees. Horses will be permitted to trailer in and be tied out; these horses may NOT be tied out overnight. Tie-out trailers may only be parked in the lot next to gate A. **NO overnight trailers may be parked in this lot!** (see map below)

5. All horse trailers staying overnight must be parked in the lot off Whitthorne Street (see map below). Trailers cannot be parked in stable areas or along the drives. **ANY TRAILERS NOT PARKED IN DESIGNED AREAS ARE SUBJECTED TO BEING TOWED AT THE OWNER'S EXPENSE.** Cooperation in this matter is appreciated.



7. The cost for travel trailer parking is **\$60.00 per night**. Water, sewer and electrical hookups are available. Hook-ups are located in the Pavilion Area parking lot. **Payment for camping spots MUST BE MADE AT THE SHOW OFFICE (Barn 10) PRIOR TO THE FIRST NIGHT'S STAY.**
8. **Camping in tents is not permitted.**
9. Bring all the equipment, feed, and hay that will be needed. Please emphasize this to 4-H members, parents, and leaders.
10. **STALLS MAY NEED TO BE CLEANED UPON ARRIVAL.** If shavings are desired, you may bring them with you or purchase them on the grounds at the show office in Barn 10.
11. It is the responsibility of each group to keep the stables and the area around the stable clean.
12. Bring a manure fork, rakes, wheelbarrow and other equipment needed to clean the stalls and area. Wheelbarrows will be needed to transport manure, trash and other waste to the manure pits.
13. Stall(s) must be cleaned daily. Pile manure in pits. Daily cleaning of stalls will help to keep the fly population reduced and maintain a more desirable environment.
14. You must completely clean the stalls and area you were assigned to before leaving the grounds.
15. Cooking is prohibited in the stables.
16. Sleeping in stalls is prohibited.
17. Bring a hammer, nails and tools that might be needed for stall repair.
18. You will need to bring light bulbs for stalls. Bulbs are not provided.
19. Fans may be used. However, care should be taken to prevent horses from either reaching or becoming entangled in cords.
20. Stalls for horses and tack will be **randomly assigned** based on stall assignment sheets submitted by exhibitors.
21. A **padlock and chain** should be brought to lock the tack stall(s). **DO NOT LOCK HORSES WITHIN STALLS.**
22. A security guard will be on the grounds at night. **Although security is available, please inform 4-H members, parents and leaders not to leave valuables, purses and similar items in unsecured areas.**
23. The phone number at the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration office is (931) 684-5915. Calls can be forwarded from that office to the 4-H Horse Show office in Barn 10.
24. If you are not coming to the show, please designate a leader or parent that will be in charge of the group from your county. This is needed in order that a contact person will be available for messages, to locate someone, etc.
25. **ALL DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH AND ARE NOT PERMITTED IN ANY INDOOR FACILITY.** If the dog is designated as a service animal, proper documentation, and animal identification must be displayed.

26. NO SMOKING IN THE BARNS.

27. REMEMBER THAT ALL ENTRIES IN WALKING, RACKING, AND SPOTTED SADDLE HORSE CLASSES MUST PASS INSPECTION WITH THE SHOW DQP PRIOR TO COMPETING. Horses in the first class of each session MUST be in the inspection area AT LEAST 30 MINUTES prior to the start of the class. For all other classes, horses must arrive at the inspection area at least THREE CLASSES prior to their class.

2026 Tennessee State 4-H Horse Show General Show Schedule

Tuesday, June 23

- 7:00 AM: Grounds Open for Move-In to Stalls

Cooper Steel:

- 9:00 AM: State 4-H Communication Contests
- 10:00 AM: Registration and 11:00 AM: Contest: State 4-H & Open Horse Judging

Blue Ribbon Room:

- 6:00 PM: 4-H Horse Program Awards Banquet

Wednesday, June 24

Cooper Steel:

- 8:00 AM: Western Division: Showmanship and Conformation
- 30-minute break: Western Division: Performance
- 12:00 PM or 30-minutes following Western Performance (whichever is later): Roger Elder Ranch Division: Showmanship and Conformation
- 30-minute break: Roger Elder Ranch Division: Performance

Field in Back (weather permitting):

Trail (ride times assigned in one-hour blocks based on entries)

- 8:00 AM: Roger Elder Ranch Trail
- 12:00 PM: Western Trail
- 3:00 – 5:00 PM: Hunter Trail (session 1)

Dressage (ride times assigned based on entries)

- 8:00 AM: Roger Elder Ranch Dressage
- 12:00 PM: Western Dressage
- 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM: Hunter Dressage (session 1)

Thursday, June 25

Cooper Steel:

- 9:00 AM: Speed, Goat Tying, Ground/Dummy Roping

Champions:

- 10:30 AM: Hunter & Jumper Division: In-Hand
- 30-minute break: Hunter & Jumper Division: Flat

Field in Back (weather permitting):

Trail (ride times assigned in one-hour blocks based on entries)

- 8:00 AM: Hunter Trail (session 2)

Dressage (ride times assigned based on entries)

- 8:00 AM: Hunter Dressage (session 2)

Friday, June 26

Cooper Steel:

- 6:00 AM: Hunter Over Fences/Hack Schooling
- 9:30 AM: Hunter & Jumper Division: Hack and Over Fences

Champions:

- 9:00 AM: Walking, Racking and Spotted Saddle Horse Divisions: In-Hand
- 4:00 PM or 30 minutes after W/R/SSH In-Hand: Miniature Division

Field in Back (weather permitting):

- 3:00 PM: Gaited Trail (ride times assigned in one-hour blocks based on entries)
- 3:00 PM: Gaited Dressage (ride times assigned based on entries)

Saturday, June 27

Cooper Steel:

- 7:00 AM: DQP
- 8:00 AM: Walking, Racking, Spotted Saddle Divisions: Performance

High Point Awards for the following divisions will be presented approximately one hour following the conclusion of each division.

Western Division	Spotted Saddle Horse Division
Roger Elder Ranch Division	Walking Horse Division
Speed Division	Racking Horse Division
Hunter Division	Miniature Division

Potential Hotel Accommodations

Following is a list of possible motels in Shelbyville and Murfreesboro provided by the Shelbyville – Bedford County Chamber of Commerce. This list does not contain all available motels nor is it an endorsement. It is for your assistance.

Americas Best Value Inn

317 North Cannon Blvd.
Shelbyville, TN 37160
Phone: (931) 684-6050

Bedford Inn

727 Madison St.
Shelbyville, TN 37160
Phone: (931) 684-7858
Fax: (931) 684-1904

Best Western Celebration Inn & Suites

724 Madison St.
Shelbyville, TN 37160
Phone: (931) 684-2378

Blue Ribbon Inn

North Main Street
Shelbyville, TN 37160
Phone: (931)-684-3101
Fax: (931)-685-9251

Country Hearth Inn

1607 North Main Street
Shelbyville, TN 37160
Phone: (931) 680-1030 and (800) 848-5767 and
(888) 4-HEARTH

Crestwood Suites Hotel

1345 Old Fort Parkway
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
Phone: (615) 907-1500
Fax: (615) 907-1576

Bottle Hollow Lodge

111 Gobbler Ridge Road
Phone: (931) 695-5253

Cinnamon Ridge

799 Whitthorne Street St.
Phone: (931) 685-9200

Clearview Farm LLC

2291 Hwy 231 S.
Phone: (931)-684-8822

Microtel

1207 North Main St.
Shelbyville, TN 37160
(931) 684-8343

Monteagle Inn - B & B / Retreat Center

204 West Main St
Monteagle, TN 37356
Phone: (931)-924-3869

Tennessee Horse Country

311 Robinson Rd
Phone: 931-684-4456 and (866) 322 8916
Fax: 931-684-4456

Celebration Campground

Celebration Showgrounds
Shelbyville, TN 37160
Phone: (931) 684-5915

Lynchburg Wilderness R.V. Park

975 Main St., Lynchburg, TN 37352
Phone: (931) 580-2680

DIRECTIONS TO THE CELEBRATION® GROUNDS AND CALSONIC ARENA

Coming to The Celebration® from Nashville, TN

Take I-24 to Murfreesboro, then take exit 81 A to Shelbyville.

From Murfreesboro to Shelbyville is about 25 minutes.

Once in Shelbyville, turn left on Highway 41 A South (Madison Street) and look for the Celebration® on the left.

Coming to The Celebration® from Chattanooga, TN

Take I-24 toward Murfreesboro and exit on Exit 97 to Wartrace/Shelbyville. Following Highway 64 through Wartrace until it intersects Highway 41 A. Turn right onto Highway 41A (Madison Street) and look for the Celebration® on the right.

Coming to The Celebration® from Knoxville, TN

Take I-40 E toward Nashville, then take exit 235 onto TN-840 W toward Murfreesboro. Exit onto I-24 E toward Chattanooga. Exit I-24 on exit 81 A to Shelbyville. Once in Shelbyville, turn left on Highway 41A South (Madison Street) and look for the Celebration® on the left.

Coming to The Celebration® from Memphis, TN

Take I-40 toward Nashville, then exit onto I-440 at exit 206; at Exit I-24 go toward Murfreesboro; exit I-24 at Exit 81 A onto US-231. From Murfreesboro to Shelbyville is about 25 minutes. Once in Shelbyville, turn left on Highway 41A South (Madison Street) and look for the Celebration® on the left.

Coming to The Celebration® from Fayetteville, TN

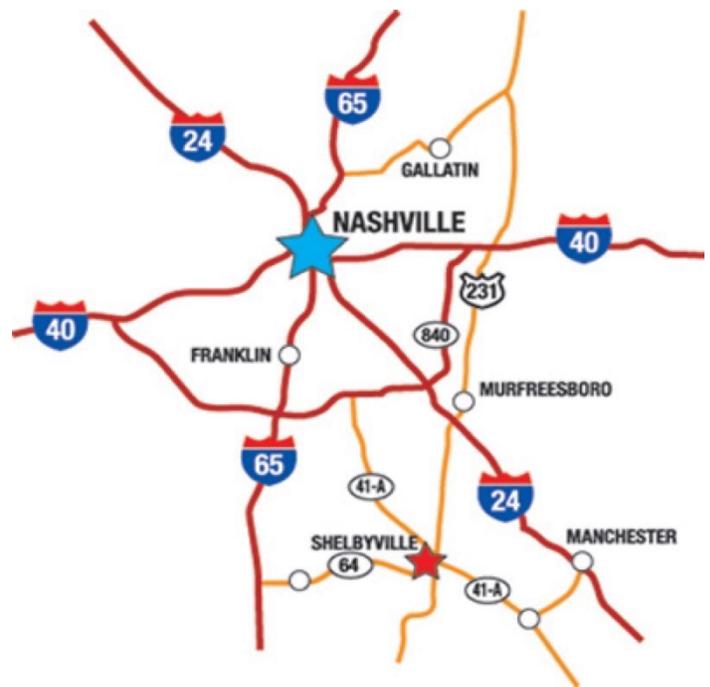
Follow Highway 231 North until it crosses Highway 41 A. Turn right on to 41 A South and look for the Celebration® on the left.

Coming to The Celebration® from Lewisburg, TN

Follow Highway 64 East until it crosses Highway 41 A. Turn left on to 41 A North and look for the Celebration® on the right.

Coming to The Celebration® from Tullahoma, TN

Follow Highway 41A North all the way into Shelbyville and look for the Celebration® sign on the right.



2026 Tennessee 4-H Horse Entry Form

Use a separate entry form for each horse



Exhibitor's Name: _____ County: _____ Grade as of Jan 1: _____

Complete Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Horse's Name: _____ Horse's Age: _____

Horse's Breed: _____ Horse's Gender: Mare _____ Gelding _____

Type: ¹Small Pony (<51") _____ ¹Medium Pony (51"-54") _____ ¹Large Pony (55"-58") _____ Horse _____

¹Has pony been measured at regional or state show? Yes _____ No _____

Is horse being used by another 4-H member? _____ Will you need a stall? _____

If so, complete the Stall Request Form.

List the classes to be entered below:

Gaited High Point Preference:

If you win multiple HP, rank your preference:

Walking _____ Racking _____ SSH _____

Graduating Senior:

Are you a graduating senior? _____

If so, do you plan to attend the banquet? _____

Entry Fees

____ Class Fee: \$12 / class-----= \$ _____
____ Goat Tying Fee: \$5 / class-----= \$ _____
____ Jump Fee: \$10 / Horse in O/F or Hack-----= \$ _____
____ DQP Fee: \$10 / Walking/Racking/SSH Horse-----= \$ _____
____ Facility Fee: \$20 / Horse (including companion horses)-----= \$ _____
____ Stall Fee: \$14 / Stall / Day-----= \$ _____

No Refunds

Total = \$ _____

Acknowledgements

- Release and Assumption of Risk. I recognize the event does not provide sickness or accident insurance coverage for participants; and I accept responsibility for payments of medical costs incurred for injuries or illnesses.
- HELMET POLICY: ALL riders at 4-H events and activities are required to wear properly fitted ASTM/SEI certified helmets with chin straps properly fastened while mounted or while in a vehicle being pulled by equine. This is a requirement of ALL disciplines and ALL 4-H Horse activities. It is the responsibility of the rider, or the parent/guardian of the 4-H participant, to make sure that the helmet worn complies with appropriate safety standards for helmets intended for equestrian use and is properly fitted and in good condition.
- Publicity Release: Our signatures also authorize the University of Tennessee to photograph, film, audio/video tape, record and/or televise the 4-H member's image, voice and biographical material, in whole or in part in any medium now known or developed in the future without any restrictions.
- We certify that the above member & horse information is correct and meets all requirements of the Tennessee 4-H Horse championships Handbook (PB1760), which has been read and is understood; we agree to abide by the rules therein.
- Exhibitors are completely responsible for the care and custody of their animals at the State 4-H Horse Show.

4-H Member: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Extension Agent: _____ Date: _____

2026 Tennessee 4-H Horse Championship Companion Horse Entry Form

This entry form is for horses brought to the state 4-H horse show who are not entered into any classes (ie. companion horse for another horse entered in classes). This horse must also have a current negative Coggins and is subject to facility and stall fees. Use a separate form for each horse.

Exhibitor's Name _____
Horse's Name _____
Horse's Breed/Type _____

County _____
Age _____
Sex: Mare _____ **Gelding** _____

Entry Fees

_____ Facility Fee: \$20 / Horse----- = \$ _____
 _____ ¹Stall Fee: \$14 / Stall / Day----- = \$ _____
No Refunds **Total = \$** _____

¹Please complete the Stall Request Form

Note to County Extension Staff: *This companion horse should be entered into the online Showare system just like horse entered into the show. This will ensure that this horse is allotted a stall appropriately.*

Acknowledgements

- Release and Assumption of Risk. I recognize the event does not provide sickness or accident insurance coverage for participants; and I accept responsibility for payments of medical costs incurred for injuries or illnesses.
- We certify that the above member & horse information is correct and meets all requirements of the Tennessee 4-H Horse Championships Handbook (PB1760), which has been read and is understood; we agree to abide by the rules therein.
- Exhibitors are completely responsible for the care and custody of their animals at the State 4-H Horse Show.

4-H Member: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

Extension Agent: _____

Date: _____

2026 Tennessee State 4-H Horse Show Stall Request Form

Exhibitor's Name _____

County _____

Email Address _____

Cell Number _____

Stall Request Form and fees are due with the show entry form.

Horse Stalls Needed

Horses' Name	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Stalls = \$14/day
						Total per horse

Tack Stall Needed

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Stalls = \$14/day
						Tack Stall Total
<i>Indicate number of tack stalls needed per day</i>						

Total Horse Stall Fees	
Total Tack Stall Fees	
Total Stall Fees	

Please indicate your tack stall sharing plans (if any): _____

Please note any stalling requests (if any): _____

Exhibitors are completely responsible for the care and custody of their animals at the State 4-H Horse Show.

Tennessee 4-H Horse Championships Banquet Registration and Payment

The 4-H Horse Program Awards Banquet is Tuesday, June 23 at 6:00 PM in the Blue Ribbon Room at the 2026 Tennessee State 4-H Horse Championships.

All youth, parents, volunteers and Agents are invited to attend the awards banquet. Active 4-H members are \$15 per person and all other attendees are \$20 per person.

Graduating seniors should also complete the Graduating Senior Form available at:

- <https://tiny.utk.edu/2026HorseGraduatingSenior>

Registration and payment for the banquet must be completed through the below online payment QR code or link by June 18, 2026.

No registrations will be accepted after June 18.

https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRO DUCTID=3315&SINGLESTORE=true



2026 Tennessee State 4-H Horse Show T-Shirts

A show shirt for 2026 will be available for pre-order until May 28, 2026. A limited number of shirts will be available at the show, but pre-ordering is the best way to guarantee getting a shirt.

Pre-order and payment can be completed at:



https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=3438&SINGLESTORE=true

