

2016 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Skillathon Rules

General Information:

A Skillathon is an event held to test an individual's knowledge of specific subject matter using the experiential learning model of exploring, reflecting and applying that knowledge. Using materials directly or modified from the *Learning Laboratory Kits*, as well as activities developed from information provided in and adapted from the Ohio 4-H Animal Resource Handbooks, Skillathons are created to challenge the exhibitor's knowledge of all aspects of each respective animal species.

Each Skillathon is comprised of four educational and challenging activities 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. A facilitator is present at each station to offer directions if needed, without helping the exhibitor perform the station tasks, and without offering answers. Station scores are recorded on the exhibitor's score sheet by each facilitator, and entered into a computer program that calculates each youth's placing. Winners are announced at the individual species awards ceremonies.

Dates:

Goat Skillathon	–	Friday, July 22, 2:00-6:00pm, Voinovich Livestock Center Mezzanine
Sheep Skillathon	–	Tuesday, July 26, 9:00am-2:00pm, Brown Arena Wool Room
Horse Skillathon	–	Wednesday, July 27, 9:00am-2:00pm, Voinovich Livestock Center Mezzanine
Dairy Skillathon	–	Thursday, July 28, 2:00-5:00pm, and Wednesday, August 3, 2:00-5:00pm, Voinovich Livestock Center Mezzanine
Dog Skillathon	–	Tuesday, August 2, 10:00am-3:00pm, Buckeye Sports Center
Poultry Skillathon	–	Wednesday, August 3, 4:00-7:30pm, Rabbit/Poultry Pavilion
Swine Skillathon	–	Thursday, August 4, 8:00am-1:00pm, Voinovich Livestock Center Mezzanine
Beef Skillathon	–	Thursday, August 4, 4:00-7:00pm, Voinovich Livestock Center Mezzanine
Rabbit Skillathon	–	Friday, August 5, 8:00am-12:00pm, Rabbit/Poultry Pavilion

Rules:

1. All nine Skillathons are open to any Ohio 4-H member, age 8 and in the 3rd grade to age 18 as of January 1, 2016, and FFA members. Therefore, 4-H and FFA members turning 19 on or before December 31, 2015 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 divisions – 8/9 year-olds through 18 year-olds. A parent/guardian, or responsible adult, MUST sign the youth's Skillathon score sheet at the Skillathon registration table verifying the youth is in the correct age division BEFORE the youth can participate in the Skillathon. This is to verify age division. If it is determined at the completion of the Skillathon that an exhibitor was entered in the wrong age division, the exhibitor will be disqualified from the competition and not eligible for placings or awards. *Parents:* Verify with your county Extension professional your child's correct 4-H age, as this is the basis for age classification.

3. Once you register for the Skillathon expect to go through the line when called. Once you enter the Skillathon judging area, you CANNOT leave. If you leave, you forfeit any further participation in that respective species Skillathon.
4. Skillathon participants are not permitted to bring study materials or electronic devices such as cell phones into the Skillathon judging area.
5. Participants will be required to sign the back of their score sheet upon completion.
6. Ties for 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 5th Skillathon (tiebreaker station) and/or test may be administered.
 (Note: 4th and 5th procedures are to break ties for Skillathon participants only, not for breaking OME ties.)
7. The four subject matter station categories for each species will be posted by June 15 at www.go.osu.edu/osfskillathons on the respective species' Skillathon page.

Skillathon Excellence Awards – New in 2016

1. Youth competing in and achieving a minimum score of 65% (65pts/100pts) on **ALL 9 Skillathons** will be eligible to receive Skillathon Excellence awards.
2. Belt buckles provided by the **Ohio State Fair** will be given to the 10 individuals receiving the highest scores regardless of age division.
3. The top three scoring individuals regardless of age division will be recognized in the Sale of Champions and will divide a \$1,000.00 premium from the **Youth Reserve Program**.

Beef, Goat, Poultry, Sheep, and Swine Skillathon Participants

1. For the possibility of achieving the maximum potential score on the Records Section of a Skillathon, youth entered must bring their current year's completed Project and Record Book.
 - a. Youth entered as 4-H members must bring their up-to-date Species Record Books (Beef #117; Goat #135, Poultry #150; Swine #139 or #140; Sheep #198 or #199).
 - b. Copies of 4-H record books will NOT be accepted.
 - c. 4-H Project and Record Books will be allowed no more than seven (7) additional sheets of paper (single- or double-sided), and those pages must pertain directly to activities or records required for the book.
 - d. 4-H Project and Record Books MUST be intact. The Project and Record Book pages CANNOT be separated and/or placed loose or in sheet protectors in a binder. The Project and Record Book may be put into a binder if additional pages are added, with the additional pages placed in the binder preceding the intact Project and Record Book.
2. Youth entered as FFA members must bring an up-to-date Animal Enterprise Record Book or Farm Account Book for each species entered. Other record books that contain equivalent record keeping information permitted by FFA are also acceptable.

Awards:

- Youth in each age division will receive 1st through 10th place ribbons.
- All Junior Fair Skillathon age champions (9-18) will receive money from the **Youth Reserve Program**. This amount varies from year to year and will be announced during each Skillathon awards ceremony.
- Each age winner and the overall Skillathon champion or age-group champion will receive an award sponsored by **Cooper Farms**, the **Ohio State Fair**, and the **Ohio 4-H and Ohio FFA Foundations**.
- All participants will receive a respective species' Skillathon pin and a participation ribbon.
- Refer to the Skillathon Excellence Awards listed above.