



# Minnesota State 4-H Horse Drill Team

## Guide on How to Build a Drill Team

1. Reach out to youth in your county to see if there is interest in participating in Drill Team.
2. Two screened volunteers are needed, per Extension rules, to coach a Drill Team.
  - a. Coaches roles are to help youth perform the routine which youth have created.
  - b. Coaches are to provide insight on how the routine looks, and suggest changes to help a routine flow easier, and support youth throughout the drill team year.
3. Determine what Drill Team division your county will be participating in (counties can have more than one team competing, but youth can not perform on a Large and Small Freestyle team.)
  - a. Freestyle
    - i. Large - (7-12 Youth, 8-10 minutes in music length)
    - ii. Small- (4-6 Youth, 6-8 minutes in music length)
  - b. Compulsory (6-12 Youth, less than 10 minutes)
  - c. Limited-Short (2-4 Youth, 2-4 minutes - 1 song)

Limited-Short Drill is offered for counties who have a limited number of youth who can participate and/or counties who have new youth joining the drill team program.
4. Determine music which will be used during the performance.
  - a. Music must be appropriate for 4-H. The youth choose the music, but coaches need to look at the music and determine if the music is not appropriate.
5. Determine maneuvers which will be used during the performance. The required maneuvers can be found in the Minnesota 4-H Horse Rulebook on the score sheets and utilize 101 Drill Team Exercises for Horse & Rider by Debbie Kay Sams. Sams' book is available on Amazon
6. Your team may choose to designate Captains.
7. Set up meeting time and space to practice routine.
  - a. Meet early in the year to pick music, create routine, and practice routine on foot before drilling on horses.
8. Practice as much as you can as a team. The more time practiced, the more youth will learn.

### Competitive Events:

Regional Competition:

Northern Regional (typically Strait Rail Ranch)

Southern Regional (typically Kukas Arena)  
State Competition:  
Minnesota State Fairgrounds