

**Morrisville State College Ag Days**  
**Equine Science Department Open House**  
**and**  
**Equine Knowledge and Practical Skills Competition**  
**Thursday, April 30, 2009 (applications due by April 21<sup>st</sup> )**

**Eligibility:**

All high school students are encouraged to attend the Morrisville State College Ag Day. Those with a high school average greater than or equal to 80% or a GPA greater than or equal to 3.0 are eligible to participate in the Equine Department Scholarship Competition. Home-schooled students should submit a portfolio of courses completed and an essay describing their experiences in the equine industry.

A student may compete for the scholarships in more than one year. However, only one scholarship per student will be applied toward tuition at Morrisville State College. If an individual wins a smaller scholarship, (s)he may compete the next year for a larger scholarship and the larger of the scholarships will be applied toward tuition. In addition, students *who participate in this contest* will also have their skills assessed in order to ensure correct placement in the proper Equitation classes when they enter Morrisville, thus eliminating the need to come back a second time for a riding placement test.

In order to take part in the scholarship competition, student's applications *must* be received by the scholarship committee by April 21<sup>st</sup>. Students whose applications are received after that date will not be allowed to compete. Also, *no walk-in* registrants will be accepted.

**Competition:**

This is an individual competition, not a team competition. Evaluation will be based on the following criterion:

- 50% --- Scientific knowledge of the equine species and overall knowledge of the horse industry
- 50% --- Practical horse skills

A written, multiple-choice test will evaluate the student's scientific knowledge of the equine species. Topics covered may include Anatomy and Physiology, Health and Diseases, Lameness, Conformation, Nutrition, and Behavior. In order to evaluate the student's knowledge of the industry, an examination may take place where the student must show proficiency in areas such as tack identification, knowledge of specific

medications or dewormers, evaluation of hay samples, knowledge of feedstuffs, blanketing, farrier tools and shoes.

The students' practical horse skills will be evaluated by activities such as riding, harnessing, tacking, and/or driving a horse. Each student may compete in **one** (and only one) of the following areas: Western Horsemanship, Hunt Seat Equitation, Draft Horse Driving and Horsemanship, Thoroughbred Race Horse Handling and Horsemanship, or Standardbred Race Horse Handling and Horsemanship.

The students who participate in this contest will also have their skills assessed in order to ensure correct placement in the proper Equitation classes when they enter Morrisville, thus eliminating the need to come back a second time for a riding placement test.

The following is a list of skills that the student will be expected to exhibit during their practical skills activities. These are the minimal expectations in each of the disciplines.

**Equitation and Horsemanship (Both Western and Hunt Seat)**

- Identify bits, bridles and tack
- Wrap/bandage legs
- Saddle and bridle a horse
- Ride effectively at a walk, trot or jog, and canter or lope

**Draft Horse Driving and Horsemanship**

- Identify bits, bridles, and tack
- Fully harness a horse
- Drive a team of horses

**Race Horse Handling and Horsemanship**

**Standardbred Division**

- Identify bits, bridles, and tack
- Wrap legs
- Harness and fully tack a horse
- Drive a trotter or pacer

**Thoroughbred Division**

- Saddle and bridle a young thoroughbred
- Assemble a bridle
- Tack and equipment identification

**Scholarships:**

Scholarships will be available as listed below. The total scholarship amount will be disbursed equally over 4 semesters, contingent upon the recipient maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Grand Champion -- \$2500.

Reserve Grand Champion -- \$1500

Five additional scholarships of \$750 each

You are invited to participate in the rest of the Ag Day Activities on the main campus. Please review the schedule on our website at [www.morrisville.edu](http://www.morrisville.edu).

**Morrisville State College  
Equine Scholarship Competition Application  
Thursday, April 30, 2009**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone or e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**High School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**High School GPA:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please describe your involvement and experience in the horse industry:**

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**Area of competition (Circle one):**

**Draft/Driving      Hunt Seat      TB Racing      STBD Racing      Western**

**Please attach a copy of your high school transcript or grade report. Home-schooled students, please attach a portfolio of coursework completed.**

**Please mail or Fax this form to:**

**Bonnie Miller  
Equine Science Department, Scholarship Committee  
Morrisville State College  
80 Eaton St., Marshall Hall  
Morrisville, NY 13408  
Fax -- (315) 684-6125**

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>. NO WALK-IN REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED.**

## Schedule of Events

- 8:00 AM Registration at Western Arena Classroom,  
Swamp Road, Morrisville
- 8:30-11:30 AM Scholarship Competition  
-Western, Draft and Racing students report to Western Arena  
Classroom  
-Hunt Seat students report to the Equine Center Classroom

Horsemanship and Equine Skills competition. **Please note that all participants must have proper footwear (hard soled, with a heel) and an ASTM/SEI approved riding helmet.**

A reminder to all participants - there is to be no coaching from the sidelines during the riding or skills testing process!

Hope to see you all on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April!