

# DOG SKILL-A-THON

Contact:

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## **Overview**

The State 4-H Dog Skill-A-Thon is an opportunity for youth interested in dogs to compete using knowledge gained in the 4-H Dog Project. The purpose of the competition is to:

- Help youth learn the techniques of logical and accurate decision making
- Teach youth to recognize the reasons for their decisions.
- Help youth with career guidance.
- Encourage 4-H members to assume responsibility for their decisions and actions.
- Encourage 4-H members to establish goals and determine a course of action that will assist them in accomplishing those goals.

## **Eligibility**

This contest is open to all youth enrolled in the Wyoming 4-H Program. Members are not required to exhibit animals at a show. Eligibility will be determined through ZSuite.

## **Teams**

Teams shall consist of a minimum of three (3) members and a maximum of four (4) members. There is no limit on the number of teams that can be entered in each age division. All members competing on a team must be within the age requirements of Junior (8-13) or Senior (14-18) for their respective team. If there are not enough members to complete a team, they may participate as individuals.

## **Individuals**

All members, regardless of whether or not they are on a team, will also compete as individuals. Counties not having enough members to fill a team are encouraged to send individuals to participate in the contest. There is no limit to the number of individuals able to compete in the contest. Individual age groups will be Junior (8-10), Intermediate (11-13), and Senior (14-18).

## **Contest**

The contest will consist of four parts. The first part will be in Quiz Bowl fashion where participants will answer 25 questions appropriate for their age category (junior, intermediate, senior). Questions will have a two point value for seniors and a one point value for juniors and intermediates. Questions will be taken from the Study Guide (which is posted on the Wyoming 4-H Website).

The second part will be breed identification. Participants will be required to name the breed and group in which the dog belongs. Contestants will receive one point for each correctly identified breed and one point for each correctly identified group. Only AKC recognized breeds in the main seven recognized groups (Sporting, Non-Sporting, Toy, Terrier, Hound, Working, and Herding) will be used. Juniors and intermediates will identify 25 breeds and seniors will identify 50 breeds. If the officials can determine the breed the youth is identifying, spelling will not be counted against the contestant. However, the number of correct breeds will be used for a tie breaker. Breakdown of breeds for each age division can be found at: <http://www.uwyo.edu/4-h/opportunities/state-contests/showcase-showdown/dog-skillathon.html>

The third part of the contest will consist of identifying the correct parts, internal organs, and skeletal structure of a dog, participants will be asked to identify five parts in each section. Juniors and intermediates will be asked to correctly identify the parts and internal organs of a dog. Seniors will be asked to correctly identify the parts, internal organs, and skeletal structure of a dog. Three points will be given for each correct answer. Diagrams that will be used for the contest can be found at: <http://www.uwyo.edu/4-h/opportunities/state-contests/showcase-showdown/dog-skillathon.html>

The fourth part of the contest will consist of a skill-a-thon (hands-on). Contestants will be asked questions, scenarios or identify topics related to subject areas. Seniors will answer 15 questions, juniors/intermediates will answer 10 questions. Three points will be given for each correct answer.

### **Junior/Intermediate/Senior:**

Tail Types  
Ear Types  
Bite Types  
Eye Types  
Bones of the Foot  
Paw Anatomy  
Dog Sports  
Dog Equipment  
Front and Rear Leg Confirmation  
Pasterns Confirmation  
Conformation Backline  
Health Records  
Behavioral Postures

### **2025 Possible Topics:**

Dog Equipment  
Bones of the Foot  
Behavioral Postures  
Ear Types  
Dog Sports

The Dog Skill-A-Thon Contest will have a total of 240 points for seniors and 135 points for juniors/intermediates.

	Senior	Juniors/ Intermediates
Section 1 – Quiz Bowl	50 points	25 points
Section 2 – Breeds	100 points	50 points
Section 3 – Parts	45 points	30 points
Section 4 – Skill-A-Thon	45 points	30 points

### **Awards**

Awards will be given to the top three teams in each age division (junior and senior) and to the top ten individuals in each age division (junior, intermediate, and senior).

If you are interested in supporting the Wyoming 4-H Program, please contact:

**Wyoming State 4-H Foundation**  
**Steve Mack, Director**  
1000 E. University Ave., Dept. 3354  
Laramie, WY 82071  
**Phone: 307.766.5170**  
**Email: [smack@uwyo.edu](mailto:smack@uwyo.edu)**

### **Study Materials**

The Wyoming 4-H website (<http://www.uwyo.edu/4-h/opportunities/state-contests/showcaseshowdown/dog-skillathon.html>) will offer a variety of study materials. The Dog Learning Laboratory Kit distributed through the Ohio Agriculture Education Curriculum Materials Service (available at county extension offices) can also be used.