Each St. Joseph County Saddle club or specialty group may elect/nominate a “Sportsperson” to compete for the County Sportsperson Award and Recognition.

Each club or specialty group elects their sportsperson(s) based on standards set forth by the individual group and by a method chosen by the group leaders.

- Large clubs or specialty groups (clubs who had 15 or more participants complete a class at the previous year’s fair) may nominate two (2) members.
- Small 4-H clubs or specialty groups (clubs who had less than 15 members complete a class at the previous year’s fair) may nominate one (1) member.
- Specialty areas include: competitive trail, dressage, driving, gymkhana, jumping, and reining.
- A member may represent more than one club or specialty group if selected.

There is no age requirement for the sportsperson award.

There is no limit to the number of times a 4-H member can represent a club or specialty group for this award. Note: A member cannot win the county level award more than one time.

There is no attendance requirement for the sportsperson, but it is strongly encouraged that the sportsperson has participated in the majority of the activities throughout that 4-H calendar year so that they have had the opportunity to exhibit their Sportsmanship qualities.

The sportsperson should exhibit:

- Fairness.
- Civility.
- Honesty.
- Unselfishness.
- Respect and responsibility towards the other 4-H members, leaders, parents, and visitors as well as all members of the 4-H community.
- Gracious behavior.
- A respect and fellowship for one’s competitors.
- Respect and kindness toward his/her 4-H horse or pony.
- The spirit of 4-H!

The nominee’s name(s) will be submitted by a leader to the Committee Chairperson on the form provided by the St. Joseph County 4-H Horse Council at the August St. Joseph County 4-H Horse Council meeting.

An interview experience will be used as the selection process. There will be a date prior to the end of August available for the member to schedule an interview. Date is to be announced.

The interview judge will be selected by the Committee Chairperson.

All of the participants will be honored at the required pre-fair meeting with the announcement of the winner. The winner will be presented with an embroidered director’s chair.

All participants will be recognized with a plaque at the awards event on the last Saturday of the fair. The winner will also receive the traditional horse trophy.