



## Official Rules



“Sunshine State Cup” by First Place Florida  
2018-2019

The Sunshine State Cup (“SSC”) is an awards program for youth who compete in judging contests throughout the season to be recognized. The purpose of the SSC is to recognize top youth livestock judging team members in Florida who may not win the state championships, but have continually proven they are competitive with high scores at contests around the state.

### Eligibility -

- a. Any youth who is a high school senior or younger is eligible to participate.
  1. Youth MUST be Florida residents.
  2. Youth MUST be members of a 4-H club OR an FFA chapter. Youth may use scores they earned through competing under both organizations.
- b. No fees, registrations or entry forms are required to participate in the SSC.

### Organization -

- a. First Place Florida will serve as the official organizer of the SSC.
  1. Tabulations of final scores of the SSC will be verified by an independent third party prior to release.
- b. The official webpage of the SSC is [www.firstplaceflorida.com/sunshine-state-cup](http://www.firstplaceflorida.com/sunshine-state-cup).
  1. Updates and information on the SSC can also be found on the First Place Florida Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/FirstPlaceFlorida](http://www.facebook.com/FirstPlaceFlorida).
- c. Official age divisions of the SSC include:
  1. Junior – Youth in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8
  2. Senior – Youth in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12
    - i. In the event that a youth is 14 or older and in eighth grade, that youth will still compete for the SSC in the junior division.
  3. Age divisions are determined as of the youth’s grade on September 1.
- d. The official year for the SSC will be from September 1 – March 30 each season.
- e. First Place Florida does not control or endorse any specific contest. Please consult official organizers of each contest for questions or grievances about contest structures, policies or decisions.

### Awards Program -

- a. Any youth who meets the eligibility requirements outlined above is eligible to receive points for the SSC at the approved contests each season.
- b. First Place Florida will tabulate the points earned by each youth eligible after each approved contest using the points tabulation formulas on the following page.
  1. Updates on point standings will be posted two (2) times prior to the end of the season, at which time corrections will be made if needed.
- c. Points are awarded both based on youth scores and youth placings from each approved contest.
  1. Each youth will be given points based on their total scores from each contest.
  2. Youth placing in the top 10 will also be given additional points based on their placing and listing on official results from each contest.
    - i. If a youth judges in a contest and does not place in the top 10, they are still eligible to receive points based on their total score.
    - ii. If a youth judges in a contest and does place in the top 10, they receive points both based on their total score AND their placing in the top 10.

### SCORE Points Formula

Points are awarded by adding up the total number of points a youth earns from judging and questions classes, dividing that total by the total number of classes at the contest (excluding reasons, official dress, keep/cull and feeder/slaughter evaluation), and multiplying that number by two to calculate the number of score points received.

$$\frac{\text{Total Number of Points Earned from Classes}}{\text{Total Number of Classes in Contest (50 Points Each)*}} \times 2 = \text{Score Points}$$

Ex. A youth judges a contest with six classes and receives scores of 50, 47, 35, 39, 50 and 42.

$$(50+47+35+39+50+42) = \frac{263}{6} = 43.8 \times 2 = 87.6 \text{ Score Points}$$

\*If a contest has questions classes that are worth 100 points each, add 1 to this total for each.

\*\*REASONS scores are not included in score points totals, unfortunately there are not currently enough contests that offer them to use for the SSC.

### PLACING Points Formula

Placing points are awarded flat based on the top 10 youth listed for the overall contest on each contest's official results sheets. Please note that even though anything other than judging and questions classes are removed in the calculation of score points, these rankings will NOT be recalculated to remove them, they will be left as is. Also, if a contest offers JR, INT and SR divisions or MS FFA, HS FFA, JR 4-H, INT 4-H and SR 4-H divisions, placing points will be awarded to the top 10 individuals in each of those divisions.

Placing	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth
Points	50	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5

- d. For the 2018-2019 inaugural season, the SSC will be on an individual basis only.
  - a. Team totals, placings and rankings WILL NOT be eligible for points.
  - b. Individual youth WILL NOT receive points for team activities in calculations.
- e. "Pewees" who judge and are not listed on official results or judge where they receive a participation prize instead of scores are not eligible to receive points for contests where this occurs.
- f. The FOUR (4) best approved contests for each youth at the conclusion of the year will be used in calculation for the winners in the junior and senior divisions.
  - a. Youth MAY judge at more than four approved contests, however only the four where they have earned the most points will be used in winner calculations.
  - b. Youth MUST judge in at least THREE (3) to be eligible for rankings or awards.
    - i. No special consideration will be given in rankings to those who qualify for awards but did not attend four contests.
- g. First Place Florida will the points earned by each youth eligible after each approved contest using the points tabulation formulas on the previous page.
  - i. Updates on point standings will be posted two (2) times prior to the end of the season, at which time corrections will be made if needed.

### **Contests –**

- a. First Place Florida (FPF) is responsible for the carrying out of the Sunshine State Cup (SSC) only. This does not imply endorsement by any other youth organization on a local, state or national level.
- b. First Place Florida is NOT responsible for the activities, actions, structures, policies, decisions or officials of ANY contest.
  - 1. Please consult official organizers of each contest for questions or grievances about individual contests.
- c. Only APPROVED contests are eligible to be used in the calculation of points.
  - 1. Youth are encouraged to judge at any contest they can attend, however those that are not on the approved list may NOT be used for points.
  - 2. A list of the approved contests will be published on the FPF website and updated as needed. Announcements will also be made on social media.
- d. Only contests that are open to ALL YOUTH in Florida, regardless of county or region of residence are eligible to be on the approved list.

1. Contests MUST be located in Florida to be eligible.
- e. In an effort to encourage youth to be knowledgeable about all four of the main species, contests MUST include at least TWO (2) species to be eligible.
  1. Contests that include just one (i.e. just cattle or swine) or that include things other than livestock (ex. hay or chickens) are NOT eligible.
- f. Contests MUST agree to provide complete results from their event to include youth names, club/chapter/team name (if applicable), class scores, total scores and rankings to be eligible.
  1. The top 10 youth MUST be listed or noted in the official results, regardless of how many individual prizes are awarded.
- g. First Place Florida welcomes any existing or new contests that would like to be a part of the SSC awards program. Contests must meet the criteria listed in this section and contact FPF for more information.
  1. To ensure equal opportunity to all, the State FFA CDEs (middle school in Plant City and high school in Gainesville) and State 4-H Contest (seniors only, Gainesville) are NOT eligible as they limit who may compete.
  2. The FFA CDE Preliminary and 4-H Contest at the Florida State Fair in Tampa WILL be eligible for points.
    - i. We realize that these are limited to four youth per group, however any chapter and 4-H county may enter, and no specific contests are required as any four of the contests off the approved list may give the points used in calculations for a youth.
  3. While the “in-county” contest will NOT be eligible for points, the “open” contest at the Volusia County Fair WILL be eligible for points.
- h. Reminders of dates and registration deadlines, paperwork and fees (if applicable) will be posted on both the First Place Florida website and social media, however it is the responsibility of youth and their supporters to ensure these are adhered to.

## **Awards –**

- a. First Place Florida will tabulate the points earned by each youth eligible after each approved contest using the points tabulation formulas listed previously.
- b. The FOUR (4) best approved contests for each youth at the conclusion of the year will be used in calculation for the winners in the junior and senior division.
  1. There are no “required” contests, i.e. Sally Smith may have contests one, two, three and four as her highest counted in calculations and Jake Johnson may have contests five, six, seven and eight as his highest counted in calculations.
- c. Ties will be broken as follows:

1. The number of top 10 finishes will be counted, and the youth with the most top 10 finishes from their four contests will win.
  2. If there is still a tie, the next highest scoring contest will be used, essentially a "fifth contest."
  3. If there is still a tie, or if one does not have a fifth contest to use, the scores from the first contest of the season of each youth (the first contests of the season attended) will determine the winner, whichever youth's is higher will win.
- d. "Sunshine State Cup" trophies will be presented to the overall highest scoring individual youth in the junior and senior divisions.
- e. Awards will be presented to the top 10 individuals in the junior and senior divisions.
1. Awards will either be presented or shipped to the winners.
  2. Awards are dependent upon donations to the site and sponsorships.

#### **Other -**

- a. Nothing is required to participate in the SSC awards program. Youth who judge at three or more contests off the approved list and meet the eligibility listed on the first page are eligible to win.
- b. If you do not wish to participate and do not want you or your youth's scores to be included, please fill out the opt-out form on our website and you will be removed.
- c. If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to email [firstplaceflorida@yahoo.com](mailto:firstplaceflorida@yahoo.com) or send us a message on social media.

#### **Please Note:**

If you do not like or agree with the way this awards program is set up, you do not have to participate and may opt-out.

This program, and First Place Florida itself, are run by volunteers who use their time and expertise to make it great, and supported by donations.

No overly negative or hateful comments, abusive language, bullying or harassment will be tolerated. If any youth participant or adult leader is seen or reported engaging in this behavior in person or online in regards towards this program, it is grounds for you or your organization's youth to be dismissed from this awards program.

## Approved Contests

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### CONFIRMED –

- WVATA Open Livestock Judging Contest at the Volusia County Fair (November 3)
- Florida Youth Livestock Expo Judging Contest (December 27)
- South Florida Fair Livestock Judging Contest (January 19)
- Florida State Fair 4-H Livestock Judging Contest (February 9)
- State FFA High School Livestock Judging CDE Preliminary (February 9)
- Bradford County Fair Livestock Judging Contest (March 8) (\*\*Added 2/2\*\*)
- Florida Strawberry Festival Livestock Judging Contest (March 9)
- Central Florida Fair Livestock Judging Contest (March 19)
- Putnam County Fair Livestock Judging Contest (March 28)

### TO BE DETERMINED –

- Okeechobee FFA Alumni Invitational Livestock Judging Contest (February) Emailed
- Osceola County Fair KVLS Livestock Judging Contest (February) Emailed
- Alachua County Youth Fair Livestock Judging Contest (March)
- Citrus County Fair Livestock Judging Contest (March) Emailed

### NOT ELIGIBLE –

- Panhandle Youth Expo Livestock Judging (October)  
Cancelled for 2018-2019, will pursue including next season.
- Northeast Florida Fair Livestock Judging Contest (October)  
Correspondence from us about this opportunity went unanswered.
- Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair (November)  
Referred to Duval County 4-H, who could not release full results to us.
- Pig Palooza Swine Judging Contest (January)
- Wakulla Area Swine Show Swine Judging Contest (February)
- Jackson County Fed Cattle Show and Sale Judging Contest (February)  
Single species contests are unfortunately not eligible.
- State Middle School Livestock Judging CDE (March)
- State High School Livestock Judging CDE (April)  
Both are restricted on who can compete and therefore not eligible.
- Sarasota County Fair Livestock Judging Contest (April)
- Clay County Agricultural Fair Livestock Judging Contest (April)  
Too late in the season and unfortunately not eligible from their timing.