

2026 MCLA Youth Challenge Guidelines

The awards date and location TBA.

Welcome to our 24th Annual Youth Challenge!

Please read the guidelines so you are aware of the process. \$30 entry fee by March 31, 2026, \$40 entry fee after April 1st and after. All YC entries must be paid for through Venmo. Please contact the treasurer, Chelsea Ketchum (906-440-2452) to get the Venmo code.

The 2026 guidelines are:

1. Entrant must be 7 years old by January 1, 2026, but not older than 21. Showmanship and Educational division age groups awards are as follows: 7-11, 12-14, 15-17, 18-21 as of January 1, 2026.
2. Entrant must be a resident of Michigan for more than 6 months in each calendar year and must attend a Michigan School (exception made for Michigan resident college students attending out of state institutions).
3. Entrants must show in a **minimum of 5 shows** to qualify for any award in the market lamb, commercial ewe lamb, showmanship or educational category.
4. Several locations are now offering double shows (two shows in one location on the same day). For purposes of the Youth Challenge, in order for a day to count twice, there **MUST** be 2 market lamb shows, 2 ewe lamb shows, 2 educational events, and 2 showmanship shows (judged by 2 judges concurrently or separately with both results announced the day of the show). The educational test will be broken into 2 different scoring groups for double shows. Odd numbered questions will go with Show A, even numbered questions will go with Show B. Only one quiz will be give for a double show.
5. Entrants will show their own lambs unless they have multiple lambs in a class.
6. There will be 4 award divisions per age group: MARKET LAMB, COMMERCIAL EWE LAMB, SHOWMANSHIP AND EDUCATION. These will be determined from the **5 highest total point shows** for each exhibitor. Exhibitors are not limited on the number of sheep shown, but points will only be counted from the **highest placing** market lamb, **highest placing** commercial ewe lamb, showmanship placing and quiz placing. Each class division at sanctioned shows will be worth a maximum of 50 points.
7. The scoring for each class will break as follows:
1st Place - 50 points; 2nd Place - 48 points; 3rd Place - 46 points; 4th Place - 44 points;
5th Place - 42 points; 6th Place or lower - 40 points
8. Shows may offer additional breeding classes such as yearling ewes and rams (as non-point earning classes) and may break market classes by breed and/or weight.
9. There is no entry deadline for the Challenge, but the MCLA will only tally results from the date of paid entry forward. Youth Challenge entry payment needs to be

paid through Venmo prior to the first show they are exhibiting at. Please see the top of the rules for fees.

10. Ties will be broken based on the members' 6th show point total and subsequent shows until the tie is broken. If a tie is not broken, overall cumulative points (all categories) for the season will be used.

11. *All decisions made by the MCLA Youth Challenge Committee are final.* The main form of communication will be the website and FaceBook Page. Please check both regularly to see any updates of information regarding shows, rules, and announcements. Participants will have 10 days from each show's posting of placings to fix any errors that may have occurred with placing and/or point allocations by working with show managers first and MCLA contacts second.

12. Members compete for awards in the following categories:

- Market Lamb - Top 5 in each age group
- Commercial Ewe Lambs - Top 5 in each age group
- Showmanship - Top 5 in each age group
- Educational - Top 5 in each age group

Overall Age Groups – these awards will be based on the exhibitors top 5 shows total cumulative points of all 4 categories.

- Overall Novice
- Overall Junior
- Overall Intermediate
- Overall Senior

Overall Grand and Reserve Grand High Point (recognizes the top two overall individuals based on their total cumulative TOP 5 SHOW totals).

(Example: 3 market lambs shown placing a 2nd (48 points), a 4th (44 points) and a 3rd (46 points). Highest placing market lamb was the 2nd place lamb with *48 points*. 2 Ewe lambs shown were a 1st & 4th place. Highest placing ewe lamb was the 1st place with *50 points*. Place 3rd in showmanship for *46 points* and quiz place 2nd for *48 points*. Your total points for the day were 192 points.)

Grand and Reserve Grand EXTRA MILE award (recognizes the overall top two individuals from points earned from all MCLA sanctioned shows attended).

13. MCLA Lamb Futurity – See the rules form on the MCLA webpage under Events/Member Sales or Futurity tab.

**** NEW for 2026 ****

- Minimum of 5 shows to qualify for awards
- Points will be calculated based on the exhibitor's top 5 shows in each category
- Overall age division & High Point champions will be calculated based on the exhibitor's top 5 overall shows.
- Overall Extra Mile champions will be calculated based on points from all shows attended.