

2025 MCLA Youth Challenge Guidelines

The awards date and location TBA.

Welcome to our 23rd Annual Youth Challenge!

Please read the guidelines so you are aware of the process. \$30 entry fee by April 25, 2025, \$40 entry fee after April 25th. All YC entries must be paid for through Venmo. Please contact the treasurer, John Schut at 616-204-8530 to get the Venmo code.

The 2025 guidelines are:

1. Entrant must be 7 years old by January 1, 2025, 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, 2025.
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.
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 with both results announced the day of the show). Show managers may break one educational test into 2 different scoring groups with approval of the on-site MCLA Committee member.
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. Using those top 5 total point show, tabulations for all category and age divisions will be sorted and ranked from there. Exhibitors are not limited on the number of sheep shown, but points will only be counted from the highest placing market lamb or commercial ewe lamb classes. Classes at sanctioned shows will be worth a maximum of 50 points.
7. The scoring for all classes 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 contest, 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 a tie is broken. If a tie is not broken, showmanship placings will be used for overall age awards and high point awards.

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 Novice

Overall Junior

Overall Intermediate

Overall Senior

Overall Grand and Reserve Grand (recognizes the top two overall individuals based on their total cumulative showmanship, education, market lamb and commercial ewe lamb placings in their **TOP 5 SHOWS**).

****NEW**** - **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 Youth Challenge.