

USPC New Member Booklet

A GUIDE TO MEMBERSHIP





USPC New Member Booklet

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Important Information

This book belongs to _____

A member of

_____ Pony Club

District Commissioner (DC)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Instructor

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Club Web site _____

Region Web site _____

USPC Web site

The USPC Web site is located at www.ponyclub.org. The site features current events and information as well as contacts for the National Office and national volunteers in charge of programs. The site is constantly changing, so members are encouraged to visit frequently.

Links to many local clubs and regions are featured, as well as links to other equestrian Web sites.

Photos, educational articles, questions, other submissions and ideas for the Web site may be submitted to the web master, webworks@ponyclub.org, or to the Communications Director at communications@ponyclub.org.

USPC Bookstore

Great service is the number one priority of the USPC Bookstore. The Bookstore features over 400 titles of equestrian educational materials including books on horse care, training for the horse and rider in many disciplines, USPC rulebooks and the USPC Manuals of Horsemanship. Membership pins, educational videos, CD-ROMs, board games and posters are also available, as well as t-shirts, outerwear (jackets and pullovers) and stuffed animals.

Books and materials are reviewed by the Curriculum and Standards Committee and approved by the Vice President of Instruction. During a USPC sponsored national event, such as the USPC Annual Meeting, Championships or Festival, the USPC Bookstore will be located at the site of the event. Materials may be purchased, either on or off site, using cash, personal or club checks, traveler's checks, Visa, or MasterCard.

USPC Bookstore catalogs are free. Orders may be placed by phone (859/422-5522) or fax (859/422-5523) or through the Web site at www.ponyclub.org.

USPC News

USPC's quarterly magazine, *USPC News*, features articles and information on USPC activities around the nation and the world. *USPC News* also contains equestrian-themed games, and puzzles, as well as stories and poems written by members.

Recent issues have included articles on helmet fit and safety, international exchanges, USPC from a dad's perspective, tips on finding the right boarding stable, leather and tack care, feeding tips, and a sample quiz.

Stories (including factual, educational and fictional stories) are welcomed and may be submitted by members throughout the year. Many members advertise through the *USPC News* classified ads section.

USPC News covers major national, regional and local USPC events, including the Annual Meeting, Championships, Festival, clinics and special activities. *USPC News* is published in the winter, spring, summer and fall of each year. If you do not receive *USPC News*, please contact the Member Services Department at the National Office via phone or email memberservices@ponyclub.org.

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Welcome from the USPC President

Dear New Member's Family,



It is with great pleasure that I welcome your entire family to membership in The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. (USPC). You have taken a step that will change your lives! And that means all family members, as Pony Club is definitely family oriented. Your participating member(s) will be offered a wide variety of activities and experiences, from local club rallies to International competition. You, as parents, will be asked to volunteer and support, but not in such a manner as to interfere with the opportunity for your child to learn leadership skills, teamwork, responsibility, and independence – all in an age appropriate and safe environment.

USPC is a unique organization. We have a paid staff of 18 in the National Office at the Kentucky Horse Park, most of whom are respected professionals in the equine world, and all of whom are dedicated and caring individuals. This small group works cooperatively with literally thousands of volunteers, some of which are also equine experts, but many are just interested and helpful parents such as yourselves.

I urge you to help your children to take advantage of the many opportunities to learn not only horsemanship, but horsemastership as well – including the care and management of the horse, and the many varied activities in which they can participate, both mounted and unmounted. Your club leadership, the District Commissioner and other officers, can help to guide you wisely, so please do take full advantage of their experience and knowledge.

Welcome to you and your entire family, and I hope to meet you and your family at a Pony Club activity in the very near future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Art Kramer".

Art Kramer

Welcome from the Executive Director

Dear Pony Club Family,



Welcome to The United States Pony Clubs, Inc.!

In addition to becoming a member of your local club, you are joining over 12,000 other young people who are now members of USPC. This is the largest youth organization in the country dedicated to the teaching of riding, mounted sports and horse management and the care of horses and ponies.

Every three months a copy of our quarterly newsletter, *USPC News*, will be mailed to you, bringing you information on USPC activities around the nation. In addition, other equine resources are available from the National Office, as outlined in the *USPC Bookstore Catalog*, and on www.ponyclub.org.

We hope you will enjoy taking part in The United States Pony Clubs. As you progress from one rating level to the next, you will learn many things about horse care and riding.

The best way to get the most out of USPC is to ask questions, make friends and participate in as many club, regional and national activities as possible. Talk to your District Commissioner (DC) and other members and adult volunteers.

Above all, we hope you and your family have a memorable, **fun** experience in The United States Pony Clubs, Inc.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peggy M. Entekin".

Peggy Entekin

As a member of The United States Pony Clubs, Inc., I stand for the best in sportsmanship as well as horsemanship. I shall compete for the enjoyment of the game well played and take winning and losing in stride, remembering that without good manners and good temper, sport loses its cause for being. I shall endeavor to maintain the best traditions of horsemanship, always treating my horse with the consideration due a partner.



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What Pony Club Teaches

The Standards

The USPC Standards of Proficiency provide a core curriculum for individualized instruction.

The Standards describe a clear progression of skills in riding and horse management. The Standards also provide opportunities for goal setting, as members are encouraged to proceed through those skills at a pace that is comfortable for them.

Clubs use the Standards of Proficiency as a plan for instruction programs. Therefore, rating tests (see page 7) are an evaluation of the members' progress through the rating levels. At the same time, USPC stresses that the rating tests should be a positive educational experience. Ratings are designed to encourage the candidate to "show and tell" what he or she knows.

The Standards of Proficiency describe the specific requirements for each level. A USPC member is ready for a rating test if he or she is able to perform the requirements for that level in a supervised teaching situation. After passing a test, a member may or may not be ready to attempt skills required at the next rating level. If not, he or she continues to receive instruction appropriate to the earlier level until a greater degree of proficiency is achieved.

All USPC members are encouraged to progress at a pace that is comfortable for them. Older members or knowledgeable adults will assist in preparing for the rating tests.

Riding is a hobby, something to do for fun! Ratings are given in an effort to recognize achievement and encourage USPC members to gain confidence, independence and good safety habits while working with mounts. Goal setting, teaching and testing are good ways to accomplish this purpose.

Knowledgeable care of horses and ponies, horse management, is basic to the well-rounded horseperson.



Horse Management

USPC has three basic goals for members: riding instruction, development of horse care responsibilities, and participation in various mounted sports. USPC is unique because its educational programs place equal emphasis on the teaching of riding skills, horsecare fundamentals, and team participation with sportsmanship. From the moment children join USPC until they graduate, they are part of a broad network of activities and educational programs that promote the health and safety of both horse and rider. USPC is dedicated to developing knowledgeable, competent, responsible, and caring horsemen. USPC prepares its members in two ways to take on the responsibilities of horse care.

First, all clubs have a Horse Management program designed to teach skills and provide knowledge as members progress through the ratings in accordance with the USPC Standards of Proficiency. The style of Horse Management instruction varies from region to region and from club to club; however, every program is developed on the basis of the Standards, and the result is a common level of knowledge for youngsters at any given rating level.



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Second, USPC prepares members for the responsibilities of horse ownership by Horse Management judging at all rallies. The competitors are judged within their respective rating levels on their knowledge and application of sound, practical horse care principles acquired through Horse Management instruction and regular practice. The evaluation of competitors' performances at rallies reinforces the information taught at the club level. The emphasis of Horse Management judging is always on the health and safety of both horse and rider.



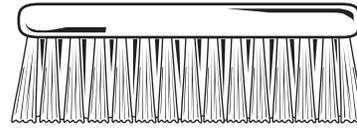
Horse Management instruction and experience in USPC is designed to encourage inquiry into the nature of horse care and safety, based on logical and practical reasoning as well as common sense. Horse Management training also promotes sportsmanship, and it helps develop the confidence required for sensible decision making.

Members should use the current Standards of Proficiency as a reference for the Horse Management requirements of the various ratings. It is particularly useful to refer to the Study Guides listed at the back of each Standard.

However, there is no limit to the useful knowledge of Horse Management. At home and at rallies, situations will often arise that may call for Horse Management techniques beyond those required of a given rating.

The Horse Management program in USPC stresses and teaches safety first. The health of members and their mounts is of primary importance. To this end, the program for all levels stresses preventative techniques, common sense and daily routines within a reasonable framework of expectations. Members must realize that all horse sports require effective care of the horse. Therefore, the Horse Management instruction program is incorporated into all USPC activities.

What Pony Club Teaches



Brush With Danger

Taken from, with permission, *The Mane Points*, Southern States Feed

Which of the following is the most dangerous activity you can undertake with or around horses?

- A.** Riding fast without a saddle
- B.** Jumping obstacles
- C.** Grooming with a brush

Either A or B seems to be a rational answer, but they're both wrong. The truth is, riding – whether flying over obstacles or having a leisurely walk – is much safer than working on the ground near one of the four-legged creatures.

“Most people equate speed and height with a horse-related injury,” says Deborah Reed, an assistant professor at the Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention in Lexington, Kentucky, but “statistics show that ground work results in more injuries than when you're mounted.”



To stay safe, always wear a helmet when you're near horses and stay alert when you're feeding, leading or grooming your horse, says Reed. “If you're on the ground, you always want to keep the shortest distance possible between you and the horse,” explains Reed. “Stay right up there by the head at all times. Keep them on a short rein so the horse can't whip its head around and bite you. “If there's too much room between their head and your shoulder,” she adds, “the horse can turn around very quickly and kick you.”

“It doesn't sound logical; you'd naturally think that the farther away you are from the horse the better, but if you're far away, you get the full effect of the thrust of the kick. If you're close, you're going to feel much less of that impact.”



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What Pony Club Teaches

Can you find 10 Accidents Waiting to Happen?

Check your answers on the next page.



Safety

A concern for safety is an important part of the foundation of USPC. Ours was the first equine organization to require its members to wear safety helmets. Our guiding beliefs regarding safety reach into every aspect of the organization. Volunteers and staff make safety a priority.



For mounted instructional meetings, USPC safety practices must be followed. Members are required to wear an ASTM/SEI-certified riding helmet with harness chin strap securely in place. While riding, a conventional type of rid-

ing footwear with a heel, such as leather or rubber riding boots, jodhpur boots, or the equivalent, is required. "Waffle" type soles are not allowed. When dismounted, acceptable footwear is a shoe that is securely fastened, entirely closed, covers the ankle and is thick-soled and in good condition. Canvas or cloth shoes of any kind are not allowed.

The USPC Safety Committee promotes and oversees safe practices for riding and working with horses. In addition, members of the Safety Committee are charged with educating both children and their parents in accident awareness. The Committee originated a long-term study of accidents in USPC activities.

Additional safety information is available in USPC Policies Handbooks and Rulebooks for each discipline, through the Safety Committee and the National Office. Also, please feel free to speak with your District Commissioner and/or Regional Supervisor if you have questions or need additional information.

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Member Expectations

In joining a club, a member also joins the national organization of USPC and the region in which the club is located. The club, region, and the national organization have clear expectations for their members. Participating youth members and their parents signed a “Code of Conduct” when they joined USPC and they are expected to uphold that code. Each region has a Policy concerning Active Participation and every club has a Member in Good Standing Policy. Members and their parents should be familiar with these expectations.

Mounted Meetings

The basics are stressed and taught continually, but fun is a part of lessons at all levels. All USPC members are encouraged to progress at a pace that is comfortable for them. Older members or knowledgeable adults will assist members in preparing for the ratings tests.

All clubs try to organize a program that is fun, educational and interesting to younger and older members. Mounted meetings are often structured so that older, upper-level members who are serious about setting and pursuing their goals may practice at their own level of intensity. Younger members are offered lots of fun mixed in with educational opportunities.

Most clubs set up a program in which an older USPC member is assigned to mentor a younger member. The



Being Part of a Club

older member may demonstrate proper handling, grooming and riding skills. Lessons from older members about tack fit, tacking up, and safety (including the all-important safety check, supervised by an adult) are reviewed before the younger child begins the lesson. The older member benefits from the teaching experience and from watching the progress of the younger members.

Mounted meetings differ greatly from club to club. Some clubs offer, for example, activities such as suppling exercises for riders, Around-the-World, heel clicks, Simon Says, Red Light-Green Light, trail riding and USPC mounted games. Other clubs may offer drill teams at the walk for D-1s and at the trot for D-2s and up, walking and trotting races, obstacle courses, and learning emergency dismount at the halt, walk, and trot. All of these supplemental exercises provide practice in control, relaxation and the development of fundamentally sound basics.

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- Answers:**
1. Absolutely NO SMOKING in a barn!!! By anyone!!! Ever!!!
 2. Dog in barn (sometimes an unsafe thing on its own), but this one is tied to a long rope near the horse and could get tangled around the horse's legs.
 3. Kerosene in the barn. Kerosene is very flammable and can easily cause a fire.
 4. Keep aisles clear of clutter.
 5. Keep feed bins closed to avoid equine thieves! A clever horse can enter your feed room and eat himself sick.
 6. Keep wheelbarrows stored out of the way. This horse looks like he may bump it (or tip it over for you) at any minute.
 7. The rake lying on the ground could really hurt you (or your horse) if you stepped on it and it flew up and struck you in the face!
 8. The stall door is open without a stall gate and this horse looks like he would probably catch himself on the latch if he continues to walk out the door.
 9. The electrical wiring strung around the ceiling looks very loose and dangerous. Keep wires neatly secured and checked periodically by an electrician to avoid hazards. Bulbs should be in explosion-proof cases.
 10. Pitchfork propped near this horse's stall could poke him if it fell on him or if he began to play with it. Be sure to stand pitchforks with tines on the floor and well away from horses.
- You may see more accidents waiting to happen; feel free to add them to the list!



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Unmounted Meetings

Unmounted meetings are often planned around the Horse Management skills found in the Standards of

Proficiency and supplemented with other topics, which may vary greatly from club to club. Unmounted meeting topics may include:

- Feed (cost and type)
- Shoeing
- Vet visits and Inoculations
- De-worming and product used
- Temperature, pulse and respiratory rate
- Training schedule
- Experience or ability necessary with a variety of horses
- Different types of tack
- Different breeds of horses or ponies
- Setup and safety at competitions
- Grooming, turnout, braiding, formal inspection
- Tack – care, fitting, types, construction, use
- Loading and hauling horses, including long distance travel
- Conformation/Suitability
- First Aid
- Breeding/Foaling
- Horse Handling
- Stable Manners
- Understanding different horse sports
- Standards and Testing (including reference materials)
- Labeling a horse and identification of equipment
- Practice Quizzes
- Analysis of barns and stables

Horse people generally recognize USPC members by their responsible and complete approach to horse care. Members should be proud of their Horse Management; it sets USPC apart from all other horse/riding organizations. To become an effective and efficient horseman, the USPC member must be a willing and eager student.

A Bit on Bitting...

Hidden in the grid are 10 parts of the bridle. See if you can find them.

The hidden parts: reins, eggbutt, flash, gag, snaffle, noseband, martingale, cheek, browband, port, Pelham, bit

M	N	O	P	M	A	H	L	E	P
A	I	G	N	F	P	O	R	T	M
R	S	A	F	L	A	S	H	D	E
T	N	G	H	M	R	I	N	R	L
I	A	M	G	C	N	A	O	E	S
N	F	T	T	U	B	G	G	E	N
G	F	T	K	E	E	H	C	N	I
A	L	R	S	B	I	T	U	S	E
L	E	O	P	H	M	L	R	C	R
E	N	D	N	A	B	W	O	R	B

Guidelines for USPC Members to Receive the Most from Their Lessons

- Be prompt and dress appropriately: clean, neat, and workmanlike.
- Be an active participant. Ask questions, but follow directions and listen. Be open to new ideas or techniques.
- Come prepared. Be ready to take notes and keep a folder or notebook for reference and review.
- Attend lectures and/or clinics whenever possible.
- Know your Standards and be ready to work hard to achieve the next level.
- Know safety guidelines and the rules of any competitions where participation is likely.
- Do the work in your stable. Know your horse and its equipment well. Do not hesitate to ask someone more experienced than you when you are uncertain about any procedure.
- Keep the “Horse Health and Maintenance Record Book” up to date for your own (or borrowed) horse. Keep an additional record of your training schedule.
- Read as much as you can of the literature listed in the Standards of Proficiency.
- Practice what you learn (bandaging, braiding, horse handling, longeing, loading, etc.).
- Observe. Learn about different types of shoes, breeds, tack, equipment, colors, etc.
- Share what you have learned with others.

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**Being Part
of a Club**

Ratings

Each member joins USPC as an unrated member and progresses through the lower-level ratings (D-1 through C-2) within the local club. The H-B, C-3, B, H/H-A, and A are national ratings, administered by the National Testing Committee. The following is a brief overview of each level.



D Ratings are an introduction to the fun and challenge of riding, establishing safety habits and knowledge of the daily care of a pony and tack. The D rated member learns to ride independently, with control, maintaining a secure position at the walk, trot and canter and over low fences. All D ratings are awarded at the club level.

C-1 and C-2 Ratings are for members learning to become active horsemen, to care independently for a mount and tack, and to understand the reasons for what he or she is doing. The C shows development towards a secure, independent seat, and increasing control and confidence in all phases of riding. The C-1 and C-2 ratings are awarded at the club level.

The following Upper Level Ratings are facilitated on a national basis and require a greater depth of knowledge and proficiency than the earlier ratings. Successful candidates are competent, all-around horsemen, active and contributing members of USPC, who participate in a variety of Pony Club activities. They are also thoughtful leaders who set an example for all levels.

H-B Rating covers Horse Management knowledge that demonstrates increasing practical knowledge and competence in the care and handling of horses.

C-3 Rating reflects a basis of competence in riding and horses care that will make possible a lifetime of pleasure with horses. At this level, Pony Club members may choose to follow one or all of three riding tracks: Traditional

Eventing, Show Jumping or Dressage. If the C-3 riding test is passed before the H-B, the member becomes a C+.

B Rating is for the active horseman and Pony Club member who is interested in acquiring further knowledge and proficiency in riding. The B is able to ride experienced mounts with confidence and control, and should be able to ride and care for another person's experienced mount, maintaining proper mental and physical condition without undoing any of the mount's education. The B understands and is able to explain the reasons for what he or she is doing and to contribute to the education of younger Pony Club members.

H/H-A Rating covers horse management, teaching and training. The H/H-A has the knowledge, experience and maturity to evaluate and care for a mount's needs efficiently and in a variety of circumstances, and to teach riding and horse care to others.

A Rating is the highest level. The A is able to ride mounts at various levels of schooling with judgment, tact and effectiveness; to train young mounts, and to retrain spoiled mounts.

Ratings Tests

Each club offers ratings at least twice a year and more often if the number of candidates warrants it. Since a club's instruction program is based on the Standards of Proficiency, a rating test measures a child's progress in that program.

Approximately four weeks prior to the rating, notification about the date, place, time, attire, what to bring, meal arrangements, cost (if any), etc., will be sent. Copies of the particular Standard and Test Sheet are distributed to candidates.

Whenever possible, ratings are completed in one day. At the D-1 through C-2 levels, if it is necessary to conduct a test over several days, all requirements must be completed within a four-week time period.

Oral examinations are used for the Horse Management sections at all levels. Orals are conducted on a one-to-one or small group basis at the D level, and in very small groups of three to four at the C level. Candidates are afforded an opportunity to express what they know. Ratings tests cover the requirements listed on the Standards of Proficiency for



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that rating level, and candidates can be tested on any prior rating levels.

A safe and reliable mount is required for ratings tests at all levels. Any candidate's, parent's, or DC's concerns about a given horse or pony should be discussed with the Organizer or the Examiner well before the rating test. The borrowing or sharing of suitable mounts is allowed at the D-1 through D-3 level, but *only* if the rider is familiar with the mount and has ridden it – prior to the testing – on the flat and over fences safely and successfully at the level being tested. At the C-1 and C-2 levels, a mount may not be shared for a full testing by candidates at the same testing. The exchange of mounts for testing purposes is not allowed below the C-3 level.

A new USPC member who is young and inexperienced may become a D-1 and then take two to four years to achieve the D-3. An older, more experienced rider may be capable of passing several rating levels at the first testing. However, the D-1 to C-2 Program Committee strongly suggests that a new member be rated no higher than D-3 at a first rating, so that he or she can gain a broad experience of USPC.

In the event a candidate receives permission to try for more than one level at the first rating, both candidate and examiner must have copies of all Standards and Test Sheets up to and including the level desired. Each level of Horse Management will be covered. The oral sections of each level will be covered first. If any part is not passed, the candidate will take the riding test at the rating level at which the oral requirements were completed. If successful, the candidate will be awarded that rating; if not, the rating appropriate to the riding standard achieved will be awarded.

A USPC member may take only *one rating at a time*, and each rating must be fully completed before the next one is attempted.

Subsequent Testings: Candidates are responsible for, and can be tested on, the requirements of any previous level.

Generally rating tests consist of the following phases:

- Oral questioning (parents can be used to watch horses at this time)
- Horse Management (hands on: saddling, grooming, etc.)

- Turnout/Inspection (questions such as parts of the horse, tack, conformation, shoeing, etc., may be asked at this time)

- Flat riding
- Riding in the open (D-2 and up)
- Cooling out
- Other Horse Management skills (hands-on)

Please refer to the Standards of Proficiency for specific participation requirements and recommended study materials.

NEEDED EQUIPMENT

These are general requirements. Your DC will provide you with a list of the specific equipment needed when you take your rating.

All Levels

ASTM/SEI approved riding helmet
Hard-soled shoes that cover the ankle or boots with heels
Halter, lead rope, bucket
Grooming kit

D-1 and D-2

Basic grooming tools
Protective boots and/or bell boots, if needed

D-3

Up-to-date Horse Health & Maintenance Record Book (3 months minimum)
Protective boots and/or bell boots
Stable bandages

C-1 and Above

Correct formal or informal attire
Record Book (6 months minimum)
Shipping bandages
Simple conditioning schedule

C-2

Record Book (9 months minimum)
Shipping and stable bandages
Thermometer and watch with second hand
Letter from DC in reference to teaching program
Longeing equipment appropriate for horse

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Opportunities Available to Members

Disciplines and Activities

Through your membership with Pony Club, you will be exposed to many different disciplines and activities. Below are short descriptions of what your club may offer. Not all clubs offer all activities. Please check with your DC to learn about the activities offered by your local club. For a more thorough understanding of each of the disciplines, you may read the booklet, *An Introduction to Horse Sports*, or the rulebooks for each of the individual disciplines. These items should be in your club library, or may be purchased through the USPC Bookstore, or found on the Web site, www.ponyclub.org.



Dressage

Dressage is the art of improving your horse, making him more supple in his movements, a joy to ride and beautiful to watch. Competitions are held at many levels, beginning with Walk-Trot and Training Level, and continuing through nine levels to Grand Prix.

Eventing

Eventing originated in the cavalries of Europe and today tests a horse's versatility to a greater degree than any other equestrian sport. Horse and rider compete in dressage, cross-country, and show jumping.

Foxhunting

USPC was founded by a group of enthusiastic foxhunters who were familiar with the Pony Club in Britain. Many clubs today are still affiliated with a local hunt and are invited to participate in their hunts at no charge. Other clubs may expose their members to the sport of foxhunting by holding mock foxhunts.

Mounted Games

The Games Program is intended to provide reinforcement of riding skills in a more relaxed environment than the formal lesson. As the Games players become more confident, competition may become a part of the program.



Polocrosse

Polocrosse is a game related to Polo but played with a racquet similar to that used in Lacrosse. Polocrosse offers riders a chance to develop strong self-confidence in their riding ability, especially riding in the open, and to improve their hand-eye coordination.

Quiz

A Quiz competition is an unmounted team "quiz bowl" that tests the USPC member's knowledge in several rounds of questions. Some questions are individual questions and some require the input of the whole team.

Show Jumping

Show Jumping competitions take place both in indoor and outdoor arenas. Show Jumping utilizes physical skills to negotiate a series of obstacles and mental skills to plan the proper approaches to allow the horse to jump the obstacles.

Tetrathlon

Tetrathlon events include swimming, Show Jumping, running, and shooting. Each activity is performed at different levels of difficulty based on age. The development of Tetrathlon within the USPC has been sought by organizers of the U.S. Modern Pentathlon and U.S. Olympic Committees as a means of developing multi-talented athletes for international competitions. They offer guidance and training programs for outstanding athletes who meet their requirements for skill and endurance.



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Events and Activities

Competitive Rallies

Pony Club competitive rallies provide an opportunity to demonstrate proficiency in an atmosphere of cooperation, fun and teamwork. A competitive rally allows Pony Club members to test their skills against others. In addition, rallies are educational experiences that expose participants to new ideas and ways of doing things.

Competitive rallies can be unmounted, as in Quiz, where teams of four members compete in a verbal quiz. Other USPC rallies are mounted, involving teams of three, four or five riders and, in most disciplines, an unmounted Stable Manager.

Rallies can be small and informal, such as a rally for D-level members within a single club, or they can be inter-club competitions. Or rallies can be larger and more formal, such as regional rallies.

Team Selection: Rally teams are usually selected by the DC, often with input from the club instructor. The criteria for team selection should be explained to you by your DC or club instructor at a Pony Club function or in your club newsletter early in the year.

Regional Rallies: In a regional rally, teams of Pony Club members from a particular area test their skills without outside help, but with the advice and support of judges and officials. Teamwork, cooperation and high standards are stressed and outside assistance is limited to coaching in restricted situations.

Some regions hold rallies for each discipline (i.e., a Dressage rally in addition to an Eventing rally and a Quiz rally) while others hold one large rally for several disciplines.

Pony Club competitive rallies teach members about themselves, about support and reliance on others, about sportsmanship, and about personal growth involved in winning and losing.

Championships

Each year, clubs may participate in regional rallies in Eventing, Dressage, Show Jumping, Quiz, Games, Polocrosse and Tetrathlon. The culmination of these rallies is the USPC National Championship competition held each year. Every three years, Championships are held in conjunction with Festival (see next heading). In other years, Championships may be held in the East and/or West.



Festival

The week-long USPC Festival is held every three years generally in Lexington, Kentucky, at the Kentucky Horse Park. Championships are held the first three days, followed by four days of educational and riding clinics and workshops. Festival is open to all members of USPC families. Activities are planned for everyone, with parents encouraged to participate. Festival is great for a family vacation.

Pony Club Camps

USPC camps come in many forms. Not all clubs offer camps. One thing that all USPC camps have in common is that they all provide fun practice in horse care (with supervision), a relaxed atmosphere and a chance to be with friends.

Inter-Pacific Exchange Rally

The Inter-Pacific Exchange Rally is a competitive and cultural exchange for USPC members who have attained their B rating (and the age of sixteen) by January 1 of the exchange year. Participants are drawn from those countries on the Pacific Rim: Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, the United States and, on occasion, Great Britain (as the mother country of The United States Pony Clubs, Inc.). Competition consists of Nations Cup Show Jumping as well as a one-day Event at the preliminary level.

Other International Exchanges

Each year USPC sends international teams to countries throughout the world. Exchange opportunities are available through the following disciplines: Quiz, Games, Tetrathlon, and Foxhunting.

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Events and Activities



USPC Annual Meeting and Convention

The USPC National Annual Meeting and Convention provides an opportunity to meet and learn with other members and adults from throughout the nation. Held in a different city each year (*New Orleans, above, was the site for the 2005 Annual Meeting*) in late January or early February, the meeting offers a variety of informative, exciting sessions on equestrian topics ranging from trailering safety to rating standards to equine disease.

Members can test their knowledge and creativity in the Pony Club Paddock, a program devoted to hands-on learning experience for youth members. The trade fair offers incredible shopping as well as information on new products. There is an awards ceremony following the Meeting of the Corporation and a semi-formal Saturday night banquet. Past guest speakers at the banquet have included David and Karen O'Connor and Mark Phillips!

Each host city also has much to offer Annual Meeting attendees. The meeting is always held near major attractions and in family friendly environments. For more information, visit the USPC Web site at www.ponyclub.org or contact the National Office.

National Youth Congress

Each year, regions select a representative to participate in this exciting, national meeting of youth members.

The National Youth Congress (NYC) is USPC's way of recognizing C-3 and up members, between the ages of 18 and 21, providing them with an extraordinary opportunity for growth and development through a national conference

held each year during the USPC Annual Meeting. Youth members and alumni participate in workshops, seminars, lectures and networking.



The NYC culminates in a banquet at which the outstanding alumni are inducted into the USPC Academy of Achievement. The NYC provides numerous benefits for the selected members. It rewards them for leadership in their clubs/regions by giving them opportunities to network with others who share their love of and passion for horses. It exposes them to wider experiences outside of USPC by introducing them to successful alumni from all walks of life. It gives them opportunities to develop leadership skills through their participation in a national forum.

Scholarships

Many colleges and universities across the country offer scholarships for USPC members and graduates. These scholarships are administered directly through the schools.

In addition, USPC administers a few scholarships that may be applied towards the higher education institute of the recipient member's choice.

The list of schools offering USPC scholarships may change from year to year. For a complete list of schools and USPC administered scholarships, contact the Development Department of the USPC National Office or check our Web site for more information. *Financing Your Equestrian Activities – Sponsorships and Scholarships*, by Suzanne K. B. Fraser, is available from the USPC Bookstore.



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Glossary of Pony Club Terms

Activities Council: National body (volunteers) made up of the Chairpersons of all the Activities Committees (along with “at-large”

members). Responsible for reviewing and updating rules for rallies and competitions, planning and evaluating programs which enhance activities and complement instruction, and assisting Activities Committees. For a complete description, see USPC Policy 6000.

Alumni: See “Graduate Pony Club members.”

Annual Directory: Yearly publication listing all National Board and Committee members, clubs, DCs, Jt-DCs, RSs, VRSSs, current upper level members and graduate A, H/H-A, and B Pony Club members.

Annual Report: Yearly publication listing the financial summary, all contributors to the Annual Fund, and USPC Life Members.

Annual Meeting of Sponsors (Club): A meeting of club sponsors held once a year for the purpose of electing club officers, setting sponsor fees, and transacting other club business.

Board of Governors (a.k.a. Board or BOG): A group of volunteers elected for three-year terms by Corporate Members each year at the Annual Meeting. (See Article 5 of the USPC Bylaws.) These volunteers manage and direct the national organization.

Bylaws: 1. National Bylaws — legal document that defines the Corporation known as USPC, Inc. These Bylaws have precedence over any and all other USPC Bylaws, Policies, or procedures. 2. Regional Bylaws — document that Regions sign when they are formed. Regional Bylaws are the same for every Region and must conform to National Bylaws and Policies. 3. Club Bylaws — Club Bylaws are the same for every club and must conform to National and Regional Bylaws and Policies.

Chief Horse Management Judge (a.k.a. “Chief” or CHMJ): The Horse Management Judge responsible for overseeing Horse Management judging at rallies and coordinating assistants.

Club Library: Set of books sent to new clubs. Established clubs should have a club library available for use by current members. The club library is the property of the club, not of any individual, and should be housed and maintained by the current DC (or a club librarian).

Corporate Member (a.k.a. CM): At the national level, individuals over the age of 18 who have paid the Corporate Member fee. CMs receive *USPC News*, the USPC Annual Directory, Annual Report, and more. All adults are invited to join USPC as a CM.

District Commissioner (a.k.a. DC): The leader of the local club.

Formal Inspection: Check of rider and mount for cleanliness and safety.

Graduate Pony Club Members (a.k.a. Alumni or “alums”): Former members who are no longer eligible to rejoin Pony Club. That is, after December 31 of the year the member turns 21, he/she is considered a graduate Pony Club member. (*A trial age extension to 25 is in place through December 31, 2008.*)

Horse Management Organizer (a.k.a. HMO): Volunteer appointed by the RS who oversees regional horse management clinics and horse management instruction.

Horse Management: Care of horse in accordance with USPC Standards.

Instruction Council: National body (volunteers) made up of the Chairpersons of all the Instruction Committees (along with “at-large” members). Responsible for reviewing and updating the Standards of Proficiency, implementing and evaluating programs which enhance instruction, and supporting and coordinating the Instruction Committees.

Joint District Commissioner (a.k.a. Jt-DC): The person or persons who assist(s) the DC with the administration of the club.

Junior Board: Group of youth members who assist adult volunteers with club operations, such as formulating a club calendar, developing educational programs and teaching schedules for younger Pony Club members, and/or organizing community service and/or public outreach projects. Not all clubs have Junior Boards; some Regions have Junior Councils who provide input into the operations of their region.

Medical Release Form: Form completed by youth members and parents and kept by the DC; referenced in case of an accident involving a youth participant.

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Member Report Form: Form completed by the DC when a new member joins and is signed by the new member and his/her parents/guardians. The form is submitted, along with a club check for dues, to the National Office.

Mounted Meeting: Scheduled club riding activity.

National Examiner (a.k.a. NE): Examiner at H-B, C-3, B, H, H-A, and A levels.

National Office: The USPC Headquarters building located in the Kentucky Horse Park which houses the paid USPC staff members.

Participating Member (a.k.a. Pony Club Members, PCers): Currently-paid youth participants.

PIP: One of a member of the team of examiners for national rating testing. The PIP (which stands for Primus inter Pares - first among equals) is in charge of the testing and takes responsibility for checking on planning, administration of the testing, and follow-up with paperwork (evaluations and test sheets).

Policies: 1. National Policies — document that elaborates on the Bylaws; approved by the BOG. National Policies must conform to the National Bylaws. 2. Regional Policies — written and updated by the Regional Council, reviewed by the Vice President for Regional Administration. Must not supercede National Policies and Bylaws or Regional Bylaws. 3. Club Policies — written and accepted by the clubs' sponsors and approved by the RS; must conform to National and Regional Bylaws and National and Regional Policies. Should be reviewed and updated at least once every three years by the club sponsors.

Programs Administration Council (a.k.a. PAC): Group formed from partnerships between the Chairpersons of certain national committees and the department directors (staff) at the National Office.

Region: A defined geographic area containing many clubs. For example, the Big Sky Region is comprised of the state of Montana and all the Pony Clubs within the state. A map of regions is shown at right.

Regional Council: A group consisting of the RS, VRS(s), DCs, and any other Regional Officers and officials appointed by the Regional Council. Other members, considered ex-officio members, include the USPC President and the Vice President for Regional Administration.

Registered Club (a.k.a. "member" club or "local" Pony Club): Club that conforms

to the regulations and requirements of USPC and has been recommended by the Regional Supervisor and approved by the Board of Governors.

Regional Instructional Coordinator (a.k.a. RIC): Volunteer appointed by the RS whose job is to work within the region to strengthen local club and regional instruction programs.

Regional Supervisor (a.k.a. RS): The person in charge of a region's administration.

Sponsor: At the club level, these are parents of members and other adults who have demonstrated an interest in the welfare of the club, have paid the sponsor fee, and have been approved by the DC. Sponsors are described in the National and Club Bylaws.

Stable Manager (a.k.a. SM): Non-riding member of a team.

Standards of Proficiency: Levels of achievement in riding and horse care.

Tack: Term includes saddle, bridle and other horse equipment.

Unmounted Meeting: Scheduled club non-riding activity.

Upper-level Pony Club members: Pony Club members rated higher than C-2, including H-B, C-3, H/H-A, B, and A.

Vice Regional Supervisor (a.k.a. VRS): Person or persons who assist(s) the Regional Supervisor with the administration of a region.





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Mission Statement

The mission of the United States Pony Clubs, Inc., is to provide a program for youth that teaches riding, mounted sports, and the care of horses and ponies, thereby developing responsibility, moral judgment, leadership and self-confidence.



Guiding Beliefs

- USPC is an educational organization which progressively develops the well-rounded horseperson.
- The well-rounded horseperson is capable of riding safely and tactfully on the flat, over fences, and in the open.
- Knowledgeable care of horses and ponies (Horse Management) is basic to the well-rounded horseperson.
- USPC is committed to the well-being of the horse.
- Fair and friendly competitions develop teamwork and sportsmanship.
- Fun and friendship are part of The United States Pony Clubs, Inc.
- USPC requires parental and volunteer involvement and support.
- The USPC is committed to safety.
- The local club is the core of USPC.



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