

Welcome New Pony Club Family!

Important information for parents – Pony Club Meetings

Before you know it, your child will have learned all this information and how to perform these tasks by heart! Until then, you can help your child get the most out of Pony Club Meetings.

Safety

- DO NOT LEAVE SMALL CHILDREN UNATTENDED.
- Be aware of horses tied and moving around. Members must stay well away from any horse he/she is not interacting with. Younger members especially tend to forget this – help your child learn.
- It is important to be calm around the horses and approach them towards the shoulder where they can see you. Running, screaming, throwing, and approaching from the rear can be dangerous around horses.
- While not required by Pony Club, it is advisable for smaller members to wear a helmet while grooming and tacking up.
- Horses should be tied with a quick-release knot and with a break-away feature on the halter or the tiepost. The quick-release knot can be taught very early on – if your child doesn't know it, please ask for a lesson. You can also learn and then help teach your child.

Meetings

- Members must wear long pants (with belt if they have belt loops), a collar shirt with sleeves, and hard-toe boots with a smooth sole and short heel for meetings. Medical armband or bracelet is required (Club can provide for a fee). An ASTM/FEI CERTIFIED riding helmet must be worn for riding. If you forget your helmet or boots, you may borrow ours.
- The meeting schedule is distributed prior to the meeting (on Friday or Saturday) and is also posted on the door prior to the beginning of each meeting. Each member is expected to be aware of when he/she should be present for meeting activities – it is not the job of Club leadership to hunt down missing members. Help your child know what time he/she should
 - Do chores (usually this is the first thing to be done on the schedule)
 - Attend unmounted session
 - Catch and prepare his/her horse or pony (usually at least 30 minutes before a ride), and
 - Be in the arena or round pen for a lesson (there will be no make-up time for late or missed lessons)
- Catching a horse/pony: Members are assigned a horse or pony on the schedule. In general, uncertified members or those under 10 (there are exceptions) will need more experienced help to catch the mount and learn how to catch it themselves. If someone is not already helping your child you can help provide or get assistance so your child stays on schedule.
- If you are using your own tack, spurs, whips, etc., they must be in compliance with USPC standards.
- Grooming and tacking: Every Pony Club member will learn the following. If your child is still learning and does not already have help, please provide or get assistance for your child.
 - Get a loaner grooming kit out of the tack room (unless your child has his/her own)
 - Remove all dried salt, loose dirt, hay or other debris from pony, focusing on girth and saddle area
 - Pick out pony's hooves
 - Get pony's tagged saddle, girth, and bridle from tack room, plus 2 pads (baby and regular).
 - Tack up pony
- Member must walk his/her tacked-up pony to the arena before the lesson start time. A safety check will be conducted before the member mounts (safety check elements are posted in the Clubhouse).
- After the lesson: pony must be untacked, cooled and brushed or hosed down. Get help if member doesn't know how to help the pony cool down. Return cooled pony to its pasture, bridle/bit should be wiped clean, all tack should be put away in tack room, and grooming kit (if borrowed) should be returned to the tack room. You can help your child remember these tasks and provide/get help if needed.