



An Introduction to Pony Club

The Pony Club "idea" originated in Great Britain in 1928. The first official meeting was held in January 1930 with a recorded membership of 700. Today Pony Clubs are alive, well, and flourishing in 31 countries, with an estimated membership of more than 130,000. It is the leading junior equestrian organization in the world.

The United States Pony Clubs, Inc., was founded as a nonprofit national youth horsemanship organization in February 1954 with 18 formerly unaffiliated clubs and an estimated 750 to 800 members. The USPC founders were enthusiastic foxhunters who recognized the need for an organization to provide sound instruction for all interested children, especially those who otherwise could not afford expensive lessons.

From showing a commitment to educational growth through grassroots outreach to inclusiveness regardless of race, gender, or ability, Pony Club has strengthened programming to meet the needs of today's equestrians. This has included raising the age of graduation from 21 to 25 for traditional youth members; offering Pony Club through an established riding center; expanding certifications; offering adult Horsemasters membership opportunities; and including land conservation in our educational standards. Year after year former members return to Pony Club as parents or volunteers. They know that the foundation of USPC today is no different than it was before: horses and ponies, education, fun, and family.



Mission

The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. is an educational organization which builds the foundations of teamwork and sportsmanship through riding, mounted sports, care of horses and ponies, while developing and enhancing leadership, confidence, responsibility, and a sense of community in its youth and adult members.

Core Values

Horsemanship with respect to healthcare, nutrition, stable management, handling and riding a mount safely, correctly and with confidence.

Organized teamwork including cooperation, communication, responsibility, leadership, mentoring, teaching and fostering a supportive yet competitive environment.

Respect for the horse and self through horsemanship; for land through land conservation; and for others through service and teamwork.

Service by providing an opportunity for members, parents, and others to support the Pony Club program locally, regionally and nationally through volunteerism.

Education at an individual pace to achieve personal goals and expand knowledge through teaching others.



A Warm Welcome From Our Board of Directors

District Commissioner (DC): Krishna VanBuren

310.614.1382

KrishnaVanBuren@gmail.com

Joint District Commissioner (JTDC): Samantha Crew

310.662.3231

SamanthaCrew@gmail.com

Treasurer: Kelly Delmonte

310.567.8026

KellyDelmonte@yahoo.com

Secretary: Reiko Ujiki

917.304.1137

RUjiki@gmail.com

Greetings!





First Steps

1

After you have received an email invitation to join PBPC by our District Commissioner, please complete the online application and set up your national website profile.

2

Once we receive notification that you are registered with National USPC you will receive our welcome package. Please sign and return signature pages. Once these documents are returned back to us, you're welcome to begin using the facility.

3

Participating Members age 18 and over are required to provide proof of SafeSport™ Trained Core course completion. Additionally, volunteers that have ongoing contact with members must complete a favorable background check.





Membership Fees and Lessons

Annual Membership Fees:

Local PBPC Fee - \$150

Regional Camino Real - \$60

National USPC - \$150

Total annual membership = \$360

All membership fees are due when you join
and billed each December going forward.

Fees are the same for all club members.

PBPC Horse Boarding:

Includes feeding 2 x's per day

Stall cleaning 1 x per day

Stalls - \$550/mth

Premium Stalls - \$650/mth

PBPC Lessons:

Available to all members with enough experience to join a group lesson - \$100/mth

Lessons are every Saturday. Schedule will be emailed each week with details.

Horse management (HM) lessons are available to all members every Saturday morning.

Schedule will be emailed each week with details - \$25/mth

A monthly invoice will be sent via email. Payment options include check, Venmo and Zelle.

Private Lessons - PBPC members and approved members can give lessons.

Arrangements can be made directly with trainer.

Additional Information:

On-site Members - Each member that uses the facility but does not pay a boarding fee.
i.e leasing a horse or taking lessons.

Off-site Club Fees - Each off site member will be charged \$75/month to ride their horse
on the facility. All offsite members are required to participate in club activities including
facility maintenance.

Participating Members (Club/Center Members and National Members) of USPC age 18
and over are required to provide proof of SafeSport™ Trained Core course completion. In
addition, regular instructors/clinicians, local-level instructors, and volunteers having
ongoing contact with members are required to complete a favorable USPC background
check.



Portuguese Bend Pony Club Community Building

Our shared interest and love of horses brings us together. We are a community. The combined attributes of our members make Portuguese Pony Club a wonderful place to be.

As a new member, we want you to feel a sense of belonging. We encourage you to contribute your time and energy to make PBPC your club. Some ways to do this is to help with; day-to-day operations / our exciting fundraisers and events / clean up days / rallies and clinics / certifications / promote our club... and more!





SafeSport Training

Member Protection Training - SafeSport™ Trained Core Course

In accordance with USPC Policy 0900 and its Procedures, "USPC requires satisfactory completion of USPC-approved background checks and of USPC-designated educational training modules of individuals specified in the procedures. These must be completed prior to these individuals assuming positions or beginning specified membership terms."

The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. is dedicated to all aspects of safety for our members and volunteers. Beyond the safety issues inherent to riding and working around horses and ponies, we also strive to teach our members, leaders, and volunteers how to identify behaviors that can lead to an unsafe environment, including bullying and child abuse.

Who is responsible for completing Member Protection Training via the SafeSport™ Trained Core course?

Participating Members (Club/Center Members and National Members) of USPC age 18 and over are required to provide proof of SafeSport™ Trained Core course completion.

In addition, regular instructors/clinicians, local-level instructors, and volunteers having ongoing contact with members are required to complete both a favorable USPC background check, or a Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance Check, and provide proof of SafeSport™ Trained Core course completion. If applicable, residents of Pennsylvania may need to submit valid a Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance Check.

If you have already completed the SafeSport™ Trained Core course through USEF or another sports organization, please email your proof of completion to the Compliance Coordinator. This training completion will be recorded on your USPC record.

About the Course

The comprehensive SafeSport™ Trained Core course helps individuals recognize if an athlete is being abused, and most importantly, how to prevent this from happening, or how to respond and help if the abuse has already occurred. Education and awareness are the most critical components to creating safe and respectful sport environments.

U.S. Center for SafeSport's online training course covers the following topics in depth:

Mandatory Reporting

Sexual Misconduct Awareness Education

Emotional and Physical Misconduct Education

The SafeSport™ Trained Core course is presented in three sections. All sections must be completed to meet USPC's Member Protection Training requirement. Once started, you may leave and return later to resume the training.



Background Check

In accordance with USPC Policy 0900 and its Procedures, "USPC requires satisfactory completion of USPC-approved background checks and of USPC-designated educational training modules of individuals specified in the procedures. These must be completed prior to these individuals assuming positions or beginning specified membership terms."

It has become the standard among youth-serving organizations to require volunteers working with children to complete a criminal background check. USPC began developing a program for background checks in 2008. As a predominantly youth-serving organization committed to the safety and security of members and volunteers, USPC must adhere to best practices by requiring a completed, favorable, background check for adult members, leaders, and volunteers over the age of 21.

Who is responsible for completing a background check?

All Club, Center, and Regional leaders and volunteers, as well as participating members of USPC age 21 and over, are required to complete a favorable USPC or USEF background check. If applicable, residents of Pennsylvania may need to submit valid a Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance Check.

Regular instructors/clinicians, local-level instructors, and volunteers having ongoing contact with members are required to complete both a favorable USPC or USEF background check, or a Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance Check, and provide proof of SafeSport™ Trained Core course completion. If applicable, residents of Pennsylvania may need to submit valid a Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance Check.

If you have already completed a favorable USPC or USEF background check within the last three years, or Pennsylvania Child Abuse Clearances within the last five years, you will not need to submit a new USPC or USEF background check or clearances at this time. Upon expiration, a new USPC or USEF background check or clearances will be required.

Completing a Leader Background Check (on USPC National website)

By clicking the red button ([Leader/Volunteer Background Check](#)), leaders and volunteers will be redirected to the Fastrax website, where they will be asked to sign-in via a secure portal, and directed to enter and submit their information to complete the background check.

After reading and signing a release, leaders and volunteers will submit information about himself/herself, including legal name, address, and social security number. Payment will be requested through a secure terminal upon submission of information. For additional information regarding fees, please see the Frequently Asked Questions.

Completing a Member Background Check (on USPC National website)

Using the green button above ([Adult Member Background Check](#)), Adult participating members now have the option to complete a member background check. This background check DOES NOT satisfy the requirements of a leader or volunteer background check and is only for adult members who hold no leadership or volunteer position within the organization.

Important Instructions for Success

Enter your legal name as printed on your Social Security card. Background checks with incorrectly entered names, dates of birth, or Social Security numbers do not produce results and will require additional fees for resubmission.

If your legal last name is hyphenated, please use a space instead of a hyphen in the last name field.

If you have changed your name and/or address recently, please contact the USPC Compliance Coordinator before submitting your USPC background check. Working with our background check provider, we can recommend the appropriate way to enter your information.

If you have a Junior, Senior, or numerals after your last name, please do not enter those in the last name field. Please indicate those along with other names you may be using in the box titled Notes.

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Up to 13 Years

Pony Club is for horse-crazy kids like you who want to hang out with friends, learn to ride, and have a great time. Meet up with other members like yourself, and spend time learning about horses and ponies, their care, and health. You don't have to own a horse or pony to participate, just have a love of them. Whether you like to trail ride, compete, or just hang out at the barn, Pony Club can start you on the path to a life with horses.

What will I do in Pony Club?

In Pony Club you will attend mounted and unmounted meetings where you will learn all about how to care for horses and ponies, as well as learn how to ride. Everyone begins Pony Club at the same level. As members learn and develop at their own pace, they have the opportunity to progress through the Pony Club Certification system. Certifications are how members show their progress through levels of riding and horse knowledge. Certifications go from grassroots skills at the D-level, all the way up the most advanced A-level.

All Pony Club competitions are team competitions called Rallies. Team competition is a fun and important part of Pony Club education and training, and is a strong bonding element. Rallies include; Horseless Rallies (where members use model horses to learn the ropes of team competition), Quiz Rallies (where members use their horse management knowledge to compete in a battle of the brains), and riding Rallies for all ages. Members over the age of 10 can compete in regional Rallies in many disciplines to qualify for Championships competition. For members who wish to commemorate just how far they have come, there is also a badge program available where members earn patches to place on saddle pads, jackets, ribbons, and vests to show their Pony Club progress.



14-17 Years

Pony Club attracts members who want to be fully immersed in horse care, management, and horse sports. Discover the fun, friendship, and power of working together that comes with Pony Club membership. Participants learn through engaging in educational opportunities offered through their clubs and centers and have opportunities regionally and nationally. Pony Club is a gateway to the big time. For some members that's a chance to ride a fancier horse, for others it's getting to take a lesson with an Olympian, still others use it as a path to even bigger goals and dreams both in the saddle and in life. What will I do in Pony Club?

In Pony Club you will attend mounted and unmounted meetings where you will learn how to safely and confidently work around horses and in the barn and how to ride well. Opportunities abound for members to attend camps, Rallies, Championships, and Festival. Camps are fun ways to be with your friends, learn a ton of good horsemanship, and see a big jump in your riding skills. Rallies give members the chance to learn what it is like to be a part of a team as well as how to be a leader. Rallies, Championships, and Festival give members valuable lessons in organization, communication, teamwork, and respect for themselves and others in a team competition environment.

Learn new horse sports, such as Eventing, Dressage, Show Jumping, Polocrosse, Polo, Western, Games, Quiz, and Tetrathlon. If teaching is something that interests you, there are opportunities to learn to be an instructor. This includes mentoring at camps and mounted meetings to help you and your fellow members reach your full potential.

Members progress through the certification levels. Each level earned requires an increasing depth of knowledge and skills. The highest certification, the "A", distinguishes the member as an accomplished, professional horseman.

Opportunities to partake in International Exchanges begin at the age of 13. Exchanges include traveling abroad to train and compete in Mounted Games, Foxhunting, Quiz, Eventing, and Show Jumping.



18 - 23 Years

For the older member, Pony Club is a chance to prepare for the future. Pony Club builds character through teaching responsibility, organization, leadership, teamwork, and service excellence. Taking the horse care and riding skills they have learned, and the life skill experience that marks the upper level Certification holder, older members are able to move on to many endeavors within and outside of the horse world. Pony Club graduates go on to become the nation's top equestrians (including current and past Olympic Team members) business professionals, government leaders, and military officers.

What will I do in Pony Club?

Members have ample opportunities to further their knowledge of horses. The National Youth Board (NYB) and National Youth Congress (NYC) give older members a chance to participate in shaping the future of Pony Club. To join the NYB members must be at least 18 years of age. They play a vital role as the liaisons between the organizations government and its membership. Being a part of the NYC, members have the opportunity to attend workshops and discussions intended to expand their awareness of themselves and of the rapidly changing world. The NYC is made up of Pony Club members who have certifications at the national level.

High School credit similar to a varsity letter program can be obtained for being a member of a club or center and participating in many Pony Club activities. All Pony Club members have the chance to test the skills they have obtained in friendly team competition at Rallies, Championships, and Festival. There are seminars, contests, and workshops at the USPC Convention and Equine Symposium to give members a solid foundation based on timeless classical principles. College scholarships facilitate members becoming outstanding in any field of expertise. For individuals wanting to continue their equine endeavors while traveling, there is the Visiting Instruction Program and the opportunity to go on International Exchanges.



Adults

Adults are able to participate and enjoy all that Pony Club has to offer. If you did not have a chance to participate in Pony Club as a youth, or would like to continue your Pony Club involvement through participating membership, here is your chance to experience the learning, comradery, and memories the organization offers.

What will I do in Pony Club?

Adult members are a fully integrated part of all clubs and centers. There is access to mounted and unmounted meetings, certifications, and education for all levels of experience. Learn new horse sports such as Eventing, Dressage, Show Jumping, Hunter Seat and Western. Certifications for members go up to the A level. Pony Club offers clinics and camps to all members where they can further skills to prepare for certifications, rallies, and Championships. Members may participate in rallies, Championships, and Festival where they are judged on their horsemanship and riding skills while competing against other teams. Members are also encouraged to attend the USPC Convention and Equine Symposium with other members, horse enthusiasts, leaders, and volunteers to participate in educational opportunities, workshops, and seminars.



Local Certifications

Progression through the Certification levels starts at the local level. Clubs and centers offer mounted and unmounted meetings where members are taught the Standards of Proficiency (SOP). Each member progresses in their skills and knowledge at a pace appropriate for them. Members set their own certification goals. Check-lists based on the different sections of the SOP have been developed to assist members and their instructors in assessing their readiness and confidence to be evaluated.

Clubs and centers typically offer local certification testings at least twice a year. After the D-1 (beginning) level, a member may progress through the horse management levels, learning horse care and maintenance without continuing to ride if they choose. At the local level, a member must achieve certification in horse management before proceeding to the next riding level certification. Members may choose to hold riding certifications in one or more of the offered riding tracks – Eventing, Dressage, Hunter Seat Equitation, and Western.

The D Level Certifications (D-1, D-2, D-3) offer an introduction to the fun challenge of riding, establishing a foundation of safety habits and knowledge of the daily care of a horse.

At the C Level Certifications (C-1, C-2) members become active horsemen, caring independently for his/her horse and tack. Focus on more independence in horse management as well as developing increased control and confidence in riding are studied.

D-1: Member demonstrates basic skills on the ground and on the horse. All members begin with this comprehensive test.

D-2: The candidate should be able to demonstrate simple skills, with assistance if necessary, and should understand the basic reasons for the everyday routines of caring for his or her own horse.

D-3: The member grows in skills and knowledge and becomes more independent. The candidate should be able to demonstrate simple skills without assistance, and to discuss care of the mount, using common horse terms.

C-1: The member shows a developing awareness of cause and effect in the care of their horse. They must ride with control, using natural aids, and should begin riding their mount freely forward in balance and rhythm while developing a light contact.

C-2: The member shows a solid awareness of cause and effect in horse management skills. A C-2 rider shows confidence and control, demonstrates a secure balanced position and progression toward an independent seat with coordinated use of aids. They begin to initiate free forward movement, establishing balance and rhythm while developing a light contact.



National Certifications

The National Level Certifications are facilitated on a national basis and require a greater depth of knowledge and proficiency than the local level certifications. Successful candidates are competent, all-around horsemen. These members are actively contributing to Pony Club by participating in a variety of Pony Club activities. National level members are also thoughtful leaders who set an example for all future horsemen.

Members are tested by USPC National Examiners who have apprenticed and demonstrated their understanding of Pony Club programs, goals, and the Standards of Proficiency. National Level tests are held throughout the country, with the summer months being the most popular. Pony Club members who would like to continue to the top levels of riding are offered tracks in Eventing, Dressage, and Show Jumping. Members who choose to follow Horse Management to the highest levels offered can do so in the Horse Management track.

H-B (Horse Management)

The H-B Certification covers Horse Management knowledge and skills that demonstrate increasing awareness, education, and competence in the care and handling of horses and in teaching those abilities to others. It reflects the theory and study as well as the practical aspects of unmounted horse management that can be expected of a high school level curriculum.

H-HM/H/H-A (Horse Management)

The H-HM/H/H-A Certification requires the knowledge, experience, and maturity to evaluate and care for a mount's needs efficiently in a variety of circumstances; to competently ground train horses; and to teach riding and horse care to others. It reflects the theory and study as well as the practical aspects of unmounted horse management that can be expected of a college level curriculum.

C-3

The C-3 Certification reflects a basis of competence in riding, ground schooling, and horse care that will make possible a lifetime of pleasure with horses. The certification has both demonstration and discussion components. It is the first of the riding certifications to evaluate a member's ability to seamlessly transfer their riding skills from their own horse to an unfamiliar horse.

B

The B Certification is for active Pony Club members who are interested in acquiring further knowledge and proficiency in riding. The B candidate is able to ride experienced mounts, both their own and others, with confidence and control. The B 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.

A

The A Certification is the highest riding certification available to USPC members. 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. The A understands and demonstrates a variety of training techniques and discusses their training techniques as a trainer.



Rallies

Rallies are Pony Club events that allow members to test their knowledge and skills in both horse care and riding in a competitive atmosphere. Rallies and resources can be offered in various formats, and can be administered by the region with clubs and centers sending teams to compete or hosted by a club or center.

Pony Club values teaching independence and teamwork. This means parents, coaches, and chaperones are not allowed in the barn area to allow the members to compete independently. Members work with their teammates under the supervision of Horse Management judges. These are trained volunteers who are available to answer questions, do safety checks, and to judge and score the teams on their overall organization and horse care skills.

In all disciplines members compete as part of a team. Teams may be of mixed ages and skill levels. To ensure that competition is fair, members are judged based on their certification and competition level. Teams have 4-5 members with a Team Captain as well as a Stable Manager. Team Captains are responsible for representing the team in all official matters, while Stable Managers are in charge of coordinating the team schedule. As a team, members work together to ensure that each horse and rider is properly turned out and prepared to compete to the best of their abilities.

Quiz rallies are slightly different. Team members are unmounted and are tested on their equine knowledge in five separate phases. In some phases members may collaborate to answer a question and in others, they must answer individually. Topics range from horse care to horse sports to general equine knowledge and can offer a hands-on component.

In Pony Club riding disciplines members are scored on their individual performances and judged on their horse care skills. Individual results are compiled and added together to create a team score. One award is given to the team with the best Horse Management scores. Another award called the Overall Team Award is based on combined riding scores and horse management points.



Additional Competitive Opportunities

Pony Club not only offers members many competitive opportunities, it also offers members a chance to participate in many demonstrations and exchanges throughout the world. Members have the opportunity to travel and represent Pony Club – from being ambassadors of the organization in invitational competitions to being part of clinics and lessons with top level professionals.

When members participate in an International Exchange, they have the chance to travel around the world to learn from other cultures about horse care and knowledge. The youth are invited to compete as part of an international team usually have horses provided. Riders are matched up with their mounts according to ability.

Pony Club also offers many opportunities to ride and participate in clinics and lessons with top caliber professionals. Some of the clinics do not require riding, while others offer members a chance to try a discipline with their horse that they never considered. From police horse desensitization training, to cross-country training with a champion like Olympian Gina Miles, to meeting horse racing legends like USPC graduate, Michael Matz, members have a chance to learn from the best.

And while Pony Club encourages members to ride and compete at Rallies and Championship competitions, many members also compete in open competitions. Some of these competitions allow for special Pony Club teams, while others are governed by major equine federations.

International Exchanges

USPC offers members the opportunity to travel to other countries to meet members from Pony Clubs in different parts of the globe. These cultural exchanges create lifelong memories for participants. Many, but not all of these exchange opportunities have a competitive aspect.

Visit the International Exchange page.

Invitational Competitions

Teams who have achieved a qualifying placing at Championships may be invited to compete at invitational events in various disciplines, such as:

Games - Prince Philip Cup Invitational Challenge & The President's Cup Invitational

Quiz - North American Quiz Challenge

Additional Competitions

In conjunction with other organizations and events, Pony Club offers its members the opportunity to participate in various competitions. Members are encouraged to take part in these competitions that are usually held outside of Pony Club, such as:

Show Jumping - USEF Pony Jumper Finals



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

— The Pony Club Pledge