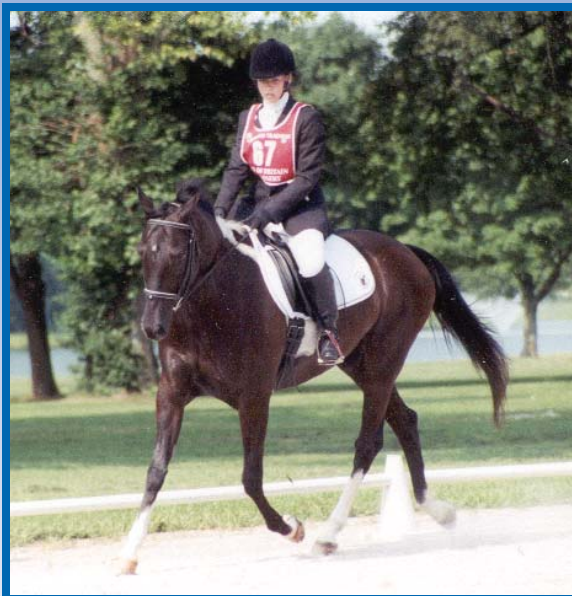


USPC New Member Booklet

A GUIDE TO MEMBERSHIP



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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(s), can help to guide you wisely, so do take full advantage of their experience and knowledge.

I welcome you with an open heart, and hope to meet you and your family at a Pony Club activity in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Margo P. Leithead".

Margo Leithead

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
USPC Executive Director

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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Instruction

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 4) 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.

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.

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.

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, horse-care 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.

Second, USPC prepares members for the responsibilities of horse ownership by judging Horse Management practices at all rallies. The competitors are judged within their respective rating levels on their knowledge and application of sound, practical horse care principles acquired



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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 on 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 instruction program is incorporated into all USPC activities.



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 riding 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.

For parents, all of this means that a group of dedicated, nationally-known Safety Committee members approve USPC programs and activities before they are put into practice.

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.



***Fun and friendship are part
of The United States Pony
Clubs, Inc.***

Instruction



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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 C-3 is a regional rating, and the 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 Rating

The D Rating is 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 Rating

The C rated member is learning to become an active horseman, 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 C-3 is a regional rating and reflects a basis of competence in riding and horse care that will make possible a lifetime of pleasure with horses.

B Rating

The B rating is for the USPC member who is interested in becoming proficient in all phases of riding and horse care. The B is able to ride experienced horses with confidence and control on the flat, over fences and in the open. Bs should be able to ride and care for another person's experienced horse. The B understands and is able to explain the reasons for what he or she is doing and teaches younger members.

H and H-A Rating

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

A Rating

The A is able to ride horses of various schooling levels with judgment, tact and effectiveness, to train young horses and retrain spoiled horses.

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 D1-C2 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 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 C3 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

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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. Once the first rating day has been completed, 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.

ORALS: Oral questioning can take place in a quiet room or under a tree, although many questions will be asked while the horse is present in order to demonstrate skills. Often one examiner will do the actual “hands-on” and riding sections, while someone else does the oral questioning. In a testing that includes several rating levels, one group might ride while another is doing orals, and vice-versa.

Generally speaking, a ratings test schedule is as follows:

- 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 phase
- Riding in the open (D-2 and up)
- Cooling out
- Other Horse Management skills (hands-on)
- Oral questioning phase (parents can be used to watch horses at this time)

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



The well-rounded horseperson is capable of riding safely and tactfully on the flat, over fences and in the open.

REQUIRED RIDER EQUIPMENT

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 Levels

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

D-3

Up-to-date Pony 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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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 older member may demonstrate proper handling, tying, and grooming. Lessons about tack fit, tacking up, and safety (including the all-important safety check, supervised by an adult) are reviewed before the young 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 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.

USPC is an educational organization which progressively develops the well-rounded horseperson.

Unmounted Meetings

Unmounted meetings are often structured around Horse Management instruction. Some examples of lessons, which vary greatly from club to club, 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



Specific topics that are required for ratings are listed in the Standards of Proficiency. Others might include the following:

- 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.

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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 "Pony 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.

Being a Good Horse Person Requires

- That you take responsibility for your horse;
- That you take responsibility for yourself;
- That you are proud of what you learn and share it with friends;
- That you are respectful to your parents, instructors, USPC leaders;
- That you are willing to work hard, to be committed and to use common sense;
- That you prevent problems by practicing sound horse care techniques every day;
- That you take pleasure in a job well done;
- That you enjoy the result of your efforts—a horse that is comfortable, happy and ready to work for you.



My Rating Records

Instruction

D-1

Examiner _____

Date/Location _____

Notes _____

D-2

Examiner _____

Date/Location _____

Notes _____

D-3

Examiner _____

Date/Location _____

Notes _____

C-1

Examiner _____

Date/Location _____

Notes _____

C-2

Examiner _____

Date/Location _____

Notes _____

C-3

Examiner _____

Date/Location _____

Notes _____



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Events & Activities

Competitive Rallies

USPC competitive rallies provide an opportunity to demonstrate proficiency in an atmosphere of cooperation, fun and teamwork. A competitive rally allows USPC 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 Horse Manager.

Rallies can be small and informal, such as a rally for D-level members within a single club, or they can be interclub 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 early in the year.

Regional Rallies

In a regional rally, teams of USPC 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 a Eventing rally and a Quiz rally) while others hold one large rally for several disciplines.

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

Dressage

Dressage is the art of improving your horse, making him more supple in his movements, a joy to ride and beautiful to watch. He must be a willing partner with a good mental attitude, willing to learn and wanting to please.



Competitions are held at many levels, beginning with Walk-Trot and Training Level, and continuing through nine levels to Grand Prix. During Championships, each rider chooses any two USA Equestrian tests at any level his horse will best be able to perform. Each team must also present either three KURS, or two KURS and a Pas de Deux. A

Kur, or Musical Freestyle, is an original ride, executed from memory and ridden to music. Artistic impression and technical merit are judged. A Pas de Deux is an original ride to music that is designed for two riders together in the dressage arena. Beginning in 2003, Quadrille will be added as a new division. Quadrille is a test performed by four riders who execute mirror image movements in a small arena.

For all dressage tests, riders are awarded scores on each required movement. Riding scores are added to those for Horse Management for overall placement of dressage teams.

Eventing

Eventing is the three-phase riding competitions that originated in the cavalries of Europe. These tests were formalized as competitions for military personnel in France in 1902.



The horses had to be well-trained for ceremonial parades. They also had to be fit enough to carry dispatches for long distances over any sort of terrain as quickly as possible, as demonstrated in the cross-country phase. Stadium jumping competition determined the horses' stamina, resilience and fitness to continue in service after completion of the previous two phases.

Today, Eventing tests a horse's versatility to a greater degree than any other equestrian sport. USPC Eventing Rallies are competitions, not lessons. Riders and mounts must come to the rally capable of competition at the level entered.

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Events & Activities

Mounted Games



The USPC Games Program is intended to provide reinforcement of riding skills taught in USPC in a more relaxed environment than the formal lesson. As the Games players become more confident, competition becomes a part of the program and adds a new dimension of incentive and excitement. Perhaps the most interesting part of Games instruction lies in the

fact that riders seldom realize their riding confidence and skills are improving.

Games are an activity that the newest unrated rider can enjoy, as well as the more capable Ds and Cs.

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.

Regional competitions are held every year, and from these team members qualify for Championships. Quiz competitors are placed in different divisions according to age and rating. This provides the maximum opportunity for each member to compete on an equal basis.

Some of the areas of knowledge that are tested include horse management, health, veterinary care, equitation, hunting, trailering, biting, spectator sports, rally rules, safety, nutrition, and conformation.

While Regional competitions are open to all members in the Region, competitors must be ten years of age or older to qualify for the national Championships.



Polocrosse

Polocrosse is a game related to polo but played with a racquet similar to that used in Lacrosse. The game was developed in Australia in the late 1930s, where it has been played with great enthusiasm ever since. Polocrosse has been embraced internationally, and through clinics and rallies is growing across the U.S.



A natural extension of USPC games, 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.

Polocrosse also strengthens the rider's ability to do more than one thing at a time while riding.

Basic Dressage training is important in developing good Polocrosse horses, as they must have good balance and respond well to the aids. Horses quickly catch on, and seem to enjoy the game as much as their riders!

Show Jumping

Show Jumping is an exciting sport which originated in the late 18th century as a part of foxhunting. 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. Riders must have the ability to ride the course according to plan and, at the national level, the stamina to ride on consecutive days.

USPC members may learn the principles and techniques of designing, building, walking, assessing and riding Show Jumping courses. An excellent source of information for beginning Show Jumping riders is *The Usborne Riding School Jumping* book, available through the USPC Bookstore at www.ponyclub.org.



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Events & Activities

Tetrathlon

Tetrathlon events include swimming, Show Jumping, running, and shooting. Each activity is performed at different levels of difficulty based on age. The Tetrathlon program provides a challenging competition requiring sound, practical horsemanship and general athletic ability of USPC members. Its objective is to encourage USPC members to broaden their interest in riding and the horse, and to become multi-sport athletes.



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.

Other Club Activities

Clubs offer a variety of activities, including camps, foxhunting, dismounted rallies, and more. Check with your DC about what your club, and other clubs in your area, have to offer.

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. Hunter paces and hunter trials are also ways to introduce USPC members to the sport.



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.



There are several different types of camps. The type offered will depend on the area in which you live, the weather and the volunteers available to assist in the organization of the camp.

In addition to basic riding and horse management instruction, some camps offer other activities such as trail rides, mounted games or introductions to other disciplines (polocrosse, etc.).

Overnight Camp: Overnight camps may run anywhere from 2 days to a week. These camps are generally staffed by a camp director, a chief riding instructor (and assistants), adult chaperones and other volunteers such as a cook.

Weekend Retreat: A type of overnight camp, the weekend retreat camp sometimes focuses on improving a particular skill or area, such as Dressage.

Day Camp: This type of camp sometimes meets for three consecutive days (or more).

One additional opportunity for members interested in camp is to become a Visiting Instructor. The Visiting Instructor Program allows qualified upper-level USPC members to spend their summers traveling and teaching in clubs around the nation. For more information about the Visiting Instructor Program, contact your DC.

***Not all clubs offer all activities.
Please check with your DC to
find out more about activities in
your local club.***

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Events & Activities

The 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.). The IPE was founded in 1960 and is now an established program.

Each Rally takes on its own character through the influence of the host country. This ensures the opportunity to exchange ideas, learn about different cultures, cultivate friendships and enjoy the USPC concept.

The equestrian activities are the common bond between team members to encourage the highest ideals of sportsmanship and friendly competition. This exchange provides an exceptionally valuable goal for older USPC members.

Competition is run under FEI Young Rider rules and 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
- Foxhunting



**Please contact the USPC national office for more information about USPC International Exchanges.*



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 a USPC National Championship competition.

Championships are held each year. In Festival year, Championships are held in Kentucky. In other years, Championships may be held in the East and/or West. Team competitions in each of the disciplines take place over a period of several days. Championships attract regional teams from all over the country!

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 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.

Unmounted sessions take place in a number of areas, including stalls, farrier pavilions, the Covered Arena, tents and even shady, grassy areas. Unmounted campers get to participate in the Specialty Barn, Introduction to Horse Sports and Barn Fair and go on Kentucky Thoroughbred Horse Farm Tours.

Mounted classes vary with each Festival, but in the past have included training sessions on each of the disciplines, Centered Riding, and Natural Horsemanship



Elective Clinics

Some of the country's finest riders and trainers, many of them USPC graduates, serve as instructors for elective clinics during Festival.



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Events & Activities

National Youth Congress

Each year, clubs and regions from around the country select representatives to participate in this exciting, new national meeting of youth members.



The National Youth Congress (NYC) is USPC's way of recognizing C-3 and up members and 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 will be 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 experience with horses. It exposes them to wider experiences outside of USPC by introducing them to outstanding alumni from all walks of life. It gives them opportunities to develop leadership skills through their participation in a national forum.

Selection Criteria*

- Must be a current USPC member
- Must be a C-3 rating or above when they attend the NYC
- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Must embody qualities mentioned in the USPC Mission Statement
- Must demonstrate volunteerism

**Subject to change. For more information, contact the USPC national office at instruction@ponyclub.org.*

USPC Annual Meeting and Convention

The USPC National Annual Meeting and Convention provides an opportunity to meet and learn with other adults and USPC members from throughout the nation. Held in a different city each year 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, an entire section of the meeting devoted to hands-on learning experience for youth members. The trade fair offers incredible shopping as well as information on new products. The meeting culminates with a Saturday night banquet and awards ceremony. Past guest speakers at the banquet have included David 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.

Scholarships

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

The list of schools offering USPC scholarships may change from year to year. For a complete list of schools, contact the Development Department of the USPC national office or check our website for more information.

Financing Your Equestrian Activities – Sponsorships and Scholarships, by Suzanne K. B. Fraser, is available from the USPC Bookstore.

USPC New Member Booklet

A GUIDE TO MEMBERSHIP



USPC News



USPC's quarterly magazine, the *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 a *USPC News*, please contact the Member Services Department at the national office via phone or email (memberservices@ponyclub.org).

USPC Website

The USPC website 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 websites.

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

The USPC Bookstore

Great service is the number one priority of the USPC Bookstore. The Bookstore features equestrian educational materials including books on horse care, training for the horse and rider in all 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, MasterCard or Discover.

Orders may be placed by phone or fax or through our website at www.ponyclub.org. USPC Bookstore Catalogs are free.



Events & Activities



USPC New Member Booklet

A GUIDE TO MEMBERSHIP

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.



The United States Pony Clubs, Inc.
4041 Iron Works Parkway
Lexington, Kentucky 40511-8483
859-254-7669 (PONY)
www.ponyclub.org