

Welcome to Pony Club®  
*Where it all begins*



# Pony Club Riding Centers

*Thank you for your interest in learning more about the Pony Club Riding Center Program which allows equine-related stables, facilities and lesson barns to offer Pony Club curriculum and programming to their students and clients of all ages.*

# About Pony Club

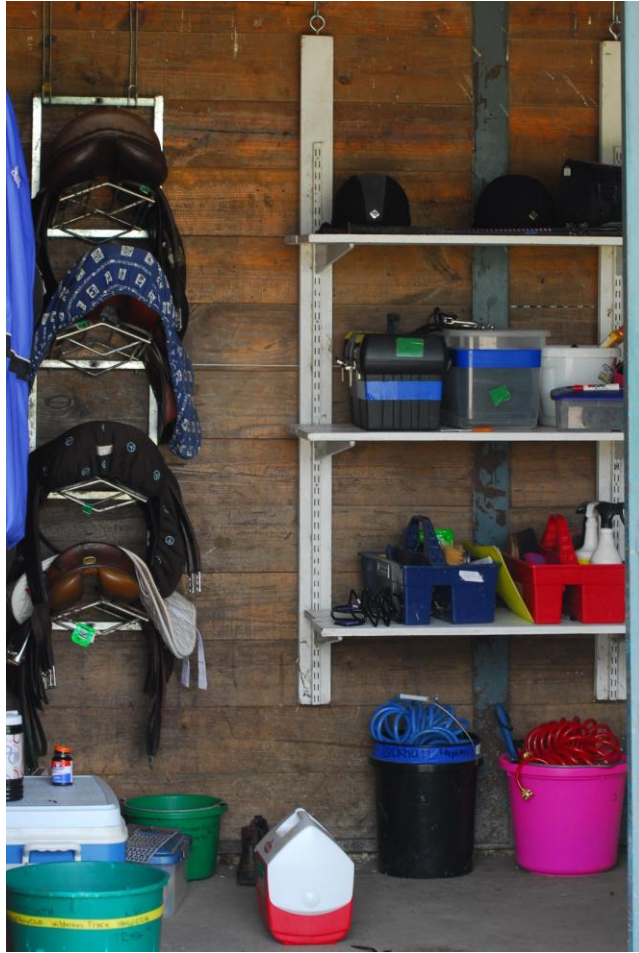


The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. is part of an internationally recognized organization that teaches riding and the proper care of horses, with the main goal being to promote sportsmanship, stewardship and leadership through horsemanship.

Pony Club offers students and members a wide variety of activities and experiences from local meetings and clinics, to regional and national competitions, to international exchanges.

Curriculum and programming are designed to meet the needs of equestrians of all ages, skill levels and disciplines with an emphasis on safety and fun.

# What is a Pony Club Riding Center?



A Riding Center is a facility with which USPC has a contractual agreement to offer the Pony Club curriculum and program to clients who also become members of USPC. The facility's owner or operator appoints a Center Administrator, possibly along with an assistant, to be responsible for the Pony Club programming within their business. Pony Club activities take place on-site, with the Pony Club Region and even nationally. During official Pony Club activities, the Riding Center and its representatives must adhere to USPC policies, rules, and regulations for programming, but in all other aspects of operations, the facility's business is conducted independently from USPC.



# Why Pony Club? Curriculum

Through the Standards of Proficiency, USPC offers a standardized, core curriculum for progression through certifications in riding and Horse Management skills from beginner to advanced members of any age. Each member progresses at a pace that is appropriate for them and sets their own achievement goals. Members may choose to be certified only on their Horse Management skills, or may do so along with riding in the following areas – Eventing, Dressage, Hunter Seat Equitation and Show Jumping, Western, or Western Dressage.



# Why Pony Club? Horse Management

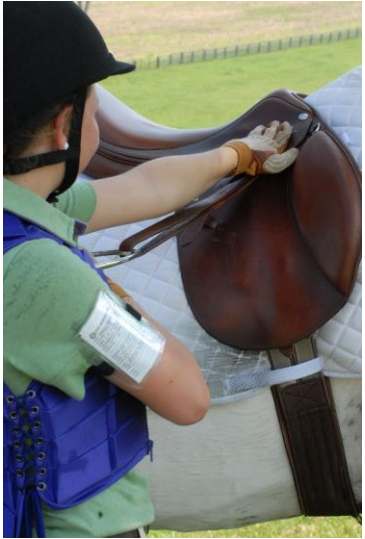
Pony Club is unique in its focus on Horse Management Education. Horse Management includes veterinary knowledge, nutritional needs of the horse, conditioning schedules, conformation and soundness issues, farm management needs, trailering, land management and more. Members learn Horse Management skills through practical application and hands-on learning. Demonstration of Horse Management skills are even incorporated into Pony Club competitions.





# Why Pony Club? Safety

While inherent dangers exist in any equine activity, Pony Club's goal is to teach safe practices that promote safety and well-being for members and their equine partners in all activities. From research and implementation of riding helmet and protective riding vest requirements to providing head injury and heat illness training for volunteers, parents and members, Pony Club is the equine industry's leader in safe horsemanship. Safety is incorporated into the Pony Club curriculum for members of all ages and levels.



# Why Pony Club? Teamwork

While most equestrians compete as individuals but are allowed to rely on grooms and others to assist with preparations, Pony Club values independence and teamwork during competition. At a riding rally, results are compiled to form team scores. Parents, coaches and chaperones are not allowed in the barn area so members must work with their teammates under supervision of qualified Horse Management judges. Quiz rally allows team members to collaborate during some phases of competition.





# Why Pony Club? Disciplines

Members of Pony Club Riding Centers may compete in the disciplines of Dressage, Eventing, Gymkhana, Mounted Games, Polocrosse, Quiz, Show Jumping, Tetrathlon, Trail, and Western Dressage. Opportunities for participation in Distance Riding, Driving, Foxhunting, Polo and Vaulting may also exist as local interest and resources allow.





# Why Pony Club? Added Value

- As a Pony Club Riding Center your business will belong to an internationally known and respected equine educational organization.
- Your business will be included in Pony Club's online directory of recognized Riding Centers, searchable by anyone looking for a place to take lessons or join Pony Club.
- All new Pony Club Riding Centers receive a resource library upon formation.
- Established lesson plans, curriculum, and resources for equestrian education are always available and updated regularly.
- Promotional materials and resources are available to meet advertising needs for your Pony Club program.



# Why Pony Club? Added Value

- **USPC website providing resources for membership, instruction and programming.**
- **Resource publications provide relevant training tips, horse health care topics and promote participation opportunities.**
- **Regional officers, including the Regional Instruction Coordinator and Horse Management Organizer, available to offer support and guidance.**
- **Support and training for your staff through teaching clinics and educational workshops held regionally and during the USPC Equine Symposium.**
- **National support through the professional office staff and volunteer committees.**
- **Regional and National opportunities for networking, mentoring, and leadership skills development.**
- **More responsible and better educated clients mean less work for you.**





# Here's what others are saying about being a Pony Club Riding Center.

The retention rate of riders is much higher having a Pony Club Riding Center as part of the barn.

Our Pony Club members are the most mature and responsible clients we have. They provide an excellent example for everyone, especially those who are new to our barn and horse ownership.

The Pony Club Riding Center has given me great materials to present to potential clients. It has given me a solid curriculum... and has definitely helped me get more committed riding students rather quickly.

I have benefitted personally as an instructor and business person. It has given me a consistent, predictable way of instructing students.

Being part of a Riding Center has opened up so many opportunities, more than we could have imagined when we first signed up.



# Becoming a Recognized Pony Club Riding Center

## Facility Requirements:

- Facilities need an established riding lesson program, physical resources, and administrative ability to offer the Pony Club program.
- The current instruction and practices should be supportive of Pony Club's mission, standards and expectations.
- If approved, payment of a start-up fee and annual renewal fees will apply.
- Proof of \$1 million commercial general liability insurance naming USPC as an insured prior to recognition and for the duration of the contract.



## Individual Requirements:

- The facility owner or manager, the Center Administrator (CA) and any Assistant Center Administrators (ACA) must favorably complete a background screening in accordance with USPC policy at least every three years.
- All CAs and ACAs must complete Safe Sport™ training.
- All CAs and ACAs must also complete online training opportunities in the areas of Head Injury and Heat Illness.
- The CA and any ACAs must maintain a USPC Corporate Membership.



# Current Fees (2025) – subject to change

## For a Riding Center:

- \$50 – Non-refundable application fee
- \$400 – Start-up fee includes a Pony Club library and a sign to advertise your Pony Club status
- \$60 – Corporate Membership dues, required annually for the appointed CA and any ACAs
- \$100 – Center Renewal Fee due annually upon renewal of contract with USPC
- \$25 (per location) – Additional Liability Insurance registering any location other than the center itself where a Pony Club activity will be held



## Membership Fees paid by Members:\*

\$155 – New Member (\$145 Renewal) for 2025 paid to USPC.

Transfer – No charge if current member.

\*Additional regional and center dues will need to be paid depending on region and center's requirements.

USPC Membership runs from January 1 to December 31 of each year and is renewable in the fall for the following year. Membership is valid and excess medical/accident insurance will be in effect from the time that a completed, original membership application and appropriate fees are received in the National Office. Each new member will receive a welcome packet of information and Pony Club membership pin within 4-6 weeks of their information being received and processed by USPC.



## **Mission:**

**The United States Pony Clubs, Inc., develops character, leadership, confidence, and a sense of community in youth through a program that teaches the care of horses and ponies, riding and mounted sports.**

## **Vision:**

**To be the leading source and voice of education in horse care, safety, and equestrian pursuits.**



## Core Values:

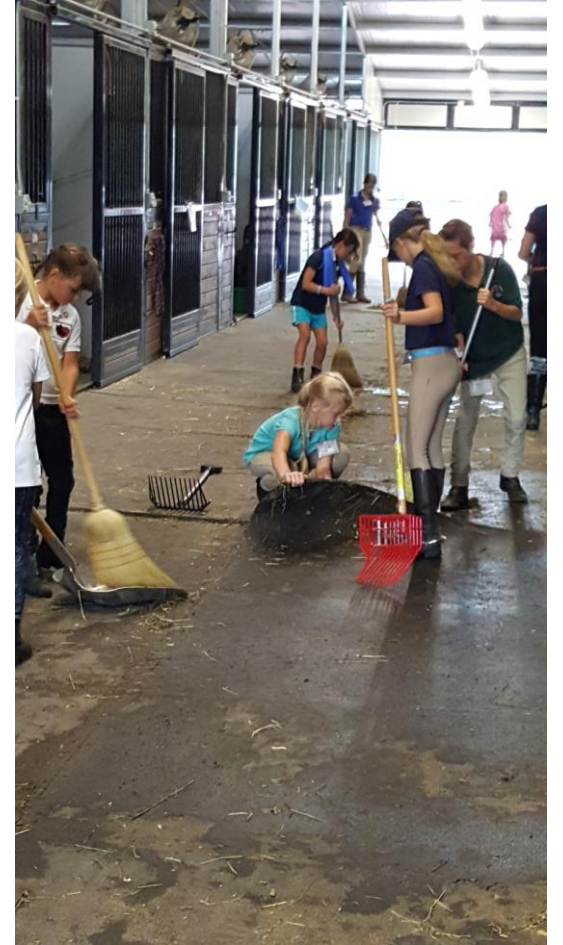
**H**orsemanship with respect to healthcare, nutrition, stable management, handling and riding a mount safely, correctly and with confidence.

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

**R**espect for the horse and self through horsemanship; for land through land conservation; and for others through service and teamwork.

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

**E**ducation at an individual pace to achieve personal goals and expand knowledge through teaching others.



# What's Next?

For more information about becoming a Pony Club Riding Center, contact USPC's Membership Coordinator – [memberservices@ponyclub.org](mailto:memberservices@ponyclub.org) or by calling 859/254-7669.

If you are ready to become a Pony Club Riding Center, visit the USPC website to [submit an application](#).

