

RIVERVIEW PONY CLUB

You Are Invited To Join Riverview Pony Club!



What is Pony Club?

- Pony Club is an international organization dedicated to providing education, achievement, and competition opportunities in English horse sports for children and young adults.
- Riverview Pony Club (RVPC) is a chapter of the United States Pony Clubs, Inc., a non-profit national organization with about 600 local clubs.
- Many nations around the globe have Pony Club organizations and international activities occur on a regular basis.

Why should I join Pony Club?

- Pony Club provides excellent instruction in all aspects of horse care and riding skills.
- Members can earn internationally recognized ratings (ranks).
- Members can compete on teams at local, regional, national, and international levels.

The mission of the United States Pony Clubs 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.

What is the Club program?

- RVPC members have a two hour unmounted meeting once a month (usually from 3:00 to 5:00 PM the first Saturday of each month) to work on preparation for exams, rallies, and other activities.
- Mounted meetings are held where riding skills are taught.
- Exams are given regularly to earn new ratings.
- Other low key events are organized as requested by members.
- There are six regional rallies and several clinics each year to which RVPC can send teams.
- Qualifying members can go to national and international team competitions each year.
- Members can attend a Regional Summer Camp.
- Riverview Pony Club is supported by Peppercorn Ranch. However, members may choose to take lessons at any other facility.



What kind of time commitment is involved?

- Members are expected to ride as often as they can; preferably they should take lessons at least once a week.
- There is usually a 2 hour unmounted meeting once a month.
- Parents are expected to volunteer to help run the club, support fund raising, and support Pony Club activities.
- Regional rallies and other activities occur about once a month. Members can participate in them if they are qualified and wish to do so.
- As with any sport, faster improvement occurs with more regular practice.

How is Riverview Pony Club managed?

- Riverview Pony Club is operated by a board of Sponsors. Each family of a child member may have one adult represent it as a Sponsor and every family is strongly encouraged to provide a Sponsor. Sponsors write Riverview Pony Club Policies and

Guidelines under the umbrella of the USPC Policies and Guidelines. They also authorize and review Club activities as well as the Club's finances. Thus parents authorize and supervise all Club activities in addition to providing volunteers for activities and fundraising. Sponsor's Meetings are held quarterly, usually after an unmounted meeting.

- Sponsors elect a Board of Officers: District Commissioner (like a scout troop leader), Joint District Commissioner, Treasurer, and Secretary. This Board operates the Club on a daily basis.

What are rallies?

- Riverview Pony Club often sends teams to competitive rallies. Teams are judged on horse care in addition to the actual riding portion of a rally. Parents are not allowed to assist members at rallies. (There is plenty of support and guidance at rallies!) Coaches have very limited roles at rallies. Members learn to be self-reliant and team players.
- Rallies can be held for Quiz (horse knowledge), Dressage, Show Jumping, Eventing, Tetrathlon, and Games.
- The Region holds a Horseless Rally each year to teach new members how to go through a Rally.
- Every three years there is a National Festival in Lexington, Kentucky where Regions send teams to compete for National Championships in all disciplines. There are Western and Eastern Championships in all off years.



In reality, how long does it take to be able to compete?

- It depends on age, talent, and hours of practice. A 10 year old member might be ready to go to a dressage rally after a year of weekly lessons and a jumping rally after eighteen months of weekly lessons. There are a lot of variables.
- The bottom line is that the more practice one gets, the faster one improves.

Do I have to compete?

- Competing is not required in Pony Club! Some members choose to specialize in horse management so their riding is limited. (Competition teams include Horse Managers!)
- Ratings are based on horse knowledge and riding skills. No competition experience is required. However, competing reinforces many skills required for ratings.
- Pony Club competitions are different from horse showing because they include everything one does to care for a horse and they are always by teams. THEY ARE FUN!

What will Pony Club Cost?

- Riverview Pony Club members pay an annual fee to the national regional and local levels of the United States Pony Clubs.
- Members are expected to pay for their own lessons, horse use, horse transportation, etc. Peppercorn Ranch or any other equestrian center may provide these services.
- Members are not required to own or full lease a horse! Horses may be included in lesson prices and may be leased by the day for use in Pony Club activities.
- RVPC does fund raising to help pay for ratings, rally entries, and other activities.

Is Pony Club really for me?

- It is possible to be a Pony Club member with minimal financial and time commitment. You can try it for a year to see if it is a good fit for you.
- The door is always open to do more and there is a lot of support for highly motivated members!

Pony Club is a great way to participate in equestrian sports. Graduate members often say that they use their Pony Club experiences in whatever career they choose and say that Pony Club prepared them for life!

COME JOIN US!

Local: www.riverviewponyclub.org
 Regional: www.uspccaminoreal.org
 National: www.ponyclub.org

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