

CANADIAN PONY CLUB
www.canadianponyclub.org

Pony Club was founded in Britain in 1929 as a not-for-profit organization and is now established in 30 countries around the world. Since 1934, Canadian Pony Club has offered a comprehensive educational program in riding, horse/pony care and stable management to young persons up to the age of 21. Many of Canada's top competitive riders – as well as judges, stewards and coaches – got their start in Pony Club.

Pony Club is for families, and parents are encouraged to volunteer their time and talents. It's a great way for non-riding parents to gain an understanding of what their kids are doing. To learn responsibility and leadership, members are also encouraged to volunteer as their knowledge and skills permit.

Canadian Pony Club has 13 Regions, of which Manitoba Pony Club is one region. Each region is further divided into Branches. Each Branch is responsible for delivering the Educational package as provided by Canadian Pony Club. Manitoba Pony Club has 12 branches distributed around the province.

If you love your horse, you will want to learn to look after him properly. From beginner lessons to the demanding "A" level test, now recognized by Equine Canada as equivalent to their Level 1 Coaching Certification (plus NCCP Theory), Pony Club teaches young persons horse care, stable management, riding and coaching skills.

Pony Club is divided into 10 levels of competency, from the D level, where the member demonstrates the ability to walk and trot their horse, to the A level, where the member demonstrates high level Dressage skills and the ability to negotiate a 3'9 jumper course and a Preliminary Cross Country Course.

Members at the 3 D levels learn the parts of the horse, parts of tack, how to care for their tack, basic first aid, and basic good care for their horse or pony.

At the 3 C levels, members will expand their knowledge to an understanding of the conformation of their horse, how to treat minor injuries and care for a sick horse, how to correctly fit different kinds of tack, nutritional requirements of their horses and how best to meet them, the basics of good foot care and basic bandaging.

As a member begins to prepare for their B and A levels, they require a great deal of practical knowledge based on hands-on experience. They delve into anatomy, nutrition, corrective shoeing, veterinary skills, teaching and lunging.

Each level is accompanied by Workbooks or Study Guides, which help the member to prepare for the written test and the stablemanagement phases of the practical test. Instructors and coaches also prepare the members for the riding portion of the tests.

The Pony Club testing system is comprised of a written test, a practical test of stable management/horse care skills and riding. There are four divisions – D, C, B and A. D and C levels each have three subdivisions, B has two and A has two. Members move forward at their own pace, and since they begin to ride at different ages, will be in mixed age groups according to skill levels. In addition to the "A" level, being recognized as mentioned above, members completing their "C2" level are recognized by Equine Canada as having completed their English Rider Level 2, "B" level their English Rider Level 3.

"Pony Club" does not mean everyone has to ride a pony. Except for Prince Philip Games, which uses only ponies, Pony Club mounts can be any horse/pony who is sane, sound, safe for the person riding it and able to perform at the level asked. And no, Members are not required to compete. The choice is theirs.

Pony Club promotes a number of disciplines within their program, to develop an all around equestrian. The following are the disciplines that are sanctioned by Canadian Pony Club.

Prince Philip Games is a team sport and builds balance, coordination and physical skills useful outside of riding for members aged 15 years and under. It's so much fun, there's now an unofficial Masters level for members over 15 years of age. Games are played at Branch, Regional, Zone, National and International levels.

Dressage at its lowest level is basic training for both rider and mount. At its top, it's an Olympic discipline. In Pony Club, competitions are both individual and team, from Branch to Zone levels.

Rallies are equivalent to Eventing (another Olympic discipline) plus a stable management competition! Rallies exemplify teamwork. Teams of 3 to 5 members work together to prepare the horses for competition, keep neat and organized stalls and tack areas and look after the horses following each competition. Each competitor rides a dressage test, a cross country course and a stadium course on the same mount. The top C and A/B riders compete at the Zone level.

Tetrathlon comprises of swimming, running, riding and shooting phases and is ideal for the all-around athlete. Competitions are held at the Regional, National and International levels. This program also feeds into Modern Pentathlon at the Olympic level.

Quiz tests just equestrian knowledge and no mounts are needed. Quiz includes a written test, knowledge games such as Jeopardy, Win, Lose or Draw, as well as many tables of items to identify such as x-rays, parasites, bits etc. Branch teams compete against each other at Regional competitions and the best individuals in each Region are chosen for Regional teams at the National level (C and A/B only).

Show Jumping is the equestrian competition most often shown on television, therefore most familiar to the general public. Pony Club members often go on to compete on Canadian Young Riders teams internationally, as well as at the Regional and Zone levels in Pony Club. And yes, at the top, it is an Olympic discipline.

Canadian Pony Club also participates in a number of **International Exchanges**. These rotate among participating countries on schedules that vary by discipline. Every year, there is an international Games Exchange. Every two years, there is an International Tetrathlon Exchange. The Interpacific Exchange also takes place every two years. All international exchanges require riders to use borrowed horses or ponies.

So, If You Love Horses, Join Us!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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