



## Level A

Pony Camp I, Beginner Class, Mommy and Me Class

### Ground:

Demonstrate knowledge of Safety Rules

Demonstrate proper use of curry comb, body brush, mane & tail comb, hoof pick

Properly mount and dismount

Identify parts of the English saddle and bridle

Identify facial markings including blaze, star, stripe, snip, leg markings including coronet, sock, stocking, and colors chestnut, bay, dun, gray, brown, white, palomino, black and roan.

Understand eyesight and vision of the horse

Demonstrate proper saddling & bridling technique

Lead horse correctly with halter and lead rope

### Mounted: Entire session **MAY** be on lead

Properly use voice cues including “walk”, “whoa”, “easy”, “walk on”, or “click”, “trot”

Properly use weight cue (seat for halt, body for turn)

Properly use leg cues to turn the horse to right & left

Properly use reins to start, stop and steer

Be able to collect reins correctly and hold in one hand

Perform suppling and balance exercises

Ride a short seated trot ON-LEAD

Be able to transfer riding skills to other Level A horses or ponies



## Level B

“Rescue Ranger” volunteer help if needed  
Pony Camp II  
Working toward independent riding

### **Ground: ALL SKILLS IN LEVEL A PLUS:**

Be able to properly adjust stirrup length from the ground  
Properly halter and retrieve a horse from a stall  
Correctly lead through a right and left turn  
Correctly tie a “horseman’s” Quick Release Knot  
Identify parts of the Western bridle and saddle  
Identify parts of the horse including poll, ears, eyes, face, nostril, muzzle, throat latch, neck, mane, shoulder, elbow, knee, cannon, coronet, fetlock, hoof, back, withers, barrel, croup, hip, dock, tail, hock, flank  
Demonstrate proper Western saddling and bridling technique

### **Mounted: ALL SKILLS IN LEVEL A**

Demonstrate correct body position when mounted  
Demonstrate the following transitions:

- Halt to walk
- Walk to halt
- Walk to collected walk
- Walk to extended walk
- Walk to seated trot
- Seated trot to walk

Demonstrate mounting and dismounting including the emergency dismount  
Demonstrate stepping over obstacles  
Demonstrate road safety on the trail  
Demonstrate riding up and down hill  
Demonstrate “fruit picking” = standing balanced in the stirrups  
Demonstrate half seat  
Demonstrate riding without stirrups  
Demonstrate dropping and picking up stirrups at the halt and the walk  
Demonstrate ability to walk forward, halt, turn right and left  
Be able to transfer riding skills to other level A and B horses and ponies



## Level C

I Want a Pony 4 hour camp

Independent riding: Class staffed with instructor and 1 or 2 assistants

### Ground:

ALL SKILLS IN LEVEL A & B

Know parts of the hoof

Understand the concepts of discipline and reward as it applies to the horse

Explain diagonals

Identify snaffle and curb bits and describe their usage

Explain basic gaits of the horse with description of rhythm pattern

Understand the following terms: Stallion, mare, gelding, foal, filly, colt, weanling, yearling, pony, mule, tack, green, off-side, near-side, hand

### Mounted:

ALL SKILLS IN LEVEL A & B

MUST BE COMPLETELY OFF-LEAD

ONLY OCCASIONALLY NEEDS REMINDING ABOUT  
BASIC BALANCED RIDING POSITION!

Demonstrate control, balance and proper position at the walk and the seated trot

Demonstrate the ability to lengthen and shorten the rein at the halt and the walk

Demonstrate the ability to drop and pick up stirrups at the trot

Execute the Serpentine Pattern at the walk

Execute the Western Barrel Race pattern at the walk, with a trot on the straight runs

Execute the Western Pole Bending pattern at the walk, with a trot on the straight runs

Demonstrate the two point trot

Demonstrate the rising trot

Demonstrate trotting on the correct diagonal

Change diagonals gracefully every three strides

Execute the Figure Eight and other patterns at the trot, changing diagonals as appropriate

Perform the seated trot through Bend Poles (straight line)

Demonstrate balance in the turns

Be able to transfer riding skills to all other Level A, B and C ponies and horses



## Level D

IWAP 6hr Camp

JV Drill Team Class

Staffed with instructor plus one assistant (may be mounted)

### Ground:

ALL SKILLS IN LEVEL A, B & C

Demonstrates ability to safely catch and turn-out a horse in a field or paddock with other horses

Demonstrates ability to correctly tack horse in any style and check tack for self

Understands horse behavior in a herd and can "Read ears"

Understands and can identify correct lead, wrong lead and cross canter

Can clean and care for tack

Can identify and describe the following horses and ponies found in America – Grade, Arabian, Thoroughbred, Quarter Horse, Morgan, American Saddlebred, Appaloosa, Pinto, Paint, Shetland Pony, Welsh Pony, Pony of the Americas

Know symptoms of colic, founder, choke, respiratory disease

Be able to recognize lameness immediately by observation and let supervisor know immediately!

### Mounted:

ALL SKILLS IN LEVEL A, B & C

NO LONGER NEEDS REMINDERS ABOUT BASIC RIDING POSITION AND USE OF CORRECT RIDING AIDS

Be able to adjust stirrup length from the saddle

Understands how to rate horse to his fitness level so as not to tire or over use horse  
Know vital statistics - temperatures, respiration rates and pulse at rest and work plus recovery sequence for the horses and ponies

Be able to detect lameness in the horse you or others in your group are riding and know to bring it to the supervisors attention immediately

Anticipates behaviors and modifies aids so that rider is preventing mistakes, not correcting the horse after the mistake is made

Demonstrate control, balance and proper position at the seated trot, rising trot and in the two point trot

Demonstrate the ability to ride in pairs and drills at the walk and the trot

Demonstrate the ability to walk and trot complex patterns

Understands and demonstrates use of the leading, direct and indirect rein

Demonstrate the canter depart from a trot on the correct lead

Demonstrates backing the horse

Demonstrate knowledge of trail riding safety skills

Demonstrate ability to take rear guard position on trail ride

Be able to transfer riding skills to all other Level A, B, C and D horses and ponies



## **Level E**

Drill Team Class

Schooling Rides

Volunteer Assistant Level

Potentially Eligible For Employment (16yrs and up)

### **Ground:**

ALL SKILLS IN LEVEL A, B, C, & D

Demonstrates ability to safely move horses as a herd from one paddock or field to another

Demonstrates ability to correctly check tack for others

Can correctly fit tack to a horse

Understands the differences and uses of the Full cheek snaffle, snaffle with a key, more or less severe snaffle including twisted wire, the Kimberwicke, Tom Thumb, Hackamore and curb

Can identify worn or unsafe tack

Can perform minor repairs to tack

Demonstrates knowledge of basic horse first-aid in cases of colic, lameness, laceration, eye injury, thrush, mud fever, rain rot, fungus

Can identify signs of illness through behavior

Understands that bad habits in horses are generally a result of wrong handling by people

### **Mounted:**

ALL SKILLS IN LEVEL A, B, C, & D

Demonstrates ability to mount untied horse from ground without help

Demonstrates ability to school horse to correct behavior or aid in training new skills

Demonstrates the ability to ride bareback at the walk and the trot

Demonstrates ability to take trail boss position on trail ride

Can safely tie a horse on the trail

Demonstrates a simple lead change at the canter

Be able to transfer riding and ground skills to all horses in the THS herd