

Lost Miner Riding Center Pony Club Member and Parent Handbook

2021

Introduction

The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. (USPC) is a national organization that teaches riding, mounted sports, and the care of horses and ponies to those up to twenty-five years old. Members under the age of 18 are referred to as 'Juniors' and those 18 and older are 'Seniors'. In addition to its instructional function, USPC provides opportunities for competition in various horse sports. The Pony Club name refers to the history of the organization, not the size of the animal. Children and young adults may be traditional active members through the year of their 25th birthday. The Pony Club movement is worldwide with clubs organized in 26 countries. Pony Club was first established in England in 1929 as the junior branch of England's Institute of the Horse. Originally, Pony Clubs were formed as an extension of local hunts to teach the members' children how to ride and be responsible members of the hunt. Pony Club began in the United States in 1954.

Lost Miner Riding Center (LMRC) is a Registered Club of the United States Pony Club in the Rocky Mountain Region. In addition to the guidance in this handbook, the Riding Center is subject to the Corporate, Regional, and Registered Club Bylaws, National and Regional Policies, and other rules and regulations established by USPC.

Lost Miner Riding Center Pony Club was founded in 2018 and is based at Lost Miner Ranch and Equestrian Center in Gunnison, Colorado. LMRC provides unmounted and mounted instruction to members who embrace the requirements of the USPC Standards of Proficiency. LMRC also provides opportunities for members to demonstrate the skills and knowledge they have required by participating in certifications and rallies. The colors of the Club are black and white.

USPC Mission Statement

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

USPC Guiding Beliefs

USPC is an educational organization that 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.
- ✓ USPC is committed to safety.

USPC General Information

Logo: The USPC logo is registered nationally as a service mark. Any member club or region of the United States Pony Clubs, Inc. is authorized to use the logo in the administration of its program.

United States Pony Club Pin: Only Pony Club members may wear the Pony Club pin. Members should wear their pins at EVERY Pony Club activity. That includes regular mounted and unmounted meetings! Pins are worn on the left side of the shirt or on the front of the riding helmet. Adults may wear pins with the Pony Club logo, which include wording depicting their positions, such as District Commissioner, Regional Supervisor, Club Instructor, USPC volunteer, or former holders of these positions.

Official Publication: The USPC NEWS (published quarterly)

Colors: United States Pony Club: royal blue and white

Lost Miner Riding Center: black and white

Certificates: indicated by colored felt discs worn behind the Pony Club pin.

A: blue

H-A: orange

B: red

H: lavender

C-3: white

C+: pink

H-B: brown

C-1, C-2: green

D: yellow

Festival: Every third year, a USPC Festival is held at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky. The object of Festival is to include Championship competitions and a showcase of opportunities for instruction, activities, and competition for members and their families.

Championships: In non-Festival years, competitions for riders/teams qualifying at regional and/or inter-regional Rallies in any discipline; held in Kentucky in Festival years, otherwise may be in the East, Central, South and/or West.

Mounts: Ownership of a horse or pony is not a requirement for membership in Pony Club. However, members must have access to a suitable mount for mounted activities. LMRC provides mounts for members without their own. Horses and ponies must be a least five years of age for USPC activities. Mounts should be temperamentally suited for the level of the rider, as well as healthy, well cared for, and sound. Stallions are not allowed as mounts for Pony Club activities.

Alcohol Use: USPC emphatically forbids the use or possession of alcohol or controlled substances by participants, competitors, or chaperones at all Pony Club activities. This applies for the duration of any Pony Club activity.

Medication: Any competitor bringing prescribed medication to an activity or competition must notify both the chaperone and the organizer.

United States Pony Club Pledge

As a member of the United States Pony Club, I stand for the best in sportsmanship as well as in horsemanship. I shall compete for the enjoyment of the game well played and take winning or losing in stride, remembering that without good manners and good temper, sport loses its cause for being. I shall endeavor to maintain the best tradition of the ancient and noble skill of horsemanship, always treating my horse with consideration due a partner.

Parent Involvement and Participation

Pony Club is not only your child's activity – it must also be yours.

Parents are especially important to the growth of the children and the Club. It is true that what we get out of Pony Club is in direct relation to what we put into it! As a parent, it is critical to be educated in what the organization is looking for in your child's equine knowledge and riding ability. To best assist your child, please ask questions, watch, and listen. There are many learning opportunities for everyone. Your participation as a volunteer, observer, sounding board, taxi driver, horse holder, cheering squad, tear wiper, photographer, etc. is critical not only to your child, but to the Club as a whole. There are numerous opportunities for parents to help; some require horse knowledge, but most do not require any special training. Sign up for the areas that interest you – and feel free to ask questions.

How can I, as a parent, help my child? One of Pony Club's stated purposes is to develop independence in children. To this end, we ask that you try not to do everything for your child but rather let him/her tack up and prepare to ride on his/her own. Perhaps the horse may need to be held or that heavy saddle may need to be put on its back, but most children can groom and tack up their own mount without the help of an adult. Children helping children is encouraged in Pony Club.

Horseback riding is a sport that, because of the inherent potential for problems, the member must "own." As Pony Club members advance through the certificates, it becomes more important that the decision to certify come from them. Only the rider knows how he/she is feeling and what he/she is experiencing. Therefore, only the rider really knows if he/she is feeling ready for the next certificate. That is not to say that some encouragement or guidance is not appropriate, but the older member, for the most part, makes these decisions and "owns" his/her progress. That said, there are children who do not recognize their own potential; in these cases, please speak with the instructor or the Center Administrator to explore the possibilities together.

Lost Miner Pony Club Parent Pledge

As the parent/guardian of a Lost Miner Pony Club member, I understand my child needs to be safe and prepared for all Pony Club functions, mounted or unmounted.

- ✓ I will help my child be punctual and prepared for activities and lessons and, when appropriate, enlist him or her in active time management. If in doubt, we will arrive early. This is essential and shows respect for other parents, members, and instructors.

- ✓ I will know what is needed in terms of equipment and attire, since this is part of being prepared and helps keep my child safe. When in doubt, I will refer to Pony Club manuals or check with the Center Administrator or Assistant Center Administrator or a higher rated member for clarification.
- ✓ I will uphold the safety standards of Lost Miner Pony Club and will follow all directions and guidelines to keep myself, my child, other members, parents, and instructors safe.
- ✓ When providing my own mount for my child I will be sure the mount is safe and suitable for Club activities. I realize that if a mount is deemed inappropriate by the clinician, instructor, or other adult in charge I will remove the mount from Club activities.

I also understand that for my child to have a successful, positive experience, my support and assistance are necessary.

- ✓ I will give my time to the Club by volunteering at Club events when possible. I understand that volunteered time is essential to keep costs down for Lost Miner Pony Club activities. The majority of persons involved with Pony Club are volunteers who try to make Pony Club a positive experience.
- ✓ I will uphold the safety standards and rules of the United States Pony Club and Lost Miner Riding Center.
- ✓ I will ensure a parent or qualified person will accompany my child to his or her certification and Club activities when appropriate.
- ✓ I understand that all members, regardless of role, will be treated equally in all areas.
- ✓ I understand that Pony Club involves local and regional participation and that both are required to meet certain advancements in the program.
- ✓ I understand that to be a member in good standing and to be able to participate in any Pony Club activity, the fee for that activity must be paid in advance of my child's participation.

USPC Adult Code of Conduct

The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. is proud of its reputation for good sportsmanship, horsemanship, teamwork, and well-behaved members. It expects no less from the parents, guardians, adult family members, or others who volunteer for the organization. The USPC expects appropriate behavior when participating in any Pony Club activity. Inappropriate behavior may include, but not be limited to: profanity, vulgar language or gestures; harassment (for example: using words or actions that intimidate, threaten or persecute others before, during or following any Pony Club activity); failure to follow rules; cheating; or abusive behavior.

Parents should understand that USPC activities operate under the governance of National, Regional and Club By-laws, Policies and Rulebooks. Parents have access to these By-laws, Policies and Rulebooks and it is their responsibility to read them. Failure to adhere to these By-laws, Policies, Rulebooks and this Code of Conduct may, at the discretion of USPC, result in being restricted from attendance or participation in Pony Club activities.

Costs

Dues for participating members are paid monthly to participate in Lost Miner Riding Center mounted and unmounted activities. Dues will be invoiced by the beginning of each month and should be paid by the 5th of that month for the member to continue to participate in meetings. Monthly dues stay the same whether members are participating in mounted or unmounted meetings, or whether members attend all meetings. Members will attend meetings on the same day throughout the year. Some months will have more meetings and some will have less, depending on the amount of weeks in each month. There is no extra charge on a month with extra weeks and there is no reduced charge during a scheduled break. There are 48 weeks of meetings in 2021.

If a member decides to break for one or more months and does not pay for that month there is a *potential* for their spot to be forfeit *if* there is a wait list. If there is not a wait list the member may rejoin at any time. If there is a wait list, the member who forfeits their month will be placed on the wait list and may have to wait for a spot to open to rejoin LMRC. LMRC has a limited amount of Pony Club and Junior Pony Club spots available – as of January 1st, 2021 there are 8 Pony Club spots and 16 Junior Pony Club spots currently available.

USPC Annual Dues

Pony Club Memberships must be renewed annually and dues paid at time of renewal. Regional dues are generally due in the Spring to the Rocky Mountain Region. More information can be provided by the Center Administrator.

2021 USPC Dues:	\$150
2021 Rocky Mountain Region Dues: (estimated)	\$50

LMRC Monthly Dues

2021 Lost Miner Riding Center Monthly Dues are due by the first of the month before participating in Pony Club activities. Invoices will be sent out by the 1st of the month but generally earlier. Be sure you have a current email address on file to receive your electronic invoice. Invoices that haven't been paid by the 5th of each month will incur a 10% late fee.

Level of membership should be decided for the membership year and monthly dues paid accordingly, whether meetings are mounted or unmounted. LMRC understands that situations with horses may change throughout the year; for example, if you began the year with the intention of riding a LMRC horse but decided in August to purchase or lease a horse, your monthly rate would change on the 1st of the month when the member's riding situation changes.

LMRC horse (LMRC provides horse and tack and equipment required by horse): (averages \$35 per meeting for 2021)	\$140
Personal horse (personal owned or leased horse boarded at Lost Miner): (averages \$25 per meeting for 2021)	\$100

Trailer horse (personal/leased horse trailer in for meetings):
(averages \$28.75 per meeting for 2021)

\$115

Why are the monthly dues different?

Use of a LMRC horse carries the highest financial cost to Club members. Horses are expensive! Horses are fed, cared for daily, have veterinary and farrier expenses handled by LMRC, and all tack and equipment is provided to the rider, as well as replacement of damaged or broken equipment. Pony Club membership is a factor in LMRC decisions of how many horses and ponies to keep on staff. Members will ride more during summer months and less during winter months, however dues are averaged throughout the year and remain the same each month due to the costs of LMRC owning and caring for the horses year round.

Use of a personal or leased horse boarded at Lost Miner Ranch is the least expensive membership option. These owners are already paying monthly costs for their horse's board, feed, veterinary care, facility use, tack, and equipment.

Trailer horses are kept off the Lost Miner property, and their dues are slightly higher than boarded horses to cover their monthly haul-in cost to use the facilities. Members hauling in may own or lease their mounts, the membership cost is the same.

Where does the money go?

Whether you own your horse, or lease, beg, borrow or steal one, you know that horses and riding are an expensive hobby. Some of the costs that are inherent to Club operation are:

- ✓ Instructors: the majority of all monthly dues go to our instructors, who are compensated for their time instructing during Pony Club meetings, as well as developing curriculum, preparing, and planning for upcoming meetings.
- ✓ Facilities: heating, electricity, indoor arena lighting, staff to maintain arenas, equipment, air purifiers, etc
- ✓ Insurance: both USPC insurance and commercial insurance are required of the facility and are expensive policies to maintain.
- ✓ Equipment: Lost Miner Riding Center offers equipment available for use by its members. This includes team equipment required for participation in rallies, rally kits, educational materials, electronic equipment, and an extensive library of equine-related books and audio-visual resources.
- ✓ Horses and Ponies: Lost Miner Riding Center provides horses and ponies and their tack for use by its members. Care and maintenance of horses is not cheap and is required year-round, regardless of the amount of time they are ridden. Feed, pasture, tack, tack repair, veterinary expenses, etc are all included in the fee you pay to use a Club horse or pony.

Other Costs

When traveling to an off-ranch clinic, camp, rating, horse show, or other event, additional costs will be involved. These trips are NOT REQUIRED to be a part of LMRC but are offered in *addition* to regular weekly meetings. A detailed summary of these costs will be available well in advance for each event, and will vary based on distance to the event, duration of the event, and any special equipment required. Members will be required to sign up

for events in advance and submit a non-refundable deposit towards the trip. This is a general summary of what to expect if members are considering off-ranch travel for Pony Club:

Instructor fee: split between ALL event attendees; paid to instructor to be available to help and guide members each day through the event, camp, clinic, show, etc. This fee is charged when instructor is assisting members with horses, schooling, teaching, helping students at the event, managing the barn and horse care, etc. (There is no additional fee for instructors travel time, travel vehicle, fuel, or food.)

\$25/hour, max \$150/day

LMRC horse fee: if using a LMRC horse this fee is charged per day the horse is away or traveling to cover loss of revenue to Lost Miner Ranch. (LMRC horses typically make \$20 per lesson and teach 1-3 lessons per day.)

\$40/day

Trailering fee: charged per horse per mile, one way only. This fee covers truck and trailer equipment, insurance, wear and tear, repairs, fuel, and time of hauler. All LMRC horses may ONLY be hauled by LMRC personnel. Personal horses should arrange own transport.

\$0.75 per mile if 1-2 horses on load, \$30 minimum

\$0.50 per mile if 3-4 horses on load, \$30 minimum

Instructor hotel: total hotel cost for instructor is split evenly between all members attending the event. Hotel price will be kept as low as possible with safety and hotel proximity to event grounds a priority.

Other costs to expect when traveling:

Stall rental – set per venue, generally \$15-20 per night

Shavings – estimate \$8 per bag, 2 bags per day

Tack stall fee – split evenly between all members using tack stall, estimate \$5 per day

Entry fees – fees to participate in show/clinic/camp/event, vary per event

Hotel fees for member and their family

Membership

- ✓ Membership renewals are required annually at the National and Regional levels. Membership renewals should be completed by mid-November.
- ✓ USPC 'Participation Age' is whatever your age is on January 1st.
- ✓ All new members should purchase a "New Member Kit" including, but not limited to, USPC D Manual, USPC pin, and medical armband.
- ✓ LMRC officers will survey members and parents periodically to check on intentions for certification, interest in rallies and other events, and to determine that LMRC program is generally meeting the needs of its membership.

Member in Good Standing

To be considered a Member in Good Standing with the Club, members must evidence a sincere interest in the activities of the Club, assist younger members in the learning process, attend mounted and unmounted meetings, participate in Pony Club activities at the Club, Regional, and National level.

The required level of such involvement will be considered in relation to the age, experience, and availability of mount.

No member is eligible to participate in Club activities until all dues and fees have been paid at National, Regional, and Local levels.

Only Members in Good Standing may take USPC certifications or participate in rallies

The decision of whether a member is in good standing is determined by the Center Administrator. If a member is judged not to be in good standing, for whatever reason, the CA may revoke or decline to renew the individuals membership in the Club, in accordance with the USPC Bylaws.

Behavior

LMRC members are expected to follow the LMRC Code of Conduct. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in disciplinary action or, in extreme circumstances, removal from the Club. Disciplinary action may involve being excluded from certain Club activities or not being allowed to participate in mounted activities. Safety is our top priority; members are expected to follow the directions of Center Administrators, Assistant Center Administrators, Instructors, and/or other adults in charge at all times.

Code of Conduct for LMRC Members

- ✓ Respect and care for your equine partner.
- ✓ Wear/use all required and issued equipment and/or uniforms when appropriate and keep all equipment and/or uniforms clean and in good repair.
- ✓ Show up to mounted and unmounted meetings on time, fully prepared, and ready to participate. Any member who arrives late should catch, brush, tack, and quietly join the meeting.

- ✓ No electronics are to be used when working with horses. Electronics may be used when meetings are over and horses are cared for. The instructor has emergency contacts if a parent/guardian needs to be reached.
- ✓ Not engage in any behavior which would endanger the health, safety, or wellbeing of any equine or human.
- ✓ Do not initiate a fight, scuffle, or exchange with any individual (including but not limited to: yelling, pushing, shoving, punching, kicking, etc).
- ✓ Demonstrate good sportsmanship before, during, and after meetings and competitions, win or lose.
- ✓ Be courteous to other competitors, teammates, instructors, judges, and instructors/officials.
- ✓ Help to maintain and keep all equipment in good condition and the facility in good condition.
- ✓ Accept the decisions of judges and Pony Club officials with good grace. If you disagree, discuss your concerns with the organizing committee or use official protesting procedures to lodge your complaint.
- ✓ Control your temper. Verbal abuses of officials, organizing personnel, instructors, or other individuals are not acceptable or permitted behaviors in any sport.
- ✓ Work to better yourself - there is always satisfaction in improving your performance.
- ✓ Support your teammates and be positive about your teammates performance.
- ✓ Cooperate with your instructor, teammates, and organizing personnel.
- ✓ Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background, or religion.

Member Goals

Members will complete a Goals form during an unmounted meeting at the start of the calendar year. In this form members can indicate their interest in participating in rallies, rating, camp, and/or list activities members would like the Club to offer. These forms help the officers ensure everyone has growth opportunities and that the Club activities fulfill the members' goals.

LMRC Requirements to Participate in Rallies or other extra activities

LMRC offers participation in rallies, camps, clinics, and other educational Pony Club activities and events to all members who meet minimum requirements. Some of these events may be held off the Lost Miner Ranch property. Members and their parents should realize that at any time LMRC members are participating in rallies, clinics, camps, and other activities they representatives of Lost Miner Ranch and Equestrian Center and should conduct themselves accordingly.

Minimum requirements to attend extra activities:

- ✓ Member is at least 8 years of age. Younger members may be invited to participate on a case-by-case basis

- ✓ Member is a regular attendee of monthly meetings (generally attends at least 75% of meetings offered)
- ✓ Member shows initiative and willingness to learn
- ✓ Member demonstrates the ability to regularly arrive on time and is prepared for meetings
- ✓ Member listens to all instructors and adults in charge and does not demonstrate behavioral issues (ex: not listening, talking back, disrespectful)

Equipment

For the rider – required equipment

This equipment is required by all members, regardless of whether the member owns their mount. Helmets are the only piece of equipment that may be provided by LMRC, though it is recommended that serious riders purchase their own helmet to ensure proper fit and availability.

1. Helmet – must be ASTM or SEI certified, purchased within the last five years, and cannot have had any major falls. Every rider, at every level, falls off at some time or another. Bike or other sport helmets are not designed for equestrian-related accidents and are not acceptable. A helmet must be worn at all times when mounted. The chinstrap must be fastened, and proper helmet fit is essential.
2. Boots: must have a ¾-inch heel to prevent feet from slipping through stirrup irons and must have hard soles because they slip out of the stirrups more easily. For unmounted Pony Club activities taking place near horses, acceptable footwear must be worn by members and parents: thick-soled boots (such as paddock boots or cowboy boots) in good condition securely fastened, entirely closed, and covering the ankle.
3. Long riding pants – blue jeans or English breeches or jodphurs
4. Medical armband
5. Pony Club pin

Resource Binders

Members are encouraged to keep a binder with notes on meetings, lessons, handouts, horse management lessons, etc and bring this binder with them to meetings. From time to time members may need to bring additional print outs – printed at home - to unmounted meetings to facilitate horse management knowledge. Generally, these will be printed worksheets that will be sent well in advance.

For the rider – recommended equipment

This equipment is recommended to all members; winter gear is *required* to participate outside during cold months. If the rider is not prepared for cold weather they will be asked to remain indoors and work on unmounted activities, even if the rest of the group is riding or participating in other activities outside. Parents, it is your responsibility to ensure your member is prepared for winter meetings.

1. Half chaps or tall boots
2. Artificial aids, if needed – crop, spurs, nubs, etc
3. Winter gear (required in winter) –
 - a. Insulated or fleece riding pants – preferably layered with long underwear

- b. Winter riding gloves – regular snow gloves are too bulky and interfere with the ability to hold the reins and communicate with the horse
 - c. Winter riding boots – extra insulated for winter. Hand/feet warmers also work well
 - d. Winter hat helmet insert
 - e. Winter riding jacket – not so bulky that it interferes with riding ability
4. Pony Club Manual of Horsemanship (at appropriate level)

For the horse – required equipment if riding a non-LMRC horse

This equipment is required by all members that own or lease their own horse. This equipment is provided to members using a LMRC horse.

1. Water buckets – two per horse; usually kept in your trailer to water horses away from the ranch
2. Hay net – to feed your horse when away from the ranch
3. Breakaway Halter: A breakaway halter is mandatory. Leather is favored over nylon since it will break when a horse pulls, thus lessening the chance of injury. It is also good to have a backup available in case of damage.
4. Cotton Lead Rope: a cotton lead rope will break if a horse pulls, thus lessening the chance of injury. Do not use lead ropes with bull snaps. It is also good to have a backup available in case of damage.
5. Cooler – needed to properly cool down horses in cold weather
6. Tack – saddle (Western or English) and bridle must be appropriate, clean, safe and in good condition, and properly fitted to horse and rider; must also have girth/cinch, appropriate saddle pad, and bit
7. Protective leg gear – brush boots, sport boots, polo wraps, etc depending on activity
8. Breast collar – appropriately fitted to your horse and saddle
9. Trailer ties – to properly tie your horse to the trailer
10. Blanket – if needed for your horse

Pony Club Attire

Formal, Informal, and Casual

Correct Pony Club attire is required to participate in Pony Club rallies. Attire requirements for rallies may be found in the appropriate USPC Rulebook and/or Standards of Proficiency D-1 through C-2 and H/B through A Manuals. Consult the 'Turnout' sections of your D or C Manuals for more detailed requirements.

- Casual: LMRC polo shirt, breeches (always wear a belt if your breeches have belt loops), appropriate footwear, helmet, Pony Club pin, medical armband
- Informal: Helmet (black or conservative color), jacket (any color or pattern other than black), LMRC polo shirt, rat catcher, breeches of any conservative color other than white, black or brown boots, USPC pin, medical armband
- Formal: Helmet (black or conservative color), white riding shirt, stock tie (necktie for boys), stock pin, white, canary, tan, or buff breeches, black boots, medical armband

Parent Footwear

For safety reasons, parents & other adults must also wear horse-safe footwear at any PC activity where there are horses. No adult will be allowed around horses if they are not wearing appropriate footwear.

LMRC Gear and Attire

Opportunities to order LMRC gear – polo shirts (required for participation in rallies), sweatshirts, jackets, etc – will occur at least once per year. Order forms will come home with members and must be submitted and paid by the order date.

Safety Check

A safety check must be performed for each rider and mount before each mounted Pony Club activity.

Rider:

- ✓ Helmet fit
- ✓ Appropriate footwear
- ✓ Belt (if belt loops)
- ✓ Pony Club pin (firmly attached on left side of shirt/jacket or on helmet)
- ✓ Jewelry must lay flat against skin; necklaces must be inside the collar or under the shirt
- ✓ Hair out of eyes and off face, tied back at nape of the neck
- ✓ Medical armband
- ✓ Clothing appropriate for the activity
- ✓ No gum or candy

Tack:

- ✓ Appropriate for the activity
- ✓ Proper tack fit
- ✓ Intact leather and stitching
- ✓ Clean and safe
- ✓ Boots or bandages as appropriate
- ✓ Tight girth

Horse:

- ✓ Properly groomed
- ✓ Tacked appropriately to avoid discomfort
- ✓ Suitable for the rider's ability

Tips for Successful Pony Club Meetings

Before the meeting:

- ✓ Arrive with plenty of time to change clothes, eat a snack, and be prepared to start meeting on time or early
- ✓ Bring all necessary equipment
- ✓ Dress appropriately
- ✓ Horse and tack clean and well maintained
- ✓ Read your Pony Club manual

During the meeting:

- ✓ Be respectful!
- ✓ Learn common riding terms found in your manual (rail, outside, inside, x, change rein, serpentine, etc)
- ✓ Ask questions
- ✓ Parents and Spectators: do not coach from the sidelines, it is disrespectful and distracting for the rider. But please DO help with water, poop scooping, and photographing!

After the meeting:

- ✓ Cool down your horse appropriately
- ✓ Review with the instructor what to work on and ask questions
- ✓ Consider watching and helping with other lessons
- ✓ Pick up any manure your horse (or other's) may have left
- ✓ Put away all equipment and belongings, put trash in the dumpsters
- ✓ Clean out the lobby if meetings were held inside
- ✓ Say THANK YOU to your instructor, facility owner, and your parents
- ✓ Be self-motivated! Review what was covered, practice before the next meeting, take additional lessons, study manuals

Communication

TeamSnap

All members are requested to sign up for the Clubs TeamSnap account. New members will receive an invitation. TeamSnap is the main way members can learn about upcoming mounted and unmounted meetings, rallies, certifications, parties, and other events.

Parents can also sign up for TeamSnap or have shared access to their youth member's account.

Members are encouraged to post photos of activities in the appropriate shared folder in TeamSnap. This folder is private to members of the Club. All Club members have signed a photo release as part of their membership application to USPC.

Members are permitted to send emails to the Club membership through TeamSnap.

- ✓ Please use this feature sparingly and judiciously, remembering messages go to every person signed up on our TeamSnap account.
- ✓ Appropriate messages include notification of forthcoming equestrian events, tack or horses for sale, local job/work experience opportunities, and requests for assistance with trailering.

Online Presence

LMRC has a public Facebook page, Lost Miner Pony Club

LMRC has an Instagram account, lostminerponyclub

LMRC has a page on the Lost Miner Ranch website, www.lostminerranch.com/ponyclub

The Center Administrator is the main page administrator for the Club's Facebook and Instagram pages.

All members of USPC, including members of LMRC, signed a photo release as part of their membership application.

USPC does not have a policy about photo use on social media, but it does have recommendations to which LMRC will adhere:

- ✓ Individuals should not be tagged in photos on the PVPC page.
- ✓ Photo author credit should be given.
- ✓ Individuals referenced in photo captions should be described by first name only (e.g. "Jane Doe" would be "Jane"). Senior members (18+) may wish to be described on Facebook or Instagram with their full names for reasons not related to Pony Club, which will be allowed on request.
- ✓ Mounted riders in photos must be wearing helmet and boots

Mounted Member Meetings

- ✓ Mounted meetings will be held regularly at Lost Miner Ranch and Equestrian Center and occasionally at other locations in or near the Gunnison Valley.
- ✓ All members are eligible to receive instruction at regularly scheduled mounted meetings.
- ✓ Stallions are not allowed in mounted lessons, per USPC rules. Juniors are not allowed to ride stallions in Pony Club events, per USPC rules.
- ✓ The Club utilizes TeamSnap to communicate information regarding mounted meetings.
- ✓ Members are asked to RSVP via TeamSnap for all mounted meetings by the time and date specified. This allows us to plan horse use for members using a LMRC horse, and to know which members to expect at each meeting.
 - A message is sent via TeamSnap announcing ride times.
 - Late RSVP's will be accommodated as space is available.
- ✓ Members are required to wear/use appropriate safety equipment to participate in a mounted lesson. In particular, participation requires the wearing of a helmet and a medical armband or USPC approved wristband.

- ✓ LMRC requires the use of a safety vest when jumping cross-country. This can be either a body protector or an air vest or both. USPC requires use of a body protector on the cross-country field.
- ✓ Professional instructors will, from time to time, be assisted by upper-level members who are working towards their H-B or higher certifications. H-B candidates require some assistant teaching in mounted lessons to meet the standard for that level. Please be understanding and support them - we hope all our members will eventually reach this stage!
- ✓ Members are expected to clean up after all mounted member meetings including, but not limited to, picking up manure, putting away equipment, neatly storing gear, re-rolling wraps, etc

Unmounted Member Meetings

- ✓ The Club will provide regular horse management (HM) instruction opportunities for all its members at both D and C Levels. Senior members (18+) are invited to attend all HM meetings, and are particularly welcome at the C-Level HM meetings. Most meetings will take place at Lost Miner Ranch. Meetings will sometimes happen at a private barn.
- ✓ HM instruction will be based on the USPC curriculum.
- ✓ There is rarely an additional fee for participation in an unmounted HM lesson. A small co-pay may be charged if the Club uses a paid expert, such as a farrier, vet, or other professional.
- ✓ Members are required to wear their medical armband or USPC-approved medical wristband during HM meetings. Barn safe footwear is required for meetings involving a live horse.
- ✓ Members are expected to clean up after all unmounted member meetings including, but not limited to, wiping down all surfaces in the lobby, sweeping lobby, neatly storing all equipment, etc.

Certifications (Ratings)

- ✓ Pony Club exams are called “certifications”. They were previously known as “ratings”. You will often hear people still talk about what “rating” someone has, or whether you are preparing for a “rating.” It’s the same thing!
- ✓ USPC recommends that all members, including Senior Members (18+), go for their D-1 certification within 6 months of joining.
- ✓ Candidates for any certification are examined in horse management knowledge and, usually, riding. At the local level, certifications are held for D-1, D-2, D-3, C-1, and C-2.
- ✓ The Club will offer a D-Level certification test day at least once each calendar year. Additional certification test days may be offered if there is both candidate demand and sufficient volunteers.
- ✓ USPC rules forbid parents and members making private arrangements for certification testing. All certifications must be arranged with the approval of the CA as the CA has the responsibility to ensure the test is conducted fairly using the current Standards of Proficiency, with an appropriate examiner, at an appropriate/safe facility, with an Impartial Observer in attendance, and with the required insurance in place. Any test that is conducted without CA approval will not be valid.
- ✓ Members must notify the CA of their intention to test for a certification, preferably by email, at least one month prior to the scheduled test day. (Marking your interest on TeamSnap does NOT register you for a test.)

- ✓ USPC policy puts the decision on the member (or their parent/guardian) on their readiness to test, but the club offers resources to help members prepare and make that decision. The CA is required to approve a candidate for testing, which will happen in consultation with the member or parent.
- ✓ Members should use the USPC checklists (see website) to ensure that they are properly prepared for their certification. People can - and do - fail to meet standards, even at D-2! Don't be surprised on the day, know what is expected of you.
- ✓ It is generally recommended that a candidate test for one level only on one day. It is also possible to test Horse Management separately to riding. After D-1, an HM-only track is available to non-riding members.
- ✓ If a candidate is well prepared, it may be possible to test for D1 and D2 on the same day. It is rare to test for D2/D3 on the same day because of the length and complexity of the D3 test, and its potentially negative impact on the welfare of the horse. Any D2/D3 combined test may only be scheduled with the permission of the CA..
- ✓ Fees for D-Level tests are set by LMRC and reviewed annually. The Club may have to pay for use of an arena and the cross-country field at the test location, plus the examiners. Fees will be sent out well in advance before any test opportunities.
- ✓ If a candidate drops out within the 14 days immediately prior to a test day, the candidate's fee will not be refunded. This may be waived in case of horse lameness.
- ✓ The Club will usually hold a D-Level mock certification for the horse management sections in the weeks running up to a test day. We may also offer a mock turnout inspection. Candidates are strongly recommended to participate to check their knowledge and readiness.

Rallies

"Rally" is the Pony Club word for a show or competition; but a mounted rally differs from a regular show because competitors are judged on their horse management skills as well as their riding, plus competitors are judged as a team, not only as individuals.

- ✓ All members are encouraged to participate in rallies where and when appropriate. Members who do not have a suitable horse can consider serving as a team's "Stable Manager" – a key unmounted member of every mounted rally team – and they can also participate in Quiz Rally and the Everything But The Horse rally.
- ✓ Rallies are not required to participate in LMRC Pony Club but we will train all members as through they would participate
- ✓ Rallies are held in all the Pony Club disciplines, including Dressage, Show Jumping, Eventing, Polocross, Western, Tetrathlon, and Games.
- ✓ Teams representing LMRC will be determined by the CA from among those eligible and interested in competing.
- ✓ LMRC shared rally equipment is available for those who wish to check it out for a rally. Once checked out, those individuals are responsible for restocking as necessary. All equipment must be put away cleanly and carefully. Please dispose of Vaseline and Neosporin before putting the gear away. Breakages and losses must be reported to the Rally Coordinator.

- ✓ Members are encouraged to qualify for Championships. The Club will usually fundraise to pay a portion of the entry fees for LMRC members participating in Championships, depending on the availability of funds.
- ✓ Members who are new to Pony Club, or who have little competition experience, may wish to follow this path through the various opportunities:
 - Quiz Rally (An unmounted horse management knowledge competition)
 - D Camp - a great place to start learning to look after your horse away from home.
 - Model Horse Rally; or Everything But The Horse (Simulation of a mounted Rally)
 - C Camp - a multi-day camp for more experienced horse & rider pairs.
 - One Day/Modified Rally (* Dressage or Show Jumping provide more straightforward experiences)
 - Any discipline: multi-day/Standard Rally (including Eventing Rally, which is held in conjunction with a USEF/USEA Recognized Horse Trials)
 - Championships: usually in Kentucky, is periodically offered on the East and West coasts.

Fundraisers

Opportunities for fundraisers will be offered throughout the year. Funds from fundraisers are used directly to support the LMRC Pony Club team; some examples of use of funds might be: replacement of gear used in rally kit, cost of rallies, educational trips, clinics, additional instructors, etc. All members are encouraged to participate in fundraisers. *Only members who participate in a fundraiser will have that fundraisers proceeds credited toward their accounts to help with expenses.*

Winter Riding

Just as it can be harmful for humans to breath extremely cold air when exercising, it can also be damaging to horses' respiratory tracts to work in extreme cold. Beyond respiratory concerns, there are other important factors to consider when cold-weather riding. Riders need to increase their horse's warm up time as muscles, ligaments, and tendons take longer to loosen and limber. Winter temperature guidelines for LMRC (in Fahrenheit) are as follows:

25 degrees and above – riding as usual

15 degrees to 25 degrees – walk/trot riding with limited canter, pole, and jump work with extended warm up and cool down times

0 degrees to 15 degrees - walk/trot riding only (no canter or jumping) or groundwork only, with extended warm up and cool down times

Below 0 degrees – no riding/groundwork

Schedule

Unlike many club sports and activities, Pony Club is held year-round. Clubs meet regularly on the same day of the week throughout the year. Breaks are already scheduled and noted in this handbook. During breaks there will be NO mounted or unmounted Pony Club meetings. Opportunities may arise for Pony Club members to participate in other camps and activities during breaks.

During the school year, Gunnison School students may ride the bus to Lost Miner Ranch. If your child will be riding the bus and needs someone to meet them at the bus stop we need to know by Monday of that week via email. If you do not receive a reply we have not received your email. If you are comfortable letting your child walk down the driveway and to the lobby let the CA know at the beginning of the school year. Any members riding the bus need to be independent and self-sufficient, able to get themselves to the lobby, change clothes, eat a snack, and be ready to attend the meeting at 4:30. The lobby is not staffed until 4:25 during the school year and meetings start promptly at 4:30.

Storing Gear at Lost Miner Ranch

Members are allowed to store personal equipment – such as boots and riding clothes – in the lobby if they will be riding the bus or are otherwise unable to bring their equipment with them. All equipment should be contained in *one* sealed bin labeled with the riders name. Equipment may not be placed on or next to the bin; all gear should fit inside the bin and not spill out. Tack should be stored in tack rooms or trailers, not in the lobby.

Meetings

Pony Club meetings may be mounted or unmounted – always check our TeamSnap calendar for any changes before the meeting! Generally, meetings will only be changed from mounted to unmounted (not vice versa), and those changes will usually be weather related.

All January Pony Club meetings and *most* February meetings are unmounted for ALL Clubs. When temperatures are consistently well below freezing LMRC focuses on unmounted meetings for the health and safety of our human and equine teammates. There is a lot of unmounted horse management knowledge to absorb and winter is a great time to do it. We are also usually prepping for Spring Quiz Rally during this time so it works out great to soak up extra knowledge in the warm lobby! January and February meetings are also 30 minutes shorter than the rest of the year since meetings are entirely unmounted.

School Year Meetings

School year schedule follows the Gunnison school district calendar and starts after the first day of school and runs until the last day of school; generally the last week of August until the last week of May.

Pony Club

Tuesdays 4:30pm-7:00pm

Junior Pony Club A

Wednesdays 4:30pm-7:00pm

Junior Pony Club B

Thursdays 4:30pm-7:00pm

Summer Meetings

Summer schedule follows the Gunnison school district calendar and starts after the last day of school and runs until the first day of school. Meeting days remain the same for each club but please note time changes.

Pony Club

Tuesdays 12:00pm-2:30pm

Junior Pony Club A

Wednesdays 12:00pm-2:30pm

Junior Pony Club B

Thursdays 12:00pm-2:30pm

Breaks/Schedule Changes

January – All meetings for all Clubs are from 4:30pm – 6:30pm, unmounted

February - All meetings for all Clubs are from 4:30pm – 6:30pm, unmounted; February 16th meeting has a time change, see below

February 16th – Quiz Clinic: All Pony Club members should attend; all Junior Pony Club members attending Quiz Competition should attend if able. All Junior Pony Club members not able to attend or who are not attending Quiz should plan on attending regular Juniors Unmounted meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 18th. There will be NO Junior Pony Club meeting on Wednesday, February 17th.

February 17th – No Junior Pony Club meeting (see note above)

March 15th – 19th – Spring Break, no meetings for all Clubs

July 5th – 9th – Summer Break, no meetings for all Clubs

November 22nd – 26th – Thanksgiving Break, no meetings for all Clubs

December 27th – 31st – Christmas/New Years Break, no meetings for all Clubs

Important Dates

February 14th – Vaulting Clinic, Fort Collins, CO, 9:00am – 4:00pm – Optional – more information to come!

February 16th – Pony Club and Competition Juniors Mock Quiz Practice Clinic 12:30pm-3:00pm

Open to all Pony Club members; open to Junior Pony Club members attending Quiz; no additional cost, held in place of regular weekly meeting

February 28th – Virtual Quiz Rally

April 10th – 11th – Tentative In-person Quiz Rally – Denver, CO (COVID dependant)

More events to come! Most 2021 event dates have not been released at the date of this publication.

Additional Resources

For members to have a successful journey in Pony Club, we recommend the following:

1. Ride as much as you can! The more you ride the more you will improve. For younger riders that are unable to ride and tack up independently, this means more lessons. Riding even one other time per week outside of Pony Club will drastically improve member skills. Lessons are available privately or semi-privately at Lost Miner Ranch. For older members who own or lease their own horse – practice!! Come out to the barn on non-Pony Club days and ride! Ride the bus out and spend the afternoon with your horse. Review your last lesson, ask your instructor what to work on during the week before your next meeting, watch training videos and read books – and put it all to use. There is nothing that replaces time spent in the saddle and time spent with your horse.
2. Watch lessons – lessons are on the Lost Miner Ranch calendar at www.lostminerranch.com – observe what instructors are telling their students and figure out how to put it to use. If you can't take extra lessons, come watch extra lessons.
3. Become a Barn Rat. Volunteer to work at the barn – you learn so much by doing. Lost Miner Ranch makes work opportunities available to Pony Club members to get hands-on experience. Members

must be fully prepared to work during chore shifts, which generally last 1-1.5 hours. Members should be dressed appropriately and able to follow all instructions from barn staff. Chores generally include handling horses, feeding, watering, and cleaning pens and stalls. Members should be picked up promptly at designated pick up times.

4. Check out the Pony Club website. All members have access to the Pony Club website and there are a ton of resources available there.
5. Read your Pony Club Manual. Everything you need to know is in there!