

Western Horseback Riding Awards

Hand Award: While earning the first award you will be learning the basics of good horsemanship and safety, while building your confidence to handle beginning level horses. To complete each requirement (except the quiz) you must demonstrate it 3 separate times to the satisfaction of your instructors.

Horse Care and Handling

1. Explain and demonstrate how to approach and safely walk around a horse:
 - a. Tied or held outside
 - b. Tied in a stall
 - c. Loose in a stall
2. Be able to halter a horse correctly
3. Demonstrate how to correctly hold and lead a horse, including a turn
4. Be able to name the 3 basic grooming tools and demonstrate their uses. Name reasons to groom

General Horse Knowledge

1. List 5 safety rules and the reason for them.
2. Be able to perform a basic safety check before riding and explain why it is important
3. Name your 4 natural aids and how to use them
4. Name 3 horse colors and 3 markings (face and or legs)
5. Pass the written quiz with an 80% or better

Riding Requirements

1. Mount and dismount independently and in good form
2. Size and adjust stirrups
3. Hold the reins correctly for your riding style, while riding at the walk
4. While walking demonstrate a good level A position
5. Demonstrate the emergency dismount while your horse is being held
6. Demonstrate the pulley rein and explain what it is used for
7. Show basic control of your horse with A level from at the walk...i.e. heels, hips, hands, shoulders, head

Scout Award: This award is designed to improve your horsemanship in all areas. You will take on more responsibility for horse care, as you gain more knowledge, and continue to improve your riding skills and better understand horses. This award requires that you ride a minimum of 20 hours (see instructor for exceptions). To complete each requirement (except the quiz) you demonstrate it 3 separate times to the satisfaction of your instructors.

Horse Care Handling

1. Be able to approach and catch a beginner horse loose in a pasture
2. Tie a horse with the quick release knot at the correct height and length for saddling
3. Groom a horse so that it is clean and comfortable with no visible signs of dirt, including the legs, face, mane, and tail. Name the 5 tools and the use for each tool. Name 5 reasons for grooming your horse correctly.
4. Be able to properly check your horse for cuts, saddle sores, or anything that you need to tell your instructor that is not normal
5. Tack and untack a horse properly
6. Help with 3 feeding of your instructor's choice

General Horse Knowledge

1. Learn to care for your tack by: storing properly, cleaning, oiling and drying saddles
2. Disassemble and reassemble your tack with assistance from the riding staff or director
3. List 10 safety rules and 5 barn guidelines or etiquette in the arena and give reasons for each
4. Name the parts of the bridle
5. Name the parts of the saddle
6. Name 20 parts of the horse
7. Pass the written test with an 80%

Riding Requirements

1. Perform a complete safety check before mounting. Explain what you are looking for
2. Demonstrate and explain your 4 natural aids and how to use them
3. Shows general control of the mount with good level B from at the walk and trot
4. Can demonstrate round figure eights at a walk and at a trot with a change of direction.
5. Demonstrate the emergency dismount at a stand still independently

Equestrian: (Banquet Award) This award is designed to improve your horsemanship in all areas. You will take on more responsibility for horse care, as you gain more knowledge, and continue to improve your riding skills and better understand horses. This award requires that you ride a minimum of 27 hours (see your instructor for exceptions). To complete each requirement (except the quiz) you must demonstrate it 3 separate times to the satisfaction of your instructors.

Horse Care and Handling

1. Be able to tie the safety knot and explain its uses
2. Be able to catch a horse loose in the pasture with other horses
3. List 7 plants or trees that are poisonous to horses and what are the reactions to the horse
4. Name 5 horse care habits (general concepts), which will protect your horse against health problems.
5. Be able to name 3 kinds of roughages, 3 concentrates, describe good and bad points on each item. Explain when and how to feed and water your horse properly.
6. With assistance take charge of 4 feedings
7. Be able to pick a horse's feet with no assistance
8. Name 27 parts of the horse and be able to recognize where they are

General Horse Knowledge

1. Care for tack you use by: storing properly and put away in the barn, show that you can disassemble, clean, oil as needed, dry, and reassemble tack for the western style of riding without assistance
2. Make posters about safety, horse sense, and horsemanship. Include barn, ring, trail, and pasture. Share with others!!
3. Name 10 conformational faults and give a brief reason of why they are bad. List 5 things to look for in a horse and why
4. Be able to name the 7 pressure points on a horse's head. Describe the difference between direct pressure and leverage bits
5. Name and talk about 4 different bits, and what action they use and pressure points they affect
6. Be able to take horse's vital signals and know what the correct range on all 3.
7. Name 6 artificial aids and their uses
8. Properly size a saddle and bridle for the western riding horse. Explain why you want your tack to fit properly and what are 3 signs that your tack is not fitting well.
9. Shows good judgment and maturity (follows all safety rules and things about the camper and horse first)

Riding Requirements

1. Demonstrate the emergency dismount at a walk.
2. Shows improved seat: subtle use of aids and hands, solid balance and correct position, be able to ride in all 3 gaits.
3. Can explain and demonstrate correct leads for loping and explain simple lead changes.
4. Ride without stirrups in good form at a walk and trot while being able to pick them back up again.
5. Pass the written test with 80% or better

Wrangler Award (Banquet Award): This award is designed to improve your horsemanship in all areas. You will take on more responsibility for horse care, as you gain more knowledge, and continue to improve your riding skills and better understand horses. This award requires that you ride a minimum of 30 hours (see your instructor for exceptions). To complete each requirement (except the quiz) you must demonstrate it 4 separate times to the satisfaction of your instructors.

Horse Care and Handling

1. Be able to approach and catch any horse in the pasture with other horses.
2. Be able to recognize and or describe unsoundness and disease.
 - a. List 5 diseases or ailments and their causes, symptoms, and treatments
 - b. List 5 unsoundness flaws and their causes, symptoms, and treatments.
 - c. List the characteristics of a healthy horse and an unhealthy horse.
3. Name 4 diseases that can be prevented through routine vaccination or injection. Describe 2 different types of injections and where each is commonly given.
4. List 4 types of parasites: include symptoms, causes and treatments: and 4 ways you can control them.
5. List 15 important items to have in the equine first aid kit.
6. Be able to name 5 parts of the hoof, their corresponding sensitive structures, and pick out each foot and describe each condition.
7. Devise a complete feeding program and schedule suitable for each horse including: name, weight, work load, feed amount and type, when to feed and when to change the feed and amount given.
 - a. Pick 2 horses at camp (Pick from an overweight, high energy, senior and maintenance)
 - b. Pick 2 horses from (showing, gaming, eventing, and endurance racing)

General Horse Knowledge

1. Give a safety and horsemanship presentation to an A and B level-riding group.
2. Tack safely: be able to describe and show unsafe tack. List things that can be done to repair it.
3. Evaluate a Birchwood horse as if you were going to buy him or her. List good and bad conformational points.
 - a. Good and Poor points: explain reasons
 - b. What would be a good job for that horse
4. Shows maturity and good horsemanship skills along with safely while being around the horses.
5. Pass written test with an 80% or better

Teaching Skills

1. Brainstorm a list of 5 rainy day games and 5 mounted games. List name, brief description, skills worked on, props needed, and what levels could do it. Plan at least one of each with a group of beginning riders.
2. Observe an A level class and be able to point out differences between correct and incorrect basic position and how to correct it.
3. Assist an instructor with an orientation, rider evaluations, and a level A arena class.
4. Prepare a lesson plan and teach an A level class with an instructor as your assistant. Include at least one game.
5. Lead a trail ride with an instructor assisting. Follow all safety rules!!

Riding Requirements

1. Emergency dismount at a trot.
2. Shorten and lengthen strides at all gates with a smooth transition.
3. Be able to use leg yields correctly to fit the western riding style.
4. Ride in good form without stirrups in all gaits.
5. While working on this award riders should show improvement in all the area above!!!!
Instructors must have seen an improvement from start to finish.