“I am riding in a horse show!!!!” What to expect: Parent version.

Mission: Riders will learn many skills competing with horses.

 They will learn responsibility, organizational skills and sportsmanship. The Rider will learn to control emotions because unhappy horses do not perform well and horses are very sensitive.

Dress: We do not require formal show clothing for our in house schooling show. We do expect that your rider will have a tidy appearance. This includes proper riding boots with a heel, long pants, and fitted shirt, sweater or jacket. Hair in braids or neatly tied back (hairnets optional) and minimal jewelry. Most importantly the rider must have a properly fitted ASTM riding helmet. We do provide helmets, there is no guarantee that your child’s favorite helmet will be available. We recommend that you invest in a proper fitting helmet before embarking on a show career. Talk to your Instructor about attire for recognized shows.

Preparation: To help your rider perform well please make sure the rider (and horse) are hydrated, fed and well rested. Your child will need some additional barn time the week before the show to groom the horse and clean tack. Most horse shows wait for no one, so please be on time. The rider should be ready to get on horse about one half hour before the first class. That means allowing time for to groom, clean tack, get dressed and warm up the horse. Also be prepared for schedule changes It. is your responsibility to know the rules and regulations for competitions and classes.

Show day: Arrive early, Please fill bring filled out entry form and check to horse show secretary and pick up a number for your rider. Support your child in the preparation but DO NOT DO IT for them. We as coaches will not hold horses for the riders if they need to dismount. We will expect riders to prepare in and return the horses in their stall. We also want to keep this experience as safe as possible, therefor parents and limited (2) spectators will be expected to park, watch and stand in certain locations. Riders will need your support, making sure that the riders drink, eat and find a way to be in the right place at the right time.

Costs: Expenses can vary from days that cost less than a hundred dollars for a local schooling show to many thousands of dollars for the highest level national shows. Entry fees start at about $20 per class and most riders ride in 3-6 classes. If you do not have your own horse there will be a lease (use of horse) fee. Shipping will also add to expenses, as well coaching fees that are usually divided among students.

Ribbons and Prizes: NOT everyone can win every time. We also cannot always predict the horses or riders mood. If they do not feel well they might not compete as well as usual. Unexpected things happen. If you are not willing to understand that showing large unpredictable sensitive animals can mean no ribbons on any given day, then showing horses may not be in your future. When your child is riding do not interfere with the coach, judge or any officials. Your rider may be ELIMINATED for coaching from the sidelines.

 WE DOT NOT ALLOW OUTSIDE DOGS ON THE GROUNDS

 HAVE FUN AND ALLOW YOUR HORSE AND RIDER TO HAVE FUN.