

Horse Show FAQs

What to expect, and some answers to frequently asked questions

What is a horse show all about?

A horse show allows participants to show off their equestrian skills in a competition with riders of a similar level or experience. Families are encouraged to come show their support!!

What's the difference between "Division" and "Class"?

Division (category) describes the level that a rider is eligible for participation, based on riding experience and age. Each division is further described in the Prize List. Within each division, there are 5 classes. Riders can ride in 1-5 classes in their designated division. The entry fees also vary depending on number of classes. This is described on the registration form.

What is the difference between A, B and C Divisions?

In short, none. Since many students ride at the same level, we sometimes decide to split the divisions into 2 or 3 of the same exact division. This gives the rider a little less competition and hopefully the best horse choice.

Will everyone get a prize?

The show is a competition structured like a traditional horse show where ribbons are awarded to the top six riders in each class. There are overall ribbons awarded also for the division. They are called Champion and Reserve Champion and are awarded to the top two riders within each division. The Champion Rider is awarded a trophy as well. Champion and Reserve are determined based on a point system. Points for ribbons are: Blue 7, Red 5, Yellow 4, White 3, Pink 2, and Green 1.

When is my child going to ride?

This is the hardest thing to answer. The riding time can vary by an hour or more AND sometimes they ride earlier than anticipated! The times are approximate and when dealing with animals, schedules are hard to stick to. It all depends on the number of entries, weather, and the smoothness of the event. For example, some horses are well behaved, while others need extra schooling time. This is only one example of what can affect the time. We will do our best to keep to a schedule. Plan on staying for a few hours, and thank you so much for your patience.

When should we arrive?

To be best prepared, we suggest an hour before the posted time for your child's division. Please note this can vary widely. You are responsible for your child; this is not an event where children are dropped off for the day. Please plan accordingly – your rider needs your support!

Where do we go once we arrive at the show grounds?

Please report to the Registration table located near the show ring. Give us your last name and receive your number, and pay if you haven't pre-registered. Then check in with the floor manager inside the lesson barn to let them know you've arrived.

What is the required attire for riders?

You do not need to go buy a proper show outfit. The best outfit is a pair of riding pants, a collared shirt (like a polo) and riding boots. There may be some riders in jackets and tall boots, but this is a schooling show and there will be no points removed for NOT wearing a jacket. However, a t-shirt and loose jeans might not be the best choice.

Why didn't my child get to ride his/her favorite horse?

It's impossible to accommodate all requests and why we ask for a second choice on the registration form. The schedule is based on availability and we must consider the amount of work a horse does in one day for a horse show. Please understand we want your rider to compete as well as they can, but riders need to be flexible with their horse choice. If you have concerns about the second choice, please talk with your instructor. They can help you prepare for the alternatives if your first choice isn't available.

What is a "Schooling Break"?

It's a warm-up break between each division for the riders to practice their course and warm-up their horse. All riders will have a chance to warm-up before competition begins.

Will there be food and booths at the Horse Show?

Yes! There will be a food stand with drinks, snacks, sandwiches, etc. Most items cost \$1 - \$5. There will also be raffle prizes available!

How do we sign up?

Fill out a registration form and make the check payable to Northwestern Stables. If your child will be riding in a complete division and doesn't own his or her own horse, the fee is \$105.00 (\$75 for the division and \$30 for the horse rental fee.) If the rider is only doing a part of the division the fee is \$16 per class, plus the \$30 horse rental fee. The early registration deadline is listed on the registration form. After that time, the registration fee is \$80/division and \$18/class.

It is very important to note for all riders and parents that *horse competitions are not about winning ribbons*, they are all about achieving a personal best result from your horse and rider partnership.

Riders, DON'T GET NERVOUS, just try your best, have fun and stay safe!!

If you have any further questions, please refer to your child's instructor or trainer.