

Achievement Ribbons



Introduction

Riding Right wants to recognize the accomplishments of its riders; the Achievement Ribbons are our way to let you show how much you've learned. The ribbon colors match the placing in a horse show: you start with a Pink Ribbon, then work your way up through White, Yellow, Red, and finally earn a Blue Ribbon.

This program takes you from an absolute beginner and builds a strong foundation and in-depth knowledge in English riding and horsemanship. We emphasize safety, basic skill building, rapport with the horse, as well as happiness as a rider. You will develop a secure balanced seat at the walk, trot, canter and over low jumps.



Earning a Ribbon

Earning a ribbon works very simply: whenever you're ready, you can ask one of our instructors to assess your riding and horse knowledge. Pink Ribbon assessments can happen in a group lesson; all the others will happen in a private lesson which you set up with your instructor.

An assessment will be a combination of horsemanship questions, barn tasks, and riding skills. If you have all the knowledge and skills, you've earned the ribbon. If you don't, your instructor will help you identify what you need to work on, and you can try again anytime you want.

The specific knowledge and skills for each ribbon are listed below. If you have any questions, ask one of our instructors. We can't wait to recognize your accomplishments!

Pink Ribbon

A Pink Ribbon rider is a beginner who is learning the concepts of safe horse handling and riding. You know the basics and rules for safely working around horses, and are able to groom and tack up a horse with assistance. You can correctly mount and ride in balance at the walk and some trot.

Knowledge-Safety

Explain why you should wear a helmet whenever working around horses. Know why it is not safe to walk or be directly behind a horse.



Knowledge-Grooming

Know three basic grooming tools and how to use them.

Knowledge-Tack & Equipment

Identify saddle, saddle pad, girth, and bridle. Know correct order for tacking up a horse (saddle and bridle). Name five parts of the saddle or bridle.

Knowledge-Vet Care

Describe what a vet is and one reason why they might need to see a horse.

Knowledge-Nutrition

Demonstrate how to correctly feed a horse a treat (using a treat bucket).

Knowledge-Anatomy/Conformation

Name five parts of the horse. Name two horse colors.

Knowledge-Horse Behavior

Explain how you know if a horse likes where you are brushing or touching them.

Horsemanship-Stable Management

Demonstrate how to correctly put away tack, including saddle pad neatly away, saddle on correct rack, bridle hung correctly.

Horsemanship-Horse Handling

Put on a halter (with assistance if needed). Demonstrate how to hold the lead rope and lead a horse from the correct side.

Riding Skills - Halt

Mount a horse with assistance. Sit in balance with feet in stirrup irons. Stand up and smoothly sit back down in the saddle. Hold reins correctly.

Riding Skills - Walk

Demonstrate smooth walk-halt transitions. Maintain good balance at the walk. Independently perform a simple steering exercise around three cones.

Riding Skills - Trot

Maintain a trot for one long side (with assistance if needed). Understand what a posting trot is. Show four-to-five steps of posting trot.



White Ribbon

As a White Ribbon rider you know the basics about horse care, tack and pony parts, and introductory horse health. You will be able to walk and trot independently around the arena, demonstrate a jumping position and how to ride at the walk over a pole or low cavaletti. While you should be able to post the trot consistently, you are not expected to have mastered your posting diagonals.

Knowledge-Safety

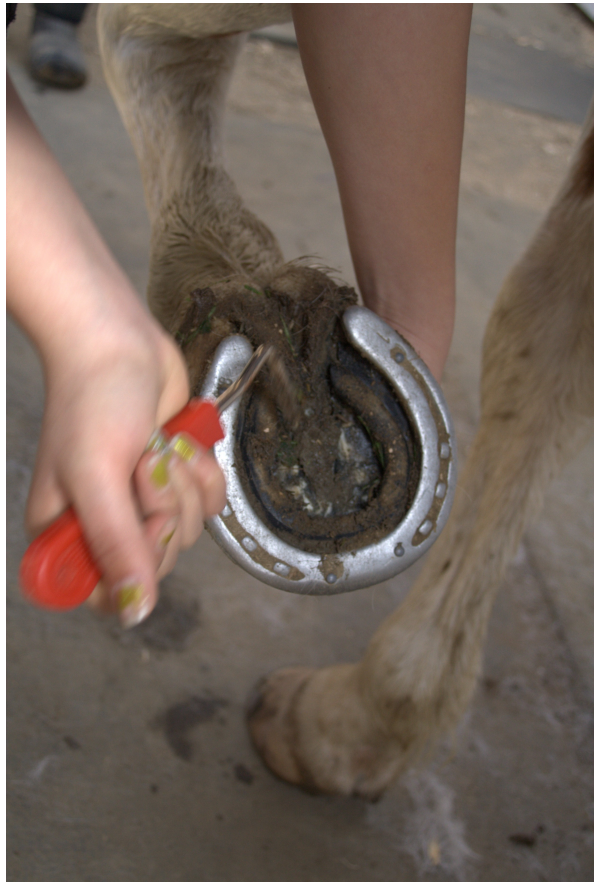
Explain what a horse's 'blind spots' are. Understand why you would never want to let your reins touch the ground and why you shouldn't attach cross ties or tie to the bit rings.

Knowledge-Grooming

Independently groom a horse using curry comb and hard brush. Demonstrate how to pick out a horse's hoof (with assistance if needed).

Knowledge-Tack & Equipment

Independently put on saddle and bridle. Name four parts of the bridle. Name four parts of the saddle.



Knowledge-Vet Care

Explain two ways to know if a horse is sick or injured.

Knowledge-Nutrition

Explain what grazing is and why it's good for horses.

Knowledge-Anatomy/Conformation

Name and locate ten parts of the horse including the 'frog' and 'withers'. Explain the difference between a horse and a pony. Describe two horse colors.

Knowledge-Horse Behavior

Know what pinned ears are and why a horse might pin their ears. Describe one sign of a bored or impatient horse.

Horsemanship-Stable Management

Use a pitchfork or shovel to clean up a pile of manure from the cross-ties area.

Horsemanship-Horse Handling

Put on a halter and attach a lead rope. Demonstrate how to lead a horse to cross ties and attach cross ties to halter. Explain what a quick release knot is.

Riding Skills - Halt

Mount using a mounting block (with assistance if needed). Drop and pick up stirrup irons without looking or using hands. Correctly lengthen and shorten reins. Demonstrate an 'around the world.'

Riding Skills - Walk

Independently ride at the walk around the arena, keeping horse on the track. Ride at walk without stirrup irons for a short (40m-60m) distance. Describe what 'leg-aids' are and how you can use them to ask a horse to move forward.

Riding Skills - Trot

Maintain a trot one time around the arena. Correctly identify the horses trot rhythm (one-two, one-two...) and post in rhythm.

Riding Skills - Jumping

Demonstrate a jumping position at the halt and walk. Ride over a pole or low cavaletti at the walk in jumping position.

Riding Skills - Open

Demonstrate correct position for riding up and down hills.



Yellow Ribbon

A Yellow Ribbon rider is confident in the barn, can tack and untack independently, and is learning more about horse care including: tack, the basics of nutrition, conformation and stable management. You are able to safely ride in a group at the walk and trot, with and without stirrup irons. You are aware of your posting diagonal and when your diagonal is correct. You are able to ride in the open at the walk and some trot, as well as confidently trot over cross-rails in an arena.

Knowledge-Safety

Know why a horse will be more alert or worried when riding in the open. Explain two things that might scare a horse when riding on a trail or in a field.

Knowledge-Grooming



Groom a horse using curry comb, hard brush, and soft brush. Show how to brush a mane.

Knowledge-Tack & Equipment

Tack up independently and tighten girth (with assistance if needed) before mounting. Explain what a lift (or riser) pad is and why a horse might need one.

Name one type of bit. Name and locate five parts of the saddle including 'billet straps' and 'stirrup leathers'. Name and locate five parts of the bridle including 'brow band' and 'cheek piece'.

Knowledge-Vet Care

Explain what 'colic' is and three signs that a horse might be suffering from colic.

Knowledge-Nutrition

Identify hay and grain. Explain which is closest to natural grazing.

Knowledge- Anatomy/Conformation

Name and locate fifteen parts of the horse including 'poll', 'crest' and 'hock'. Describe three horse colors including what the 'points' are and whether they are the same or different color than the body. Describe three markings.



Knowledge-Horse Behavior

Know what a pecking order in a herd is and one way a horse might communicate to other horses that they are the leader. Explain two signs that a horse may be nervous or worried.

Horsemanship-Stable Management

Demonstrate how to clean a bit after riding. Name two reasons to clean tack.

Horsemanship-Horse Handling

Demonstrate how to safely approach a horse in a stall and put on a halter. Tie a quick release knot.

Riding Skills - Halt

Mount and dismount independently using a mounting block. Perform

an emergency dismount from the halt. Describe what 'rein aids' are and how you can use them to steer or slow a horse.

Riding Skills - Walk

Drop and pick up stirrup irons while walking. Ride around the arena independently at the walk, including circles and changes of direction.

Riding Skills - Trot

Trot independently around the arena maintaining a steady posting rhythm. Understand what posting diagonals are, how to identify if on the correct one, and be able to change posting diagonals. Shorten and lengthen reins while trotting. Show a short (20m-40m) distance of sitting trot without stirrup irons.

Riding Skills - Jumping

Maintain a jumping position at the trot one time around the arena. Ride over a low cross rail showing a correct jumping position and understanding of how to approach a jump.

Riding-Open

Safely ride at the walk on trails or in fields with an instructor.



Red Ribbon

A Red Ribbon rider is becoming a well-rounded horse-person. You have a more complete understanding of how to provide basic care for a horse, the parts of your equipment, how bits work, horse anatomy, and basic vet care. On the horse, you have mastered riding in a group at the walk and trot, understand how to ask for a canter and are able to ride a canter for a short distance. You confidently know when you are on the correct posting diagonal and are able to ride in the open at the walk and trot. You are learning how to jump larger cross rails in the arena and ride over small obstacles in the open.

Knowledge-Safety

Understand the need for a speedy release mechanism (quick release knots, break-away twine, panic snaps, etc.) when tying a horse.

Knowledge-Grooming

Show how to detangle a tail, using a brush and detangling product (i.e. cowboy magic).

Knowledge-Tack & Equipment

Name and identify two different types of bit. Demonstrate how to tighten a girth before mounting. Explain what a rider (or instructor) needs to double check before mounting (bridle, girth, helmet, etc.).

Knowledge-Vet Care

Explain what vital signs are. Describe what parasites are and what deworming is.

Knowledge-Nutrition

Explain why a horse needs free access to fresh water. Explain why a horse needs salt and two ways to provide salt to a horse.

Knowledge-Anatomy/Conformation

Name and locate twenty parts of the horse including 'cannon bone', 'shoulder', 'haunches' and 'barrel'. Explain what a joint is. Describe four colors. Name two leg markings and two face markings. Name two horse or pony breeds.

Knowledge-Horse Behavior

Know what a red ribbon in a horse's tail means. Explain why a horse might kick out. Explain what 'fight or flight' means. Describe three things that could spook a horse.

Horsemanship-Stable Management

Demonstrate how to clean a bridle, including the bit. Describe why and how you would clean a horse's stall. Demonstrate how to take a blanket off of a horse. Demonstrate how to take a fly mask off of a horse.

Horsemanship-Horse Handling

Demonstrate how to safely approach a horse who is turned out in a group and put on a halter.

Riding Skills - Halt

Demonstrate how to get a leg-up. Explain how to tell if stirrups are the correct length for basic flat work.

Riding Skills - Walk

Maintain an energetic walk around the arena independently and maintain proper spacing when in a group. Ride a 20m circle and long diagonal at the walk. Perform an emergency dismount from the walk. Ride bareback at the walk maintaining a well-balanced seat.

Riding Skills - Trot

Ride independently at posting trot maintaining proper spacing in a group. Correctly identify if on the correct posting diagonal and change if needed. Demonstrate sitting trot with and without

stirrups one time around the arena. Describe what 'seat-aids' are.

Riding Skills - Canter

Describe the aids for asking for canter. Ride at a canter for a short (20m-60m) distance.

Riding Skills - Jumping

Maintain a jumping position at the trot for two minutes. Ride over a larger (18") cross rail showing correct jumping position. Ride over three to four cross rails as a course, understanding how to plan approaches and turns.

Riding Skills - Open

Walk and trot as a group in a field or on a trail. Walk over small obstacles in jumping position.



Blue Ribbon

To earn a Blue Ribbon, you must be well on your way to being an independent horse-person. You show confidence handling horses safely in a variety of situations both mounted and on the ground. You have a well-rounded, basic understanding of how horses work including; basic vet care, nutrition and conformation. On the horse you are able to confidently walk, trot and canter inside of an arena as well as jump small verticals. In the open you should feel comfortable at the walk and trot in a group, and be able to safely jump small cross country fences.



Knowledge-Safety

Describe how tack can become unsafe with age or neglect. Describe where to look on girth, billet straps and bridles for signs of age or neglect.

Knowledge-Grooming

Describe how to prepare a horse for a show including bathing the horse.

Knowledge-Tack & Equipment

Explain the basics of how bits work (tongue pressure, corners of the mouth, bars, and poll pressure). Explain the difference between a dressage and an all-purpose or jumping saddle. Name and identify four different types of bit and rank them from mild to strong.

Knowledge-Vet Care

Demonstrate how to take a horse's vital signs.

Knowledge-Nutrition

Explain three basic feeding rules for horses.

Knowledge-Anatomy/Conformation

Name and locate 25 parts of the horse. Locate three major joints: the hock, knee and stifle. Describe location of eyes and how this affects horses vision. Describe three leg markings and three face markings. Name three breeds and what they are traditionally used for.

Knowledge-Horse Behavior

Know whether a horse in nature is a predator or prey. Understand how a horse's herd instinct influences their behavior when riding in a group and alone.

Describe how a horse's behavior might change in a new environment (such as going to a horse show).

Horsemanship-Stable Management

Know five things to check when returning a horse to a stall.

Demonstrate how to put a blanket on a horse including properly securing the leg straps. Demonstrate how to properly put on a fly mask before turning a horse out.

Horsemanship-Horse Handling

Explain ways to catch a horse who is being difficult to catch. Walk and trot a horse in hand.

Riding Skills - Halt

Demonstrate how to mount a horse from the ground. Explain why it is better for a horse's back to use a mounting block. Demonstrate how to adjust stirrup leathers and tighten girth while mounted.

Riding Skills - Walk

Maintain an energetic medium walk with or without stirrup irons. Demonstrate a free walk across a diagonal. Describe what 'natural aids' and 'artificial aids' are.

Riding Skills - Trot

Ride confidently in a group or alone in the posting or sitting trot. Be consistently aware of posting diagonal, changing when needed. Ride a 20m circle, long diagonal, and half circle in the trot. Perform an emergency dismount from the trot. Ride bareback at the trot maintaining a well-balanced seat.



Riding-Flat Canter

Safely ride at the canter in a group. Ride one 20m circle in canter. Describe what leads are and how to tell if you are on the right or left lead.

Riding-Jumping

Maintain a jumping position at the trot for three minutes. Demonstrate a jumping position in the canter. Ride over a small (18") vertical showing a correct jumping position and release. Ride over five to seven small jumps as a course, understanding how to plan approaches, landings and turns. Name the five phases of a jump.

Riding-Open

Confidently walk and trot as a group in the open. Safely trot over small cross country jumps (18" max).

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