

Space Coast Pony Express Pony Club Policies

Space Coast Pony Express Pony Club (SPEPC) is a Member of the Sunshine Region of the United States Pony Clubs, Inc. The USPC is an organization of volunteers dedicated to the education of young riders in all aspects of horse management, riding, safety and knowledge. Pony Club strives to develop self-confidence, leadership, responsibility, and moral judgment in its Members. The Guiding Beliefs of the USPC are:

- USPC, Inc is an educational organization
- USPC requires parental involvement and support to be successful
- The local Club is the core of the USPC
- USPC provides an opportunity for shared fun and cooperative work with others
- Fair and friendly competition develops teamwork and sportsmanship
- Horse management is basic to USPC

The SPEPC has established the following policies to guide the administration of its activities. These policies are intended to provide guidance to the Club's elected officers and committees in carrying out the mission statement and guiding beliefs of the USPC and are intended to be used in conjunction with the policies, procedures and information in the USPC Handbook. These policies and procedures will be reviewed annually and voted upon by the Members at the Annual meeting.

Goals and Philosophy

- To foster the safe enjoyment of horses and riding
- To provide an educational program in riding, horse management and stable management
- To guide and support riders in setting and achieving realistic goals
- To develop an understanding and sympathy of the horse by our riders
- To foster teamwork and good sportsmanship
- To teach basic principles of first aid for horses and riders
- To teach correct, safe use and care of equipment
- To encourage the development of well-rounded, self-disciplined, responsible citizens
- To provide parents an opportunity to share in and support the rider's love of horses and riding
- To provide riding opportunities that allow parents to pool resources and keep costs associated with this sport from becoming prohibitive
- To make known to parents and the community the development benefits of the discipline and responsibilities involved in riding and horse care

Organization Structure

District Commissioner (DC)

- The DC has the final say in all issues. Sponsors get to vote for the DC.
- The DC and Jt. DC are required to join as a USPC corporate member (\$50.00/year). The SPEPC will pay the corporate member dues out of club funds.

Membership

- Sponsors are adults who share the philosophies and goals of USPC and SPEPC and who are willing to offer financial, educational, active and moral support.
- Annual sponsor fees are \$25.00 per person for new members and \$15.00 per person for existing members renewing annually. New members receive the USPC Pony Club D Manual upon joining. Each fee permits Sponsor to vote on Club matters presented by the Executive Board.
- All parents/grandparents of riders are entitled, but not required to become Sponsor of the Club. Each parent/grandparent may join as an individual Sponsor and pay the assigned fee.
- Non-parents or other individuals who have indicated an interest in supporting the Club may be a Sponsor. They must be approved by the DC and pay the annual Sponsors fee.
- All parents/grandparents and Sponsors that are not officers will be required to volunteer their time as needed. Each parent and/or Sponsor or should anticipate serving 20 hours a year.

Riders/Members

- SPEPC Membership is open to any person age *5-21 who is interested in riding and the care of horses. (*Note – 5 year old participation will be at the DC's discretion based on maturity.)
- All new Members should attempt to be rated at least a D-1 with in 6 months of joining.
- Age on January 1 determines the Member age for the year.
- To remain in good standing the Member must have current dues paid in full and not owe from any previous year.
- Members must submit the following forms each year when dues are paid: medical release forms authorizing medical treatment for injury or illness incurred at any Pony Club activity or during transport to and from activity; Equine Activity Release Form to release SPEPC from liability of any nature which may arise from or in connection with activities run by the Club; and a negative Coggins test for each horse that is expected to participate in mounted Pony Club activities.

- Members under the age of 16 must have one parent or responsible adult participate in fund-raising events, serve as an officer of the Club and/or serve as an activity coordinator.
- Members are expected to share their knowledge with less experienced Member without compensation.
- Members are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. Members are expected to follow USPC & SPC policies at all times.

Meetings

- SPEPC will hold mounted and unmounted meetings.
- Meeting location will be determined by the DC based on participation and location. Meeting locations may consist of any equestrian facility where two or more members of the SPEPC ride and train.

Ratings

- Members must fill out a Rating Request Form with concurrence by their parent and riding instructor and turn it in to the DC to request a rating.
- The DC arranges appropriate ratings for the club for the D1 through C2 level.
- Ratings are held at least twice a year.
- Members testing for the D3 level and up must fill out the appropriate test sheet and attach it to their rating request form to request the rating. Each skill in the riding portion of the test sheet must be initialed by the member to verify they have practiced that skill and are ready for the testing.

Fundraisers

- Funds raised by individuals, either by participating in fundraising projects or by soliciting individual donations, will be set in an account and used for pony club expenses only (i.e. rally, riding instruction, clinics, testing, educational materials.)
- Each member will have an individual account to keep track of fundraising participation. Funds raised by fundraisers requiring individual participation will be divided equally amongst those members that participate.
- 10% of all funds raised by fundraising projects will be saved into a club general expenses account for equipment, supplies, corporate membership fees, etc.
- General club donations will be saved into the club general expenses account.
- Members can use their "pony club funds" to pay for pony club expenses.

- Members who do not have funds in their pony club account will be responsible for paying for their own pony club expenses.
- The fundraising accounting system is designed to encourage member participation in fundraising events.
- Members who do not renew their membership with SPEPC will have their funds from their fundraising account moved to the club general expenses account.
- The DC can authorize up to \$150.00 for equipment purchases at his/her discretion. Purchases over \$150.00 require a majority vote by the Sponsors. If there are not enough funds in the club general expenses account, funds used to purchase equipment will be taken equally from all member's individual accounts.
- The treasurer is authorized to remove funds from the SPEPC account at her discretion to provide startup money for any fundraisers. Startup fees will be paid back to the account at the end of the fundraiser.

Commitment

- Pony Club is unique in that all parents are actively involved in the workings of the club with their child.
- Members are expected to attend the majority of the mounted and unmounted meetings.