

APPENDIX O

TEACHING

Guidelines for Progressing in Teaching

Reprinted from an article by Marilyn Yike, former Vice President of Instruction.

Would you send a student to a math test if the student had not been taught math? Of course not! Then why send Pony Club members to ratings without teaching them the subject matter?

Teaching is a requirement for every rating from C-1 on. Pony Club members need instruction in how to teach and regular opportunities to practice teaching. This is a general guideline for the progression of Pony Club members learning to teach.

Teaching can begin with a mentor program for new members. It can be a mentor activity, with Cs and older Ds helping new members and lower-rated Ds learn the ropes. A knowledgeable adult should be present at all times.

Horse management lessons can be taught to new members and younger Ds by older Ds and C-1s, who begin with team teaching. Lesson plans are a must to ensure that what should be taught is taught when and how it should be. The best lessons taught and learned are those made up of small, manageable sections of the Standards. Once again, an adult should supervise.

C-1s can assist instructors at mounted lessons. They not only will learn, but can be a lot of help. As they help, instructors will teach them how to teach. These student teachers can provide more direct help and get good teaching experience by doing individual work with group members.

C-2s should begin by team teaching – with an adult or with other C-2s – then progress to solo teaching as they gain experience. Lesson plans made by these Pony Club members should be approved or made by the adult instructor, who then supervises the lessons when given. Instruction in how to teach should continue and never cease – just become more refined and advanced as the Pony Club member gains experience, ability, and knowledge.

C-3s can individually teach Ds and C-1s, using lesson plans approved by an adult instructor. A knowledgeable adult supervises the teaching sessions.

Bs and up should be experienced and capable of giving lessons, teaching from lesson plans made or reviewed by an instructor. A responsible adult must be present.

Any program for teaching Pony Club members to teach should be set up and supervised by an instructor who knows the Standards well. The instructor should be the one to make assignments and should always review lesson plans.

It is up to the judgment of the supervising instructor as to when a member gains the skills and knowledge and demonstrates the maturity to step up to the next level of teaching responsibility – from team teaching to solo teaching of Horse Management to assisting with mounted lessons to giving mounted lessons.

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No Pony Club member should ever teach Pony Club lessons without a responsible or knowledgeable adult present. As a Pony Club member grows in confidence and competence, direct instructor supervision will and should decrease.