

## APPENDIX P

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### JUNIOR BOARDS

Where do you start when trying to put together a Junior Board? What will a Junior Board do in your club? How much responsibility should you give them? How do you establish goals and tasks for a Junior Board?

The DC doesn't have to take on the Junior Board. Instead, the DC may appoint a Junior Board Advisor. The Advisor must enjoy working with kids and must be willing to spend time guiding Junior Board members in assuming responsibility, setting goals, and implementing action.

The Advisor functions as the liaison between Pony Club members, officers and Sponsors. He or she encourages Pony Club members to participate on the Junior Board and facilitates Junior Board meetings as appropriate and requested by the DC. The Advisor provides input on instructional and social programs planned by the Junior Board members and initiates ideas for activities for the Junior Board to propose for approval by the DC and club Sponsors.

Junior Boards may also initiate and participate in fundraising to support special programs. Advisors may serve on committees or undertake special assignments at the DC's request, fund raising for a special event for example.

It is important, however, for the DC to establish the expectations and parameters of the Junior Board. It would be disappointing for the members of the Junior Board to plan an extravagant, in-depth event only to have it completely rejected by the DC or Sponsors. By discussing expectations in advance (with the Junior Board Advisor), the DC can ensure that the Advisor steers the Junior Board in a positive direction.

#### JUNIOR BOARD SUCCESS STORY

One Junior Board was formed because the kids wanted a D through C-2 cross-country course, nice stadium fences, and higher quality instruction. Older, more mature members organized the first meeting with the DC. An Advisor was requested, and in this case it was the DC. It was decided that membership on the Board was open to all the members.

Subsequently, the Junior Board met and voted that each family would be responsible for providing one jump a year – either a stadium jump or a cross-country obstacle. Then the Junior Board went to work on their parents. Members without willing parental help were successful in enlisting surrogate “parents” (either an older member, a friend, a grandparent, or other “interested” Pony Club parent or Sponsor). Suddenly, the club had gates, a picket fence, a coop, a brush jump, a drop, a bank jump, a box, a table, a ditch, a cordwood pile, a tire fence, a helsinki and an oxer. Weed trimmers and mowers worked hard to keep up with fence building!

**Sample Responsibilities of the Junior Board:**

- ▶ Drafting a code of conduct for other club members
- ▶ Assisting with planning the club calendar
- ▶ Writing a column in the club newsletter
- ▶ Developing educational programs and teaching schedules for younger members
- ▶ Consulting with club Sponsors on budgeting decisions (such as going to Championships)
- ▶ Assigning mentors to assist others (forming study groups, partnering to overcome weaknesses, buddying up with new members, etc.)
- ▶ Coordinating a specific portion of an inter-club or regional event
- ▶ Organizing community service and/or public outreach projects
- ▶ Research the local school district's requirements for getting Physical Education credit for Pony Club activities.

**Steps to Junior Board**

1. List three possible candidates for Advisor. As you write them down, think about how your choices will fulfill the Advisor responsibilities discussed on the previous page.
2. Discuss your ideas with each candidate. Try to gauge their interest/enthusiasm.
3. Invite the members to the next Sponsors' meeting and make the Junior Board an agenda item.

**Note**

- ▶ Be prepared to discuss how the Junior Board will benefit the club.
- ▶ Listen to what members and other Sponsors think about the idea.
- ▶ Ask everyone to brainstorm about potential responsibilities of the Junior Board.
- ▶ Write down what rewards Junior Board members might reap (leadership, etc.).
- ▶ Ask for a motion to approve a committee to form a Junior Board.

If the motion is approved, have the committee (made up of members, Sponsors, and potential advisors) appoint the first advisor, write a mission and responsibilities statement, and prepare a timeline for actions and goals.