



THE UNITED STATES PONY CLUBS, INC. PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Press Contact: Shelley Mann, Shelley@PonyClub.org

Pony Club: www.ponyclub.org, 859-254-7669

Pony Club Team to Compete at the 2017 US Pony Jumper Championships

August 7, 2017 –Four United States Pony Clubs, Inc. members will attend the 2017 US Pony Jumper Championships held in conjunction with the USEF Pony Finals presented by Collecting Gaits Farm at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, KY August 8-13th. Pony Club members from all over the country have been vying for a spot on the team for the last 12 months. The four riders with the most points accumulated from the USEF Pony Jumper competitions earned their spot on the team punching their ticket to represent USPC at the Championships.

Team Members:

Keely Bechtol (H-B, Bluegrass Pony Club/Midsouth Region) riding Lark's Magic

Taylor Brinsfield (C-2, Green Spring Hounds Pony Club/Maryland Region) riding Piper

Genevieve Munson (C-2, Northwest Arkansas Pony Club/Midwest Region) riding Bluebelle

Megan De Michele (C-1, Misty Brae Farm Pony Club Riding Center/Virginia Region) riding Gracie Lou

Alternate: Isabel Brunner (C-2, Keeneland Pony Club/Midsouth Region) riding Blues Traveler

The USPC Team will be led by Linda Allen as Coach and Richard Lamb as Chef d'Equipe. The team will come together in Kentucky to compete against other teams representing zones from all over the nation in both team and individual jumping events. Allen (Laredo, TX) has a long history in the Jumping discipline as well as distinguished list of credentials making her a great asset to the riders at the Championships. She is a FEI 3* Jumping Judge, 4* Course Designer, 4* Technical Delegate, USEF "R" Jumping, Hunters and Hunt Seat Equitation Judge. Lamb (Aiken, SC), Pony Club National Examiner and C-1 Graduate, will also be on-hand to assist Allen and guide the team at the Event.

Any Pony Club members D-3 certified and above were eligible for the team; qualifying began in June 2016. Unlike the other teams competing from the same zone the USPC members are coming from states and regions all over the country. For more information on the USPC Team please go to the [Pony Club website](http://www.ponyclub.org) and for further information regarding the Championships please visit the [USEF website](http://www.usef.com).

About Pony Club - The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. (Pony Club) was founded in 1954 as a nonprofit national youth organization to teach riding and horsemanship through a formal educational program. There are approximately 9,000 Pony Club members in over 600 clubs and riding centers throughout the country. Many of the nation's top equestrians, including several of our Olympic team members, business professionals, government leaders and career military officers, have roots in Pony Club. Youth members range in age from as young as 4 through age 25. Pony Club also offers educational opportunities to a growing number of adults through Horsemasters membership. www.ponyclub.org.