



**THE UNITED STATES PONY CLUBS, INC. PRESS RELEASE**  
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**Pony Club Team to Compete at the  
2018 USEF Pony Jumper Championships**

**August 9, 2018** –Four United States Pony Clubs, Inc. members make up the team representing Pony Club at the 2018 USEF 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 7-12<sup>th</sup>. Pony Club members from all over the country have been vying for a spot on the team for the last 12 months.

**Team Members:**

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

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

Nora Goldfarb (C-2 Traditional, Middle Tennessee Pony Club/Midsouth Region) riding Aluinn Denmark

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

Alternate: Isabel Bruncker (H-B, Keeneland Pony Club/Midsouth Region) riding Blue’s Traveler

Three riders are returning members of the USPC team: Bechtol, Brinsfield and De Michele. “As member of the USPC Jumper Team, I have learned how to be a good horseman and valuable team player.” Said Brinsfield.

Coach and Chef d’Equipe Richard Lamb will guide the team over the three days of jumping competition. Riders compete in three phases starting Thursday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. Lamb from Aiken, SC is a Pony Club National Examiner and C-1 Graduate.

The team comes together in Kentucky to compete against other teams representing zones from all over the nation in both team and individual events jumping fences 1.05m to 1.15m in height. De Michele’s favorite thing about the team is the “sense of team spirit that we have, feels like a (Pony Club) rally – I like it.”

Goldfarb is riding on her first USPC team and “is excited to share the experiences as a team with these girls in the Alltech Arena.”

“From my time on USPC Pony Jumper teams, I have learned how to be confident in unfamiliar situations – you have to be brave to jump those jumps.” Said Bechtol.

Any Pony Club members D-3 certified and above are eligible for the team; qualifying began in June 2017. 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](#) and for further information regarding the Championships please visit the [USEF website](#).

**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](http://www.ponyclub.org).