



## THE UNITED STATES PONY CLUBS, INC. PRESS RELEASE

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### 2018 Live Oak Hounds USPC Foxhunting Challenge Award

**May 18, 2018 (Lexington, KY)** - The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. is pleased to announce the winners of the twelfth annual Live Oak Hounds USPC Foxhunting Challenge. The Live Oak Challenge is designed to encourage Pony Club members who do not regularly hunt to try the sport, and to reward members who hunt on a regular basis to act as mentors to the less-experienced Pony Club members. For their achievements, \$10,000 is distributed among the top Pony Clubs who regularly take the greatest percentage (based on total number of members) of active Pony Club members hunting. This award is made possible through the generous support of Mr. and Mrs. C. Martin Wood III, Joint Masters of the Live Oak Hounds in Monticello, Florida, and Past Presidents of the MFHA.

A total of 74 Pony Club members competed this year, accounting for more than 560 days in the hunt fields. Ten hunt clubs from across the country welcomed the participating Pony Club members to participate in the hunts: The Arapahoe Hunt (CO), Rose Tree-Blue Mountain Hunt (PA), Elkridge-Harford Hunt (MD), De La Brooke Foxhounds (MD), Live Oak Hounds (FL), Cedar Knob Hounds (TN), Belle Meade Hunt (GA), Hillsboro Hounds (TN), Monmouth Country Hunt (NJ), and Santa Fe Hunt (CA).

Congratulations to the 2018 Challenge winners:

1st Place: **Blue Mountain Pony Club** (Maryland Region)

2nd Place: **De La Brooke Pony Club** (Maryland Region)

3rd Place: **The Arapahoe Hunt Pony Club** (Rocky Mountain Region)

4th Place: **Ochlockonee River Pony Club** (Sunshine Region)

5th Place: **Elkridge-Harford Hunt Pony Club** (Maryland Region)

6<sup>th</sup> Place: **Cedar Knob Pony Club** (Midsouth Region)

7<sup>th</sup> Place: **Pineland Riders Pony Club** (New Jersey Region)

8<sup>th</sup> Place: **Poway Valley Pony Club** (Southern California Region)

USPC was founded in 1954 by a group of avid foxhunters. A knowledgeable rider on a happy pony (or horse) is the goal of Pony Club, and the hunt field is a great place to find many of these pairs. Pony Club offers several opportunities for members to explore Foxhunting as a group or individually through club or center activities, visit [ponyclub.org](http://ponyclub.org) for more information and to get involved.

**About MFHA** - The Masters of Foxhounds Association of America was formed in 1907 and is the governing body of organized fox, coyote, other acceptable legal quarry and drag hunting in the United States and Canada. The MFHA's main activities are: the promotion of the sport; the publication of a Foxhound Stud Book; the recognition of organized Hunts which have met its standards; the recordation of countries and boundaries for organized hunting establishments; and the registration of Hunts as a preliminary step toward recognition.

**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 10,000 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. Traditional members range in age from as young as 4 through age 25. Pony Club also offers educational opportunities a growing number of adults through Horsemasters membership.