



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

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### **Pony Club Now Offering Certification Track Focused Entirely on Horse Management**

**June 4, 2020 (Lexington, KY)** – The United States Pony Clubs, Inc., is pleased to announce an updated certification path focused entirely on horse management from the most beginner level all the way through the most advanced. Horse Management focused members will not need to concentrate on any specific riding discipline as good, quality, safe horse care is universal in the equine industry.

“Teaching horse care has always been the foundation for Pony Club,” said Connie Jehlik, USPC Instruction Services Director. “The Horse Management certification is based on a practical application of knowledge, and our goal is to make that education more accessible. With these changes to the program, members do not need to fulfill a riding requirement or own a horse to participate. Having access to a horse for hands-on care is all that is needed.”

Each of the Pony Club certification levels is more challenging than the preceding one, and requires Pony Club members to learn more about horses and their care. On the riding certification paths, including Dressage, Eventing, Show Jumping, Hunter Seat Equitation and Western, they also become increasingly accomplished riders, meeting standards of proficiency both in and out of the saddle. Horse Management is part of the requirements for all Pony Club certifications.

The top certification level is the A level and is reached by fewer than one in 300. It is widely recognized throughout the horse industry as the mark of a highly competent and knowledgeable horseperson.

The Horse Management certification program is open to all ages and levels of equestrians to learn and progress at their own rate. To join Pony Club and earn a Horse Management certification, visit the Pony Club [website](http://www.ponyclub.org) to find a local club or center.

**About Pony Club** – The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. (Pony Club) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1954. Pony Club is the largest equine education organization in the world, with more than 10,000 members in the US, and over 500 clubs and riding centers nationwide. USPC is proud to provide education to youth and equestrians of all ages, with instruction and competitive opportunities in more than nine English and Western riding disciplines. Pony Club’s educational standards continue to be instrumental in curriculum development for schools, universities, equestrian professionals and organizations across the United States. Many of the nation’s top equestrians, including Olympic team members, as well as successful business professionals and government leaders, have roots in Pony Club.

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