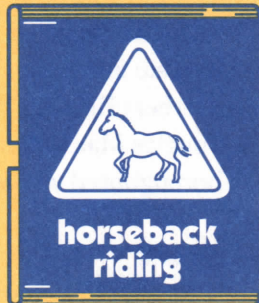


Cub Scout Sports: Horseback Riding



REQUIREMENTS

Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts may complete requirements in a family, den, pack, school, or community environment. Tiger Cubs must work with their parents or adult partners. Parents and partners do not earn loops or pins.

Belt Loop

Complete these three requirements:

- _____ 1. Explain five safety precautions for when you are near a horse.
- _____ 2. With help from an experienced horse handler, demonstrate how to safely mount and ride a horse and then how to safely dismount the horse.
- _____ 3. Go on a supervised horseback ride for at least 20 minutes. Wear an approved helmet (such as one approved for horseback riding by the ASTM, or American Society for Testing and Materials).

Sports Pin

Earn the Horseback Riding belt loop and complete five of the following requirements:

- _____ 1. Learn about three famous horses. Explain why these horses were well-known.
- _____ 2. Using pictures of these different animals, explain to your den or family the difference between a horse, pony, mule, and donkey.
- _____ 3. Explain how a horse is measured and what a "hand" equals when measuring a horse.

- _____ 4. Using a picture, point out these main parts of a horse: forehead, muzzle, mane, withers, point of hip, knee, hoof, and root of tail.
- _____ 5. Describe three different breeds of horses and explain what feature makes each breed special.
- _____ 6. Using photos or pictures you have drawn, explain to your den or family at least three different ways that horses can help us.
- _____ 7. Name five things healthy for a horse's diet.
- _____ 8. Tell why it is important to wear an approved riding helmet when you go horseback riding.
- _____ 9. Photograph or draw a picture of the saddle you used for the ride you took to earn the belt loop.
- _____ 10. With your parent or adult partner, visit a veterinarian who cares for horses. Write the answers to three questions you ask him or her.
- _____ 11. Spend at least 15 minutes before and after your ride getting to know your horse by talking calmly to it and stroking it slowly.
- _____ 12. Go on a supervised horseback ride for at least 30 minutes. Dress appropriately and show that you can safely mount and dismount the horse.

Resources

United States Pony Manual of Horsemanship: Basics for Beginners, by Susan Harris. Howell Book House, 1994.

Hands-On Horse Care, by Karen Hayes. Trafalgar Square Press, 1997.

Horsechannel.com

Web site: <http://www.horsechannel.com>

United States Pony Clubs

Web site: <http://www.ponyclub.org>

Safety With Horses

You should always ride under the guidance of an experienced horse handler—never alone.

- Never startle a horse; speak reassuringly to the horse as you approach.
- Never approach a horse from the rear. A horse has a blind spot directly behind it. You might startle it and cause it to kick, which could result in serious injury.
- While working around a horse, stay close to the front or sides where it can see you and will not be tempted to kick you and, if it does kick, you will not be struck with the full force of its kick.
- Always mount a horse in an open area, never in a barn or near trees, fences, or overhangs. If a horse should sidestep, it could force you to bump up against any of these obstacles, and you could be injured.
- Never cross a paved road. A horse's hooves slip easily on pavement, and it is not a good surface for horseback riding, in particular for beginner riders.

Famous Horses

Legendary horses may have been owned by someone famous, have done well at the race track, be fictional, or have even been on TV or in films.

Black Beauty, star of a storybook by Anna Sewell
BlackJack, a military horse with a distinguished career, having participated in the state funerals of presidents John F. Kennedy, Herbert Hoover, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Gen. Douglas MacArthur
Man O' War, the incredible Thoroughbred whose stride averaged 25 to 28 feet

Mister Ed, TV's famous talking horse

Pegasus, the winged horse represented in a constellation and Greek mythology

Traveller, the faithful horse of Civil War Gen. Robert E. Lee

Trigger, who appeared on TV with famed cowboy Roy Rogers

Horse Breeds to Learn About

American Saddlebred, Appaloosa, Arabian, Clydesdale, Morgan, Mustang, Paint, Pinto, quarter horse, Shetland, Tennessee walking horse, Thoroughbred

See the BSA's *Guide to Safe Scouting* at www.scouting.org for horseback riding guidelines.

When horseback riding, it's important to dress properly. You must wear an approved helmet (such as one approved for horseback riding by the ASTM). A long-sleeved shirt, jeans, and sturdy shoes or boots will protect you during a ride.

Parts of a Horse

