

Spacecoast Pony Express Pony Club Policies

Spacecoast Pony Express Pony Club (SPEPC) is a Member of the Sunshine Region of the United States Pony Clubs, Inc. The USPC is an organization of volunteers dedicated to the education of young riders in all aspects of horse management, riding, safety and knowledge. Pony Club strives to develop self-confidence, leadership, responsibility, and moral judgment in its Members. The Guiding Beliefs of the USPC are:

- USPC, Inc is an educational organization
- USPC requires parental involvement and support to be successful
- The local Club is the core of the USPC
- USPC provides an opportunity for shared fun and cooperative work with others
- Fair and friendly competition develops teamwork and sportsmanship
- Horse management is basic to USPC

The SPEPC has established the following policies to guide the administration of its activities. These policies are intended to provide guidance to the Club's elected officers and committees in carrying out the mission statement and guiding beliefs of the SPC and are intended to be used in conjunction with the policies, procedures and information in the USPC Handbook. These policies and procedures will be reviewed annually and voted upon by the Members at the Annual meeting.

Goals and Philosophy

- To foster the safe enjoyment of horses and riding
- To provide an educational program in riding, horse management and stable management
- To guide and support riders in setting and achieving realistic goals
- To develop an understanding and sympathy of the horse by our riders
- To foster teamwork and good sportsmanship
- To teach basic principles of first aid for horses and riders
- To teach correct, safe use and care of equipment
- To encourage the development of well-rounded, self-disciplined, responsible citizens
- To provide parents an opportunity to share in and support the rider's love of horses and riding
- To provide riding opportunities that allow parents to pool resources and keep costs associated with this sport from becoming prohibitive
- To make known to parents and the community the development benefits of the discipline and responsibilities involved in riding and horse care

Organization Structure

District Commissioner (DC)

- The DC has the final say in all issues. Sponsors get to vote for the DC.

Membership

- Sponsors are adults who share the philosophies and goals of USPC and SPEPC and who are willing to offer financial, educational, active and moral support.
- Annual fees are \$10.00 per person. Each fee permits Sponsor to vote on Club matters presented by the Executive Board.
- All parents/grandparents of riders are entitled, but not required to become Sponsor of the Club. Each parent/grandparent may join as an individual Sponsor and pay the assigned fee.
- Non-parents or other individuals who have indicated an interest in supporting the Club may be a Sponsor. They must be approved by the DC and pay the annual Sponsors fee.
- All parents/grandparents and Sponsors that are not officers will be required to volunteer their time as needed. Each parent and/or Sponsor or should anticipate serving 20 hours a year.

Riders/Members

- SPEPC Membership is open to any person age *5-21 who is interested in riding and the care of horses. (*Note – 5 year old participation will be at the DC's discretion based on maturity.)
- All new Members must attempt to be rated at least a D-1 within 6 months of joining.
- Age on January 1 determines the Member age for the year.
- To remain in good standing the Member must have current dues paid in full and not owe from any previous year.
- Members must submit the following forms each year when dues are paid: medical release forms authorizing medical treatment for injury or illness incurred at any Pony Club activity or during transport to and from activity; Equine Activity Release Form to release SPEPC from liability of any nature which may arise from or in connection with activities run by the Club; and a negative Coggins test for each horse that is expected to participate in mounted Pony Club activities.
- Members under the age of 16 must have one parent or responsible adult participate in fund-raising events, serve as an officer of the Club and/or serve as an activity coordinator.
- Members are expected to share their knowledge with less experienced Member without compensation.

- Members are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. Members are expected to follow USPC & SPC policies at all times.

Ratings

- The instructional chair, along with the DC, determines when a member is ready to be rated for a higher rating.
- Ratings are held at least twice a year.

Fundraisers

- Funds raised by individuals will be set in an account and used for pony club expenses only (i.e. rally, riding instruction, clinics, testing, educational materials.)

Commitment

- Pony Club is unique in that all parents are actively involved in the workings of the club with their child.
- SPEPC will hold a mounted and unmounted meeting, usually at Hidden Acres Equestrian Center.
- Members are expected to attend the majority of the mounted and unmounted meetings.