

YOU'VE SAID YES!

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LEADING UP TO THE SHOW

In the weeks leading up to the show, your lessons will be focused on the skills that you need to strengthen for the show. There will be opportunities to pick up an extra private lesson or two if you want a little more one on one time to give you more confidence going into the show.

REGISTERING FOR THE SHOW

Once you and your coach have decided it's time to compete, then you need to register for the show.

Most show hosts have registration forms on their website. Talk with your coach about which horse you will be riding, their show name, and what division you will be entering. It's super helpful to go through the registration form together so you can get to know how these forms work. While your coach will help you, it is your responsibility to ensure you are registered.

Highly recommend that you read through the registration form and show requirements in its entirety.

WHAT TO SIGN UP FOR

Most shows (home and away) have a day of schooling before the show. Schooling is an opportunity for you and your coach to run through a course, get used to the environment, and go over any last-minute questions and expectations. We believe that it is essential to take advantage of this opportunity and makes a world of difference.

When it comes to competing, shows contain various divisions. A division consists of several classes that the riders compete in. Divisions are designated by the level/experience of the riders, the size of the horse/pony, and/or by fence height. Divisions typically contain three jumping classes and a few flat classes. A rider who enters a division is able to ride in any and all class offered in that division. Each class is judged independently of the others, but at the end of the division the top two riders (those who have gained the most points across all classes in the division) are awarded special prizes; champion and reserve champion. What divisions are offered differ depending on the show type and the show circuit.

WHAT GEAR DO YOU NEED?

The type of show you are showing in will determine what kind of clothes you need. For our home shows (where our barn hosts), it is usually more casual attire. For away shows (where we travel), it is usually more formal attire. ALWAYS, double-check with your coach for show attire expectations.

HOME SHOWS - \$

Solid coloured Breeches
Collared shirt or nice polo,
with vest or sweater (optional)
Tall boots or paddock boots and half chaps
Helmet
Barn shoes/clothes

Riding Numbers (possible)

All attire should be clean and have no holes. Make sure your attire is comfortable and fits well, you don't want to be nervous AND uncomfortable at your first show.

AWAY SHOWS - \$\$

Beige/Tan coloured Breeches
White, collared shirt
Long sleeve or short sleeve
Show Coat
Belt (optional)
Tall boots
Helmet

Barn/Casual shoes & clothes

SHOWING YOUR FIRST SHOW



COST BREAKDOWN

Shows are not required, but instead are a fun option for students to take the next step. They are an investment, however.

You are essentially renting a horse for the weekend, so you are responsible for your horse the entire weekend from feeding to cleaning stalls and more. If two students are taking the same horse, they split the cost of care and trailering, etc. Home shows are significantly more cost effective than away shows.

WHAT	HOW MUCH	NOTES	WHO TO PAY	HOME or AWAY
Show fees	approx. \$35-\$55 per class	Registration for classes/division – price set by show	Show	Away
Stable fees	approx. \$50 per night	price set by show	Show	Away
Trailering	\$30 - \$175	depending on distance and how many horses are being trailered	Coach	Away
Feed / Grain	\$20 - \$40 for the show	depending on horse / length of show	Coach	Away
Rider Membership	Approx. \$50 - \$100	not all shows require this, check registration	Association	Away
Horse Passport	Approx. \$75	Equine Canada rated shows only	Association	Away
Coach Fee	\$50 per day		Coach	Home/Away
Horse Fee	\$50 - \$75 Only applies to non-lease riders	depending on show	Coach	Home/Away

TIMELINE

Knowing what time you should arrive and where to go is important! Your coach may want you at the barn to help load the horses if you are traveling to a show, or sometimes it's just easier to meet them at the showgrounds. Make sure to ask your coach where they expect you to be and at what time to get there.

Day before the show

The day before a horse show all the riders must get everything ready for the show for horse and rider. Riders will come out to the barn in the afternoon/evening to prepare. This can take a while, especially for those new to the routine, so plan for about two hours at the barn. There is the general checklist in this package: feel free to ask for help if you are unsure about any part of the show prep!



SHOWING YOUR FIRST SHOW



Loading & Unloading the trailer

On the day of travel, riders will meet at the barn to get their horses ready to get on the trailer and pack all tack and gear.

Riders will then travel to the show grounds and help unload the trailer at the show. They will take horses, tack and other gear to the stall area and then get their horses settled. Once everything is in place, riders will check in at registration and the coach will tell the team the game plan.

Regular show day

With some types of shows, you will get specific ride times and with other shows, they just run through the classes, and you keep an eye on where they are in the schedule and wait your turn. Ask your coach what you should expect as far as the schedule goes. **Don't be surprised if they can't tell you what time you will ride.** Depending on how many entrants there are and how smoothly things run will determine how long it takes to get to your class. Between horse care and classes, showing is often a full day commitment for the duration of the show.

It is highly recommended that you give yourself extra time on show day. If you need to be there at 8:00 am, aim for 7:45am. Then if you are running late, you'll still be on time and won't be rushed or stressed for time.

TIME TO COMPETE

As you wait for your division, make sure all your tack is in order and cleaned. Ensure your numbers are secured to your bridle or breastplate (or however the show dictates) and that your coat, boots and gear is clean and ready for the ring. Try not to wear your show clothes until after you're done brushing and tacking up your horse to keep them as clean as possible. Stick with your team while you are waiting, don't wander off without letting someone know where you are. If your class gets moved up, then you need to be ready to get your gear on and jump on the horse!

Check In

- Check in at the registration booth
- Child participants will need a guardian/supervising adult to sign their forms
- Rider will be given a number that they must wear whenever they are mounted

Warming Up

- Before competing, the rider will need to warm up their horse
- Both the rider and horse should be fully dressed and ready to ride when the time to warm up comes

The Show Ring

- When it is their turn the rider will head into the show ring to compete in their classes with their coach supervising (never go in the ring without your coach present!)

Thank Your Horse

- Don't forget to thank your horse!

SHOWING YOUR FIRST SHOW



RIDING IS A TEAM SPORT

Even though riding is done as individuals, keep in mind that you are part of a larger barn family.

We almost always go to shows with a team of riders, and it is super important that we support and cheer each other on. Some of our team is at their first show, while others have been around the show block many times. We are here for each other, so feel free to help fellow riders tack up and get ready, hold their horse or maybe grab them a snack if they are too busy or starting to get frazzled.

Take care not to gossip negatively about other riders, coaches, or parents. This is behavior that, while tempting, can create conflict for you and your team. You are not going to like everyone and not everyone will like you. But you can practice being a leader in your horse community by being respectful and helpful.

HEADING HOME

Unload horses & care for horses

- All students participate to Load up Horses and Tack to head home
- Once at home, everyone unloads horses and Tack
 - Put horses away in paddock
 - Ensure that the horse has all of their own gear on (halter, flymask, blankets, etc.)
 - Clean the trailer
 - All tack and equipment should be taken off the trailer and put away

CHECKLISTS FOR AWAY SHOWS

You'll find three checklists for away shows that will help you prepare for your first show!



Rider Checklist

Riders are expected to provide the following gear themselves for away shows:

- ☐ Helmet ▪ Black
- ☐ Show Shirt with a collar
- ☐ Show Jacket
- ☐ Tan/Beige Riding Pants/Breeches
- ☐ Boots
 - Option 1: Short Riding Boots and half chaps
 - Black or brown (boots and half chaps must match in colour)
 - Option 2: Tall Boots ▪ Black or brown boots that reach the knees
 - Typically more expensive
- ☐ Snacks & Water Bottle
- ☐ Show Survival Kit: Like any event, unplanned (and often unwelcomed) situations arise: like a button falling off a jacket, a scrape or spilt drink. It's good to have a few things on hand just in case.
 - Bobby Pins, Safety Pins, hairbrush, hair ties, wet wipes, small sewing kit
 - Basic First aid (bandaids, etc.)
 - Sunscreen, bug spray, extra layers like gloves (weather dependant)
 - Tide-on-the-go stain stick
- ☐ Competitor Numbers
- ☐ Barn shoes / Hoodie
- ☐ Crop / Spurs (if applicable)
- ☐ Hairnet *Optional
- ☐ Gloves *Optional
- ☐ Belt *optional
 - Can be any colour, type, or style. Avoid large buckles.
- ☐ Tack Trunk *Optional

Where to buy?

We believe that people at all, at all budgets can participate in horse riding... it just may require some sleuthing, persistence, and patience.

Decathalon

Decathalon carries a limited supply of both tack and riding gear. While their selection is limited, they are low cost and their items are good for your first show or if you are just trying out showing.

Address: 100 Anderson Rd SE, Calgary, AB T2J 3V1

Website: <https://www.decathlon.ca/en/c/22469/horseback-riding>

The Tack Collector

The Tack Collector is a consignment tack and riding attire store. They have great, previously loved things at discount prices. Like any consignment store, you may have to visit multiple times while you are searching for things, as they get new stock daily.

Address: 5050 106 Ave SE #116, Calgary, AB T2C 5E9

Website: <https://thetackcollector.ca/>

Greenhawk

Greenhawk is an equestrian supplies store, they have both an online store and a physical store here in Calgary. Their prices are on the more expensive side, but they can have some great sales both online or in store. We recommend following their social media or sign up for their newsletter so you can be in the know on sales, etc.

Address: 12204 40 St SE Bay 16, Calgary, AB T2Z 4K6

Website: <https://greenhawk.com/>

Facebook Groups

There are many facebook groups selling used equestrian gear, or you can check facebook marketplace.

Other Tack Stores *Other tack stores around Calgary to check out:*

- Lammles (primarily Western)
- SHOP Spruce Meadows
- Rein it in Western Consignment
- Lone Star Tack and Feed
- The Mill Store
- CanTack (online only)

Horse Checklist

Riders must pack their horses gear for away shows. They have access to all lesson tack and can ask their coach to borrow gear as they build their collections. Items are marked with:

- R (rider provides) ➤ L (lesson tack available) ➤ C (coach provides)
-

☐ Horse & Tack is clean!

- Horse is bathed & Brushed
- All Leather is clean and conditioned
- Saddle Pad / Bonnet / Jumping Boots are clean

☐ Bridle (L/R)

☐ Saddle (L/R)

☐ Saddle Pads (L/R)

☐ Breast Collar (L/R)

☐ Girth (L/R)

☐ Jumping Boots (L/R)

- Higher heights only

☐ Grooming & Tack Supplies (L/R)

- Brushes, Hoof pick, mane/trail brush & conditioner, fly spray
- *Optional Rider supplied: Leather hole punch, Leather cleaner/conditioner, boot wipes, scissors, sponge

☐ Halter & Lead Rope (L/R)

☐ Stall Sheet (C)

☐ Stable wraps (R/can borrow)

☐ Bonnet *Optional (R)

☐ Treats *Optional (R)

SHOWING

STABLE
CHECK
LIST



Stable Checklist

Riders must prepare for the stall at away shows. Riders can ask their coach to borrow gear as they build their collections. Items are marked with:

- R (rider provides) ➤ L (lesson tack available) ➤ C (coach provides)
-

☐ Feed (C)

- Hay
- Grain
- Supplements

☐ Feed Bucket & Haynet (C)

☐ Pitchfork, Broom, Muck Bucket (C)

☐ Saddle Stand (R)

☐ Water Bucket & Water hook/strap (R)

☐ Bridle/Halter Hooks (R)

☐ Folding Chairs *Optional (R)

☐ Small Foldable Stool *Optional (R)

Dear Show Parents

When your child makes the leap from horse rider to horse show competitor, a whole new world opens up. At first, it's a bit overwhelming trying to understand the ins and outs of competitions. As a parent, you only want what's best for your child, but it's important to know what will be helpful vs. what can hinder. There is no doubt you will wear many hats as a horse show parent. As an integral part of their team, you are part pit crew, part sponsor, part groom and certainly lead cheerleader. But there is one thing you should not be and that is a coach.

Preparing for the show

The coach's job is to help the rider perform their best. Coaching when you are not the coach, whether it's at home or from the sidelines, can cause considerable stress for your young rider. You could be offering advice opposite to the coach, leaving your child confused and worried about pleasing you both. You could be sending a message you don't intend to, such as "I don't think you're riding well" or "you're disappointing me."

Check with your rider as to how you can help them on show day: whether that is helping them brush up right before entering the arena by checking for untucked shirts, loose hair-ties, crooked hats, uneven reins, and the like. Make sure they have their number in the proper place and visible. Take a towel over their boots for added shine and maybe look over the horse's tack. Don't get too meticulous though. You'll only make the horse and rider more nervous by nit-picking at small things that don't really matter. The easiest and best advice to a rider in the show ring is to smile. It will not only make them look confident, but it is very hard to be nervous with a smile on your face. Remember, this is supposed to be fun!

During the show

Trotting the outer perimeter of the show arena alongside the rider and coaching them is a definite no-no. That's what practice at home is for. Let the rider show what they have learned. This is their time to shine.

Every rider, regardless of their age, has their own preferences when it comes to their personal space at horse shows. The younger rider may need more hands-on help, physically and emotionally, right up to ring time. The teen usually requires a lot less but may still want to know where you are in case a need arises.

Do not, **do not** openly criticize the other contestants or barns when you are in the stands! While you may be sure that the people around you won't say anything, when young kids hear you speaking poorly about others, it tells them that others are probably speaking poorly about them.

It's not about Winning

Don't focus on whether your child walks home with a blue ribbon. It really isn't about the "win." It's about your child having fun, doing their best, learning from each experience, and having a winning attitude. And make sure that, win or lose, you tell your child how much you enjoyed watching them ride.