

Horse-less Rally Lesson Plan

Length of activity:

Approximately three to four hours, depending upon number of teams and instructors/judges.

Objective:

The Pony Clubbers (PCers) will learn how to correctly prepare and set-up a tack stall, feed room, and the required equipment for Pony Club Rallies. The PCer's will learn the forms that the Horse Management (HM) judges use to assess their team's skill and knowledge of taking care of their horse and equipment during a Rally.

Instructors:

Several adults or upper rated PCers who are knowledgeable horse persons. Ideally, they have rallied before, or have been involved with USPC and HM education/judging. They should have patience and a good sense of humor!

Location options:

- A barn with stalls: ideally one stall per team for the tack room and one stall for the feed room per two to four teams.
- Horse trailers to set up tack rooms and a feed room area.
- A large area to mark off into 10x10 areas as their tack room area.

Materials:

NOTE: *Horse Management forms and rulebooks can be obtained from the USPC web site: [http:// www.ponyclub.org](http://www.ponyclub.org) under forms, horse management. I have a required 1st aid and equipment explanation sheet for the judges to refer to while judging)*

- Horse Management Rulebook that is current (PCer's reference p. 27-47, 2002 rulebook)
- HM sheets:
 - Required Equipment for One-day or Two day Rally of your discipline choice
 - Stall card and feed chart!
 - Set-up/First check
 - Daily sheet
 - Turn-back
 - XC sheet (for eventing)
 - Safety check worksheet
 - Formal Inspection sheets according to ratings
 - Master score sheet
- Clipboard(s) and pencils for HM "judge"
- Twine
- Scissors
- Permanent markers
- Blank labels (address labels, computer labels)
- Tape (several rolls of different types), masking, duct tape, clear packing tape
- Optional, but nice to have on hand items: a complete First Aid kit, set of stall set-up equipment, utility kit, grooming kit, extra equipment

Procedure:

Prior to date of activity:

1. Divide the PCers into teams of four to five members of mixed ratings and experience. Appoint the older or higher rated PCer as the team captain (sometimes you'll have a younger, but more experienced PCer who can be the captain).
2. Provide the captain with:
 - The list and phone numbers of their team members to contact ASAP to find out who has and will bring items for the team required equipment.
 - Required equipment sheet(s)
 - 2002 HM rulebook reference pages 27-47
 - Choose one team member who will dress for Formal Inspection.
 - Remind them to have all items labeled with their name!

Day of activity:

1. Assign tack areas to teams prior to arrival, assign an area for parents to hang out after carrying in items. (Good time to discuss upcoming Rallies this summer and other activities! Another possibility is a scavenger hunt through the HM rulebook!)
2. The HM instructors/judges should arrive ½ hour prior to the PCers to review and get their items organized (sheets, twine set out, etc.), finalize briefing.
3. The 'CHMJ' should give a brief overview of expectations and the schedule for the day. Be sure to include rules (ex. No nails or screws, bathroom use, no running, parental help, etc.) Remind all to ask HM-judges with questions or requests for help!
4. Allow the PCers at least an hour to get set-up and organized in their tackroom.
5. The HM judges will be there to help provide assistance, answer questions, and supervises during the set-up.
6. After an hour, the judges will begin to go through the set-up and required equipment using the appropriate HM sheet. Be sure to include positive comments along with suggestions for improvements. This is the teaching moment! *Invite parents to watch this part so they are learning too!*
7. Each team will help prepare a rider for Formal Inspection according to their rating. (Or, have several teams combine to prepare a horse and rider)
8. Go through a Formal Inspection with an imaginary horse or a real horse with all the teams and parents present.

Evaluation:

1. Final briefing: Review and explain the other HM score sheets that are used in Rallies. The CHMJ only assigns points and scores are posted with an inquiry time explained.
2. Give congratulations to all participants and parents! Reminders to clean up and thank the organizer(s)!

What went well?

What would I change or add next year?