



## What is Pony Club?

Pony Club is one of the leading equestrian organizations in the world, represented throughout 30 countries! Pony Club now provides opportunities for instruction and competition in riding, horse sports and horse management for all ages. The term "pony" reflects the age of the members, rather than the size of the mount. Programs are offered in Dressage, Eventing, Show Jumping, Mounted Games, Tetrathlon, Knowledge, Hunt Seat Equitation, Western and Polocrosse. During "unmounted" meetings, members learn about feeding, shoeing, veterinary care, and other areas of horse management.



Under adult supervision, the more experienced Pony Club members instruct and assist less experienced members. Many competitive riders at the national and international level are graduates of Pony Club. The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. (USPC) is divided into 44 regions. The Virginia Region (VRPC) has 10 local clubs and 2 riding centers. When a member joins a local pony club or riding center, they also join the region where that club or center belongs and USPC.



To get more information, visit our website at [www.vrponyclub.org](http://www.vrponyclub.org) or email our Membership Coordinator at [VRPCmembership@gmail.com](mailto:VRPCmembership@gmail.com).

# Join Today!

# What do you do in Pony Club?



Mounted lessons are usually during the spring and fall and 'Ground schools' or unmounted meetings are usually during the winter months. Pony Clubs meet at locations central to their members. Most clubs offer group lessons with the members divided by skill level for riding lessons. Club ground school meetings are also usually divided by certification (skill) level. The Virginia Region offers clinics and ground schools for various levels too. You do not have to own your own horse but you need access to a horse or pony and trailer for lessons and competitions. Or, you can join one of the Riding Centers and use their horses.

## How can I participate?



Clubs send teams to various regional "rallies," or Pony Club competitions, throughout the year. The mounted rallies have teams of (usually) 4 riders and an unmounted horse manager. Winners of the regional rallies can go on to the national level.

Pony Club is a volunteer organization and many hands make light work! Ideally, parents (or supporters) should be present during meetings. All families are encouraged to work to make our clubs and region successful. And the rallies require many volunteers. There are even tasks for those who aren't familiar with horses!

You must pay National, Regional, and local dues each year to be a Pony Club member. Regional and National dues are approximately \$26 and \$130 respectively. Club dues vary anywhere from \$25 to \$125. All clubs are non-profit organizations and most hold fundraisers to help offset their programs.

## Is there a club near me?

We are a far-flung Northern Virginia region with members from Arlington to Richmond and over into the edge of West Virginia. Some of us have horses at home; others board at small barns. Riding Centers are commercial barns that offer pony club opportunities to their youth. If you don't have your own horse or pony and would like to try pony club without making that investment, one of our Riding Centers may be an option for you.