Horse Rider



Riding a horse can be a thrilling experience. Learning to ride takes time and practice. This badge will give you a "leg up" on your riding skills.





1. Get Ready to Ride
Saddle and bridle a horse by yourself. Explain the care and use of each part of the tack and the importance of correct fitting. Hitch a horse at the correct height when bridled, using a halter, a suitable knot, and the correct length of lead rope.

2. Equipment Expert
Visit a harness or tack shop or obtain a harness catalog and become acquainted with different styles of saddles, bridles, and bits. Find out the advantages of each type and know the approximate cost of each type. Teach someone else how to clean and care for tack.

3. In Good Form
Show that you can do the following in good form:

- Mount and dismount correctly
- Turn and stop a horse, at both a walk and a trot, and on command

4. Clips, Combs, and More
Examine the tools used to groom a horse. Discover the purpose of each. Learn to use the brush and currycomb. Learn how to brush a horse before and after saddling. Practice safe stall and barn behavior.

5. Ride On
Plan and take part in a ride with others that includes a trail breakfast or other meal, group skill riding, or a cross-country ride.

6. Horses, Safety, and You
Explain to your troop, friends, or family the safety regulations for riding, and equestrian etiquette. Show how to give proper hand signals when riding on public roads and how to do an emergency dismount at halt and at walk. Tell what to do if your horse rears, trips, bucks, stops, or bolts.

7. Horse Anatomy
Name the principal parts of a horse. Find out from a veterinarian or horse trainer what can be done to prevent the common ailments or diseases of horses.

8. New Skills
Identify two new riding skills you want to learn. Then work with an instructor to learn and practice.

9. Perfect Your Form
Take riding lessons to learn the basics of riding: lead a horse before and after riding, mount and dismount, start, stop and back up, ride at a walk and trot, and guide a horse while riding and with supervision. Already know the basics? Then demonstrate to others how to mount and dismount, and ride at a walk and a trot. Show others how to groom a horse and how to care for a horse after exercising.

10. See for Yourself
Take a trip to a state or county fair to see a horse show. If possible, enter a show class that is right for you and your horse.

