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## **NCMT HORSE SHOWS**

Showing is completely up to each individual child's interests and goals, and NCMT does not promote a competitive atmosphere. Show participation does not affect the promotion process through NCMT's horsemanship ranks or riding levels. Nevertheless, we like to provide opportunities for those cadets who want to show. There are several different kinds of shows that Troop offers. If you are interested in showing, ask your instructor about how to proceed. Sign-up sheets for all NCMT hosted shows are put up outside of the office about a month in advance; and are taken down about two weeks prior to the show so entries and horse assignments can be processed.

**NCMT Review Shows:** Review shows are held twice a year at the end of each semester following our Review Ceremonies. They are considered "schooling shows" which means they are run solely by NCMT management and not governed by USEF (US Equestrian Federation - formerly the American Horse Show Assoc.). They are for NCMT members only and we have the flexibility to decide what classes to hold and what to ask the riders to do. Schooling shows are a great way to get your feet wet and introduce yourself to what recognized horse shows are like. They offer a low-pressure environment while still going through the motions of a recognized horse show. Schooling or Review shows are a prerequisite for cadets that are interested in participating in Open shows.

These shows are held twice a year at Review time (Dec. and June). The dress code is a little less formal (see below), but riders are still expected to be neat and clean. Troopers need to sign up in advance on the posters at Troop. The cost is roughly \$85 and is usually paid by check the morning of the show when you pick up the "number" that you wear while showing.

**Open Shows:** Open shows are competitions governed and recognized by the USEF. These shows are open to the general public so any barn that cares to attend may do so. At these shows Troopers are competing against riders that they don't know. This also means that the number of riders per class is usually higher than that of Review or schooling show. Dress for these shows is much stricter as a judge can take off points for inappropriate attire/hair. (See below)

Open shows follow either the rules of the USEF, so there may not always be classes for every level. Open shows hosted at NCMT are a prerequisite for cadets that are interested in participating in "away" horse shows off-site.

### **OPEN Shows Hosted at NCMT**

**USEF Recognized Shows:** NCMT hosts four OPEN shows a year: one in October, one in March, and two in July. The types of classes and requirements are determined by USAE. Riders are required to participate in at least one schooling show before competing in an Open Show. It is also highly recommended that students who have never shown before attend an Open Show as a spectator before they are entered as a rider in one of these shows. Lower-level riders usually begin showing in the Walk-Trot or Short Stirrup divisions. Each division consists of either three or four classes.

Classes fall into two categories: Equitation or Hunter. Equitation classes are judged more strongly on the skills of the rider, while in Hunter classes the participation, manners and correctness of the horse are also strongly considered. In Equitation classes the points received are kept by the rider, while in Hunter divisions the points are kept by the horse. Class choices are decided by the instructors and horse assignments are carefully decided for these shows. The cost is roughly \$200 and is paid by check the morning of the show when you pick up the "number" that you wear while showing.

**Intercollegiate-Style Show:** For these shows a horse is drawn by lot (within ability levels) so the rider does not know which horse they will ride until the morning of the show. This is the style of showing that is used at many colleges and universities. The riders that come from other barns follow the same rules and ride our horses. Occasionally, another barn brings horses that are included in the draw. The cost is roughly \$75. and is paid by check the morning of the show when you pick up the "number" that you wear while showing.

### **"AWAY" Shows: OPEN Shows at Other Barns**

NCMT usually takes a small number of riders to local area Open Shows during the summer months. These shows follow the same rules as our open USAE shows, how formal the show is depends on it's rating (either A, B or C). In A and B rated competitions the horses' manes are usually braided and it is likely to have more participants per class – up to 50 + riders in some cases. Jumping rounds can take four hours to complete. These show are often held over several days, as the classes take a long time. Because the horses have to be trailered to the away barn, riders are generally required to get to NCMT as early as 5:00 AM. Extensive preparation takes place the day before including extra grooming and tack cleaning. Additionally, the cost of these shows is usually over \$400 due primarily to the cost of the horse trailer, and the higher cost of entrance fees. These shows are invoiced when all the charges are in.

**Invitational Shows:** These shows can be either at NCMT or away. Usually one or two barns are invited to compete for specified classes. The number of entrants per class is determined ahead of time. They are usually Intercollegiate-Style shows, i.e., horses are drawn not chosen. When one of these shows is planned Kristen explains how cadets are chosen. Typically a pool of cadets qualifies according to their Troop record (participation work ethic, attendance, rank) as well as experience and riding ability. Once the pool is

determined, cadets are selected randomly and asked if they can participate. If a cadet cannot or does not want to go, the next cadet on the list is asked and so on until the team is filled. Cost varies depending on location of the show.

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**SHOW ATTIRE**

As noted above, the more formal the show the more important the attire and appearance of the rider. Items that a rider should have are as follows:

For Short Stirrup or below:

Clean jodhpurs

Jodhpur accessories: garters\*(straps that wrap around below the knee) and pant loops under boots.

Polished paddock boots

Hair braided with ribbons tied on the ends

For Classes above Short Stirrup:

Clean britches or jodhpurs (accessories as above if wearing jodhpurs)

Polished Boots (field or paddock)

Hair nets, hair brush, ties for putting hair up under helmet

Everyone:

Show Jacket\*

Show Shirt\* with collar

Belt

Hard Hat (ASTM Approved)

Spurs/crop if needed

For away shows: boot polishing kit

Children age 13 or older or over 5' in height, or showing a full size horse in divisions more advanced than short Stirrup should wear tall boots.

\*NCMT has some of these items available for borrowing

\*Not required for NCMT Review shows

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