



ORIENTATION –September 2017

Contents

- 1 Welcome to NCMT!
- 6 Contact Information
- 7 Curriculum Guidelines for Equine Care and Full Horsemanship Programs
- 11 Review Ceremonies and Promotions
- 12 NCMT Leadership Council – Criteria to Join
- 13 “Horse Shows 101”
- 18 Addendum: Our new website: How to Log In as an NCMT member
- 19 SUPER TROOPERS Therapeutic Riding
- 21 Book Listing on Loss of an Animal/Pet



WELCOME TO NCMT!

NCMT Is Much More than a Riding Program

NCMT is a nonprofit organization. Its mission is “To build leadership, responsibility and confidence in youth through sound horsemanship and to enrich the lives of individuals with special needs through equine assisted activities.” *All horses and ponies in NCMT’s care are donated and made available to our students.* Your child will learn horsemanship skills from the ground up. As our students progress with the help of our staff and that of older students, they gradually master horse care and riding skills and take on additional responsibilities at the barn.

NCMT provides your child with many opportunities for social interaction. It is a place to have fun, to meet new friends, and to experience the meaning of teamwork while discovering the wonders of horses.

There is a lot going on at NCMT: each child actively participates and becomes part of our NCMT family. There are many aspects to our program, giving everyone a chance to excel at what they do best, regardless of athletic ability.

- **Mentor Groups:** All students are assigned to a mentor group directed by an older Trooper. Your child receives assistance from other Troopers to prepare for riding lessons and to perform barn related chores. Mentors maintain contact with their mentees to engage them in upcoming events throughout the year. They plan and run many activities together.
- **Social Activities:** NCMT offers several social events during the year, including the Halloween Parade, Gymkhanas and fundraising events (November and June) to which *your entire family is invited to participate.* Friends are welcome to join in the fun but NCMT needs to be informed of the presence of guests.
- **Trooper Nights:** for Troopers only who attend fun activities on a regular basis and in a supervised setting.
- **Community Service:** NCMT offers children a chance to participate in community service through special events organized by older students. Older students are also invited to volunteer in our Super Troopers Therapeutic Riding Program.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **Communication:** To keep you informed of upcoming events and schedule changes, NCMT sends out regular emails and a monthly newsletter, “Troop Scoop”, once a year. NCMT will also post sign-up sheets in the barn for Trooper Events and Horse Shows. We will have information on our website. Please visit our website frequently at: www.newcanaanmountedtroop.org. to stay current with Troop happenings! Please login under the “Members” tab to access all program information, photos and more!

Missed Barn Day or Lessons: If you know in advance that your child will miss a lesson or barn day, please email Anne Dylewski, Hannah Jones and Sam Miller. Children ranked First Lieutenant or higher will need to find a substitute for their missed barn days.

For Same-day absences please call the office as soon as possible and leave a message that your child will not be at Troop that day.

Program Closure: NCMT follows the policy of the New Canaan Public Schools. In the event of unscheduled program closure , such as inclement weather, NCMT will send an email with notification.

- A **Calendar of Events** is available on our website. It is updated regularly.
- A **Membership Directory** is available on our website under the “Members” section to facilitate communication between students and families.
- **Administration:** Please read enrollment documentation and contact the office with questions. An enrolled student commits to attend the full academic year. Tuition includes riding and equine care lessons/barn days, and some social events. It is non-refundable.
- **Billing:** All invoices will be sent via email. Please put quickbooks@notification.intuit.com into your address book to avoid the invoices going into spam.

Tuition invoices for the full horsemanship program will be sent on or around the first of the month in 4 installments and are due within 30 days:

<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
October 1	November 1
December 1	January 1
February 1	March 1
April 1	May 1

Tuition invoices for the equine care program will be sent semi-annually and are due within 30 days. Payments received 10 or more days after the due date are subject to a \$25 late fee.

<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
December 1	January

Payments for horse shows, a la carte lessons and private lessons are due on the day of the event. Please put checks for lessons in the cash box in the downstairs office. Checks for horse shows should be given to the horse show secretary.

- **Group Riding Lessons:** Lessons include a maximum of five children. (“Beginner 1” level has a maximum of four participants.) At the very start, students may be split into two groups for greater individual attention. Once they become more proficient, they will groom, tack, ride and untack together. *Parents are encouraged to watch the lessons and are welcome to contact the instructors to discuss progress.* A student should:
 - ✓ arrive 30 minutes before the scheduled lesson time
 - ✓ check their name off the attendance sheet
 - ✓ check in with the officer on duty
 - ✓ check the daily horse assignment list to find out what horse to ride
 - ✓ check in with a staff member in the barn, who will provide assistance as needed

- **Equine Care Instruction/Barn Day:** Students are supervised in the barn and are instructed on horse care and stable management. They participate in a weekly lesson on a variety of horse-related topics. It is recommended to make up a missed lecture within the week to keep up with peers. A student should:
 - ✓ check in with the officer on duty
 - ✓ check their name off the attendance sheet
 - ✓ check the assignment list of duties
 - ✓ attend the lecture
 - ✓ perform assigned tasks
 - ✓ assist others who might need help
 - ✓ ask any questions and seek out help as needed

- **Dress Code for Lessons**
 - ✓ A safety-approved (ASTM approved–SEI certified) helmet with harness is **mandatory** for all riders, who must bring their own helmet to each lesson. Riding without a helmet is prohibited at all times.
 - ✓ Breeches with tall boots, or jodhpurs with paddock boots, or breeches with half chaps. Denim or jeans not permitted.
 - ✓ Shirts must be tucked into breeches or jodhpurs. Sweaters, sweatshirts or jackets must be waist length and as form-fitting as possible. Tank tops are not recommended.
 - ✓ Gloves are recommended.
 - ✓ Girls must have their hair tied back off their faces.
 - ✓ Riders should be dressed appropriately for weather. Please send riders to the barn with gloves and warm clothes in winter to ensure comfort during outdoor activities.

- **Dress Code for Barn Day**
 - ✓ Appropriate footwear—paddock boots, work boots or sturdy sneakers—is required. Sandals, flip-flops, and open-toed shoes are not safe and not permitted in the barn.
 - ✓ Long trousers/pants/jeans are strongly recommended. For safety, these should not drag on the ground.
 - ✓ Tank tops are not recommended.
 - ✓ Gloves are recommended.
 - ✓ Please send students to the barn with warm clothes in winter to ensure comfort.
- **Make-Up Policy:** Make-up lessons are offered if a student gives at least 24 hours' notice prior to the missed lesson. They must be scheduled during one of the indicated makeup days:

Once-a-week riders:	1 makeup per semester (Fall and Spring)
Twice-a-week riders:	2 makeups per semester (Fall and Spring)

In the event of a long-term illness or injury, where a trooper is out for two (2) or more weeks, please contact the office.

- **Barn Day Substitute:** If a student (ranking 1st Lieutenant and above) cannot attend a barn day, it is his or her responsibility to find a substitute for the day.
- **Horse Shows:** Please refer to “Horse shows 101” for complete information. Parent permission is required for participation.
- **NCMT Review Ceremonies** take place in December and June. *All troopers are strongly encouraged to attend.* New troopers are formally inducted into the organization in December, and they receive honor bars based on overall achievement that recognize a child’s growth and progress at NCMT; recognition is not limited to athletic ability. Troopers can expect to serve a minimum of one year at each ranking level before having earned the right to be promotion. Perpetual trophies are awarded in June. Troopers also have the option of demonstrating their riding skills at the Review Horse Show held after the ceremony, which is open to all Troopers.
- **Friends:** For safety reasons, we cannot accommodate friends of Troopers on riding or equine care days. Friends are welcome to attend special events under parent supervision. Please let us know if you are bringing friends to those events so we can plan accordingly.
- **Behavioral issues:** Mutual respect is highly valued in our program. Every Trooper is expected to uphold certain standards. Good behavior is important to maintain a safe and fun environment for all who attend NCMT. Infractions will be discussed with students and warnings may be issued. Parents will be contacted after two warnings. NCMT reserves the right to suspend a student from the program due to repeated behavioral issues.

- **Illness/Death of a Horse:** In the event of an equine fatality, an email notification will be sent to parents. We feel strongly that honesty is best in dealing with such situations. Our staff will be available to all members for animal questions and support. There is a list of suggested books addressing the death of an animal at the end of this packet
- **Cell phones:** The use of cell/mobile phones or other electronic devices is not permitted in the ring or while working at the barn.
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- **Tetanus vaccinations and boosters:** NCMT recommends up-to-date boosters and/or a discussion with your doctor.
- **Annual Meeting:** Members are encouraged to attend our Annual Meeting in June.

Parent Involvement and Volunteering at NCMT

NCMT is run by a volunteer Board of Directors that operates with various committees. There is a volunteer opportunity for every parent. Please let us know your area expertise if you are interested in joining a committee (fundraising, parent, community outreach, communications, finance, facility maintenance).

Like many other nonprofits, NCMT relies on fundraising events to make all of its programs possible. ***Volunteer support is a large factor in the success of those events. It is also a great way to meet other parents.*** Request for help is sent via e-mail; your reply is appreciated. You can help with a one-time task or get involved with the fundraising committee on an ongoing basis.

Our “Super Troopers” therapeutic riding and equine care program offers another volunteer opportunity for parents and Troopers 14-years and older. Experience is not required since training is provided. For more information, please email Caroleigh Evarts, our Therapeutic Program Coordinator, directly at supertroopers@newcanaanmountedtroop.org.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Office Telephone: (203) 966-0634
Fax: (203) 966-8592
Mailing address: 22 Carter Street, New Canaan, CT 06840-5005

Website: www.newcanaanmountedtroop.org
Facebook Page: facebook.com/New Canaan Mounted Troop
Facebook - Alumni Page: facebook.com/New Canaan Mounted Troop - Troopers & Alumni
Instagram: @ncmt_new_canaan_mounted_troop
Twitter: @ NCMountedTroop

OUR STAFF:

Executive Director: **Sara Tucker**
sara.tucker@newcanaanmountedtroop.org

Equestrian Program Coordinator: **Stephanie Cowser**
stephanie.cowser@newcanaanmountedtroop.org

Super Troopers Program Coordinator **Caroleigh Evarts**
caroleigh.evarts@newcanaanmountedtroop.org

Administrative Assistant/
Fundraising Coordinator **Pat Bradley**
pat.bradley@newcanaanmountedtroop.org

Barn Manager: **Anne Dylewski**
anne.dylewski@newcanaanmountedtroop.org

Head Riding Instructor: **Hannah Jones**
hannah.jones@newcanaanmountedtroop.org

Riding Instructor: **Sam Miller**
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Equine Care Instructor **Kate McCormick**
Kate.mccormick@newcanaanmountedtroop.org



CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

EQUINE CARE PROGRAM

The Equine Care Program is mandatory for all Troopers. It is a hands-on program designed to enrich a student's experience at NCMT through an engaging curriculum founded on fundamental horsemanship and basic veterinary care instruction. Once a week, Troopers actively work with the horses and ponies in a controlled, safe environment, overseen by adult staff members and senior ranking officers who are known as the Captain and the Tack Sergeant of the Barn Day. Troopers are required to attend a 30-minute weekly equine care interactive lecture as part of a series that cover various topics. The structure of the barn day promotes leadership and teamwork as well as mentoring. Troopers are required to complete the tasks necessary to maintain a neat, orderly, and highly functional stable. Barn chores are mandatory and are an integral part of NCMT's complete horsemanship approach. Troopers are evaluated and promoted based on their performance and knowledge.

EQUINE CARE CURRICULUM

The curriculum is structured to incorporate all facets of horsemanship, equine care, and showmanship through the use of handouts, games, lectures, video, and live demonstrations. Each week features a particular equine-related topic which include:

- Barn and Equine Safety
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Horse Tack and Apparel
- Barn Tools and Practices
- Grooming Techniques
- Horse Mentality & Behavior
- Veterinary Disorders, Diseases and Treatment
- Showmanship
- Rider Equipment and Apparel
- Current Events
- Equine Events
- Breeds

Relevant material is available on NCMT's website in the "Members Only" section.

BARN DAY CHORES

The Captain and Tack Sergeant oversee younger Troopers, who are responsible for organizing and cleaning the barn. It is the role of the Captain and of the Tack Sergeant to mentor, assist and train the younger Troopers on how to complete needed tasks to ensure that the tack room, grooming stalls and barn aisles are kept clean and orderly. Such tasks may include:

- Sweeping and blowing aisles
- Grooming horses
- Putting away grooming tools
- Laundry
- Feeding hay and grain
- Watering
- Tidying up the Learning Center
- Dusting wall boxes
- Turnout
- Blanketing
- Cleaning tack and organizing the tack room

FULL HORSEMANSHIP PROGRAM

NCMT instructors teach from a curriculum that specifies required Ground and Horsemanship Skills for each level. Students can remain at each level for 1 to 2 academic years, developing proficiency in the appropriate skills before moving up to a higher level.

BEGINNER 1:

Little or no previous riding experience. Students at this level may have had some previous riding experience, but may not know general horse handling or the basic commands. For the first few months, two students share a horse: each student receives instruction for half an hour while the other student receives ground instruction. Once appropriate horsemanship skills are mastered, students are assigned their own horse and ride for a full hour. Introduction to grooming, tacking up, untacking and cleaning tack properly will be given.

To graduate to the next level,

Must be confident with the basics of walk and trot, balance, steering, halting, and controlling the horse at a walk and a trot. Students must be able to trot for an extended period of time without assistance. They must know diagonals and how to identify the correct one while riding. Students must also be able to tack up with little or no assistance. The students must be ready and willing to learn to canter.

They must be able to:

- Understand barn rules and safety
- Be comfortable working around horses
- Halter and lead with assistance
- Identify parts of tack and understand their purpose
- Understand the use of the various grooming tools
- Groom with assistance
- Hold reins properly

BEGINNER 2:

Students must be able to walk independently in a group setting, balance at the walk standing up out of the saddle, and half seat at the walk. The students can keep horse trotting for extended periods of time, and be able to determine diagonals; can tack up with assistance. During this phase, the students will begin to learn to canter.

To graduate to next level,

Students can mount and walk off unassisted. They know how to ask the horse to move forward, turn and stop. Students must be comfortable with trotting and cantering independently. They will be able to ride a variety of different horses, and trot for extended periods of time. Students must be ready to start cantering in a group.

They must also be able to:

- **Halter and lead with moderate assistance**
- **Groom with moderate assistance**
- **Know the different brushes and use in correct order on their own**
- **Tack up with moderate assistance**
- **Begin to understand position; heels down, correct half seat, and balance**
- **Sit up tall in the saddle with their heels down**
- **Walk and trot independently in a group setting, and canter independently one at a time**

ADVANCED BEGINNER 1: The students are currently able to walk, trot and canter independently in a group setting. At this level, students need to be comfortable working around horses, should be grooming, haltering, leading a horse, tacking up with less assistance and have a basic knowledge of the saddle and bridle parts and general stable safety. Students will begin to trot cross rails at this level.

To graduate to next level,

Students must be ready to canter around the ring in a group setting, and have an understanding of leads at the canter. At the end of this level, students should be comfortable trotting individual cross rails.

They must also be able to:

- **Halter and lead without assistance**
- **Groom without assistance**
- **Tack up without assistance**
- **Put on splint/bell boots with assistance**
- **Check girth before mounting**
- **Correct length of and untwist reins**
- **Maintain safe distance from other horses in the ring**
- **Have correct leg and body position when applying aids**
- **Sit at the trot and also maintain the half seat at the trot**
- **Transition from walk to trot with their heels down**
- **Drop and pick up stirrups**
- **Begin to understand what aids are and their use**

ADVANCED BEGINNER 2: Currently able to walk and trot in a group setting, and to trot cross rails, the students will begin to canter as a group. Students will begin to advance to cantering cross rails. Students should have a solid understanding of “diagonals” at the trot and have a preliminary understanding of leads at the canter. Students should be proficient at grooming.

To graduate to next level,

Must be confident cantering and jumping cross rails on a variety of horses. Should have a strong understanding of diagonals and correct leads. Should be starting to flat without stirrups and be able to jump a course of cross rails.

They must also be able to:

- Put on standing wraps and polos with supervision and/or assistance
- Canter in the half seat to full seat without breaking from the canter
- Drop and pick up stirrups at the trot
- Collect and lengthen
- Count strides at the canter
- Ready to jump 2’0”

INTERMEDIATE 1: Must be confident cantering and able to jump a course of cross rails on a variety of horses and ready to jump 2’0”. Should have a strong understanding of correct leads. Should be starting to flat without stirrups and be ready to jump a course of cross rails. Should be ready to start learning leg yielding, lateral movement, and flexion.

To graduate to next level:

Must be confident in jumping skills and should be able to do a basic course on a variety of horses. Should be starting to understand take off distances at the jumps and have the ability to count strides between related obstacles. Should understand concept of leg yielding, and lateral movements.

They must also be able to:

- Adjust girth and stirrups while mounted with minimal help
- Put on polos with little or no assistance
- Work on a refined body position
- Demonstrate simple changes of leads on a figure eight
- Serpentine demonstrating a change in bend
- Understands what a distance is
- Count strides in between fences
- Consistently uses the correct release with the motion of the horse
- Be ready to jump 2’3”
- Know how to demonstrate a hand gallop

INTERMEDIATE 2: With a solid knowledge of the Intermediate 1 level, students must be capable of performing simple changes of lead, and ride on the flat without stirrups. Students should understand how to see a distance, and count “1, 2, 3” to the take off spot, and canter a course of eight jumps, correcting leads and counting number of strides between jumps. Students should be able to trot a jump without stirrups. Students should know the correct pace for flat and for jumping and be able to effectively open and close the horses stride length.

To graduate to next level,

Students should be confident at the Intermediate 2 level, and able to jump courses on any troop horse or pony. Student should be comfortable jumping a 2’3” course and should have an understanding of flying changes, leg yielding, counting strides between jumps. Students will be ready to jump without stirrups. Students will learn more sophisticated tracks on course such as rollbacks, inside turns and end jumps. Students will be ready for more technical skills including gymnastics and 2 strides. Flatwork should be advanced.

They must also be able to:

- Demonstrate a leg yield
- Counter canter
- Put on polo’s independently
- Know how to adjust strides
- Drop and pick up stirrups
- Jump confidently without stirrups
- Demonstrate a crest and automatic release
- Demonstrate a simple change of leads
- Demonstrate leg yields on a variety of horses

ADVANCED:

At this level, students will be able to demonstrate more advanced flatwork on any troop horse; have a strong understanding of lateral and diagonal aids, impulsion, contact and flexion.

They should have a strong knowledge of when to use the half seat versus full seat, haunches in and out, and shoulder in and out. Students should be able to canter jumps without stirrups and counter canter a jump. Students should be proficient at flying changes, counter canter, calculating strides, lengthening and collection of stride, and “flexion” of the horse.

Students should be able to analyze and ride broken and bending lines, combinations, and inside turn options. Students should be comfortable jumping complex courses (hunter and equitation style.) Horsemanship skills include the ability to assess vital signs, including taking a horse’s temperature. Students should be able to identify conformation flaws. They should be able to recognize a problem with a horse’s overall well being and identify the need for basic emergency care. They will also learn how to poultice, and lunge.

REVIEW CEREMONIES AND PROMOTIONS

Each December and June, NCMT holds a Review Ceremony during which Troopers are recognized for their progress and are awarded honor bars. Prior to these ceremonies, staff members evaluate each Trooper's progression so that they can be recognized for their achievements. At the Review, Troopers may be promoted through the Junior Cavalry ranks. Promotions, along with honor bars, are NCMT's rewards for individual improvement – they symbolize recognition of work ethic, responsibility and dedication to the program. Riding level and ability are not key factors in the promotion process. The Executive Committee also reviews promotions. The traditional ranks were founded by the Junior Cavalry of America in 1928 are still used at NCMT today. Please refer to the history of NCMT on our website for additional information. From highest to lowest, the ranks consist of:

Cadet Major (single highest ranking Trooper)
Captain
First Lieutenant
Second Lieutenant
Sergeant
Corporal
Cadet

The promotion process at NCMT is based on the following criteria:

- overall effort and dedication
- Troop spirit, sportsmanship, courteousness, willingness to help
- barn day performance and work ethic relative to rank
- horsemanship skills relative to rank
- overall program attendance (Full Horsemanship Program students: barn day and lesson participation. Equine Care Only Program: barn day participation)
- lecture attendance and attentiveness
- compliance with dress code

Troopers typically serve a minimum of 12 to 24 months at any given rank before becoming eligible for a promotion.

The normal progression through the ranks may vary slightly with age and experience level.

It is important to understand that everyone progresses and learns at his or her own pace. The curriculum guidelines detail the NCMT riding levels. The average progression through these levels is one to two years but can take longer. Please remember that when determining level placement and progression, we carefully evaluate students' current riding skills as well as their level of confidence, their understanding of technical aids and theory, their size and physical strength, their problem solving skills, and ability to handle horses at the next level.

If you have any questions about your child's progress, please feel free to contact his or her instructor.

THE NCMT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Leadership Council (“TLC”) provides an opportunity for our Troopers to take on a leadership role within the Officer’s Council and to fulfill our mission of “building leadership, responsibility and confidence in youth”. Troopers who are a High School student or a 1st Lieutenant and wish to further their commitment to NCMT are eligible to join the TLC. Leadership Council members must attend their workday regularly, have a strong work ethic, and be effective role models to their fellow Troopers. To demonstrate leadership, juniors and seniors in High School are expected to organize and manage one social event per year.

To join the TLC, Troopers must:

- Be a high school student and/or 1st Lieutenant.
- Be a trooper for at least six months.
- Submit a written paragraph explaining why they want to join the TLC.
- Attend at least 60% of TLC meetings during the year.
- Attend at least 60% of NCMT events.

If a TLC member does not satisfy minimum attendance requirements, the council reserves the right to ask that member to leave the TLC.

TLC members will receive acknowledgement of community service for volunteering at any of the following functions:

- Horseless Horse Show and Gymkhana
- Halloween Parade and Carnival
- Trooper Nights
- NCMT Horse Shows
- Fall and Spring Fundraisers
- Barn Dance

ASSISTANT TRAINER PROGRAM

The assistant trainer program is open to troopers looking to gain experience as a riding instructor. Eligible troopers will assist the trainers in lessons and follow their lesson plans with the goal of being able to teach independently. Qualified troopers will be need to be:

- Juniors and Seniors in High School *and*
- First Lieutenants and Captains *and*
- Available to commit to a weekly schedule for at least one class

“HORSE SHOWS 101”

Showing is entirely up to a child’s individual interests and goals. While NCMT does not predicate its business model on the buying, selling, and showing of horses, we do promote good sportsmanship and a chance to test one’s riding skills in a competitive format. Show participation does not affect the promotion process through NCMT ranks or riding levels. Yet, NCMT provides students such opportunities for those who want to show. Please discuss your possible interest with NCMT instructors. There are several different kinds of shows available. Sign-up sheets for all NCMT hosted shows will be posted outside of the office a month in advance, and taken down about two weeks prior to the show, so entries and horse assignments can be processed.

WHY DOES NCMT HOST HORSE SHOWS?

- To allow our Troopers the opportunity to test their skills in a competitive environment.
- **IT’S FUN!**

“SCHOOLING HORSE SHOWS” – A horse show that does not carry a rating by an official governing organization such as the USEF (US Equestrian Federation – formerly the American Horse Show Association) or the USHJA (United States Hunter Jumper Association).

Schooling shows are offered to NCMT members only. Our staff has the flexibility to decide what classes to hold, and what the riders will do. A schooling show judge does NOT have to hold a judge’s card, and may not be recognized by the USEF or USHJA. Schooling shows are a great way to “get your feet wet” and can serve as an introduction to “Rated” horse shows. They offer a low-pressure environment and are less costly than Rated or Open shows. Schooling or Review shows are a prerequisite for Troopers that are interested in participating in Open shows.

Cost: The cost of a Review Show is \$110, which includes the horse use fee, division fees, and training fee. It is paid by check the morning of the show when you pick up the “number” that you wear while showing.

Accumulation of Points: Riders do **NOT** accumulate points towards year-end awards. There are NO association membership fees. These shows are mainly for fun and to practice one’s competitive skills.

Dress Code: The dress code is a little less formal than at rated shows but riders are expected to be neatly dressed.

NCMT offers 3 schooling shows per year: two Review Ceremony Horse Shows (in December and June) and a Benefit Horse Show/Gymkhana in May.

“RATED OR OPEN HORSE SHOWS” – Rated or Open shows are competitions governed and recognized by the USEF and USHJA. These shows are open to the general public: other barns attend them. NCMT Open Shows carry a rating of “C”, which is the lowest rating the USEF/USHJA assigns, and require a minimum number of 25 entries. Troopers compete against riders from other barns. This also means that the number of riders per class is usually higher than that of a schooling show. The dress code for these shows is much stricter and a judge can take off points for inappropriate attire.

Open shows follow either the rules of the USEF/USHJA: there may not always be classes for every level. Open shows hosted at NCMT are a prerequisite for troopers that are interested in participating in “away” or off-site horse shows. NCMT offers between 5 and 6 rated horse shows per year, typically in:

- March – USEF/USHJA “C” Rated
- Early July – USEF/USHJA “C” Rated
- Mid July – USEF/USHJA “C” Rated
- End of July – Blue Ribbon Ventures/CHJA/NEHC rated show. Double points Hoof Print High Score.
- August – FWPHA double points show
- October– USEF/USHJA “C” Rated

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Cost: The cost to compete in an NCMT Open show includes:

- \$125 horse use fee and training fee
- Regular Classes \$30
- Medals & Classics \$45
- Office Fee \$20
- NCMT Warm Up \$15
- Average cost to compete in one full division of three classes is approximately \$250, excluding one-time association membership fees that may also be required.

Accumulating Points for Year End Awards: A rider who is a paying member of the USEF/USHJA earns points in the divisions in which they compete. Such points are accumulated towards year end awards. Other organizations that govern showing may recognize NCMT’s one-day horse shows, and may also require membership in order to earn points towards year end awards. Points can be accrued in the hunter, jumper, or equitation divisions. In 2015, fees for Association memberships were:

- Hoof Print Series – Blue Ribbon Ventures (local level) – \$30
- FW-PHA – Fairfield Westchester Professional Horseman’s Association (county level) -\$55
- CHJA – Connecticut Hunter Jumper Association (state level) -\$30 for juniors, \$35 for adults
- NEHC – New England Horseman’s Council (regional level) – \$25
- USEF/USHJA – (national level) \$125 for both

NCMT encourages Troopers to become members in order to be eligible for “Finals” competitions and year-end awards.

INTERSCHOLASTIC EQUESTRIAN ASSOCIATION (IEA)

As of 2017 NCMT has formed an IEA riding team.. The mission of IEA is to introduce students in middle and secondary schools (grades 6-12) to equestrian sports, to develop an understanding and appreciation of equestrian sports through organized student competitions, to provide students with organized competitive events and to provide additional equine educational opportunities. This program is an additional commitment apart from our Equine Care and Full Horsemanship programs. For more information, please contact Stephanie Cowser.

“AWAY” SHOWS

NCMT may take a small number of riders to local area Open Shows in the **summer months**. These shows follow the same rules as the Open USEF shows; the formality of the show depends on its rating (A, B or C).

In “A” and “B” rated competitions, the horses’ manes and tails are usually braided. There are more participants per class – up to 50 + riders in some cases. Jumping rounds can take up to four hours to complete. These shows are often held over several days, as the classes take a long time. Because the horses have to be shipped by trailer to the away barn, riders may be required to be at NCMT as early as 5:00 AM to help pack the tack trunks and load the horses. Extensive preparations take place the day before the show, including extra horse grooming and tack cleaning.

The cost of these shows are billed to participating families. Example of the cost incurred for an Away Show:

- Braiding = \$50 for manes; \$35 for tails
- Horse Transportation = \$150 roundtrip
- Grooming = \$35 per day minimum, will vary
- Entries = \$35 to \$45 per class
- Office fees = \$20
- Stall fees = \$50 to \$75 per day, depending upon the show
- Training fees = \$75 per day per trainer
- Horse use fees = \$125 per day

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CLASSES?

Horse shows offer sets of classes, called “divisions”, for the various levels and abilities of both riders and horses. The three primary divisions are Equitation, Hunters and Jumpers. Within each division, there are several classes tailored to allow riders and horses to compete, from beginner to very advanced skill sets. Riders and horses who compete in several classes of a specific division can be eligible to become “champion” or “reserve champion” in that division by winning ribbons and accumulating points.

Equitation classes: The rider is judged based on position and ability to execute the course with seamless effort and high level of control. The horse is not judged, but the overall picture or presentation of the rider is very important. In Equitation classes, the rider accumulates points. Note that “Judging” can be subjective!

Equitation classes include:

- *Walk-Trot Equitation* – usually 2 classes - flat class only; no jumping.
- *Walk-Trot-Canter Equitation* – usually 2 classes - flat class only; no jumping.
- *Short Stirrup* - 1 flat and 2 jumping classes; open to riders age 12 or younger and includes a simple course of 4 cross-rails or “Xs” with no change of direction.
- *Academy Short Stirrup* - 1 flat and 2 jumping classes; open to riders over 13 years old and includes a simple course of 4 cross-rails or “Xs” with no change of direction.
- *Children’s Equitation* - 1 flat and 2 jumping classes; jumping classes range in height ranging from 2’, 2’3”, 2’6”, 2’9” and 3’. Courses include verticals, oxers, and changes of direction.

- *Junior Equitation* - 1 flat and 2 jumping classes which range in height from 3' to 4'. Courses include verticals, oxers, and changes of direction
- *Adult Equitation* - 1 flat and 2 jumping classes - height range from 3' to 3'6". Courses include verticals, oxers, and changes of direction.
- *Medal classes* - Jumping class that includes a test of the top four to six riders over a shortened course. The test is determined by the judge.
 - FWPHA
 - CHJA
 - NEHC
- "Big Eq" refers to Equitation Medal classes and Finals on a national level over fences that are 3'6" or higher
 - M&S – Marshall and Sterling
 - THIS – Taylor Harris Insurance Medal
 - USEF Pessoa Medal
 - ASPCA Maclay Medal
 - USET Medal

Hunters classes: The horse is judged on movement, expression, fluidity, and jumping style. A judge evaluates the straightness in the line of the rider, from the shoulder through the knee to the toe. The judge also looks for the arc, or bascule, of the horse. The horse's knees must be high and square under the horse's head, and the horse's hind end must follow or complete the arc that the front end sets. The horse's expression must be bright, with ears forward, and have a forward momentum. While the rider's accuracy and ability is critical, the judge is judging the horse. Judging can be subjective! It is the horse that accumulates points. Prize money is offered in most 3'6" or higher classes to the top 6 ribbon winners.

NCMT riders and horses typically compete in equitation and hunter classes. Jumper classes are set at higher heights and widths which can be very taxing on the horses and is not appropriate for the majority of our fleet.

Jumpers classes: The courses include colored jumps, double and/or triple combinations, water obstacles and others. Fence heights vary, but range from 1.10m to 1.60m, which is Olympic Grand Prix level. Courses are highly technical and challenging, which is why the horse or rider is not judged subjectively. The rider and horse are expected to be highly educated. The rider is judged strictly by the number of faults a horse and rider combination accumulate. Faults include (i) lowering the fence height, (ii) exceeding the time allowed, (iii) and refusals. Riders are eliminated for going off course, falling off, and having two refusals at any time during the course. There is usually substantial prize money offered to the first 6 ribbons in most jumper classes.

POINTS AND RIBBONS

Ribbons range from 1st to 10th place:

1 st – navy blue	6 th – green
2 nd – red	7 th – purple
3 rd – yellow	8 th – brown
4 th – white	9 th – grey
5 th – pink	10 th – baby blue

Point values are placed on each ribbon and can vary depending upon the class and rating of the show. The below table shows point values for ribbons in FWPCHA and CHJA rated classes. One needs 12 points to qualify for an FWPCHA, CHJA or Hoof Print Medal Finals.

Ribbon	Point Value
1 st	10
2 nd	6
3 rd	4
4 th	2
5 th	1
6 th	1/2

SHOW ATTIRE

Proper show attire is required at all rated shows, and subject to points. If a rider is not wearing proper show attire, a judge may subtract points from his/her score.

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.
- Black gloves
- Show shirt with collar
- Belt
- ASTM approved helmet
- Spurs and crop

For Classes above Short Stirrup:

- Clean britches or jodhpurs
- Polished Boots (field or paddock)
- Hair is tucked in a hairnet and pulled up under helmet.
- Black gloves
- Show shirt with collar
- Belt
- ASTM approved helmet
- Spurs and crop

Tall Boots

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 several of the listed items available for borrowing on the day of the show. If interested, please inquire with the office.

OUR NEW WEBSITE: HOW TO LOG IN AS AN NCMT MEMBER

www.newcanaanmountedtroop.org

Please register on our new website as soon as you can to access all valuable NCMT information – including program documentation, directory, photos and more.

It is a simple process:

- 1) Go to Member Registration in the upper right end corner of the home page.
- 2) Fill in the required information.
- 3) Select the appropriate account type (parents, volunteers and adult riders should select “NCMT Member”, Troopers should select “Trooper”, Super Trooper program participants and volunteers should select “Super Troopers”, alumni should select “Alumni”).
**Troopers must have their own email address to register.
- 4) Click on Register to submit your request for approval.
- 5) You will receive an email that your registration’s approval is pending.
- 6) You will receive another email when your registration has been approved.
- 7) You can then Login by using your user ID and password.

Below is a link to our NCMT tutorial video that will provide you with detailed instructions on how to create your own Profile. This is not a mandatory step but can be fun for all Troopers!

[NCMTTutorial.mp4](#)

If you have any question, please email info@newcanaanmountedtroop.org. Your question will be answered as soon as possible.

Thank you and enjoy our new website!



BOOK LISTING FOR LOSS OF AN ANIMAL/PET

Young Children

I Miss My Pet: A First Look at When a Pet Dies, Pat Thomas

When a Pet Dies, Fred Rogers, Mister Rogers' Neighborhood

The Rainbow Bridge, Adrian Raeside

Older Children

Will I See my Pet in Heaven, Jack Wintz

Fragile Tears: Stories & Guidance for Youth on the Passing Away of

Beloved Animal Companions, Alan Blain Cunningham

Lifetimes: The Beautiful Way to explain death to children, Bryan Mellonie

The Heaven of Animals, Nancy Tillman

Pet Loss: A Thoughtful Guide for Adults & Children, Herbert A. Nieburg

Older Teenagers/Adults

Goodbye, Friend: Healing Wisdom for Anyone Who Has Ever Lost a Pet, Gary Kowalski

Cold Noses at the Pearly Gates: A book for Hope for Those who have lost a pet, Gary Kurz