

Entertaining the Younger PC Members

Entertaining Members 10 years and under at Pony Club, is no easy task. Here are a few ideas that may help, keeping the cost to a minimum.

Drawing and Colouring

The Pony Club room or area should have a good stock of washable crayons, pencils, glue and paper. The younger Members love to be able to draw pictures or make things relating to what they have done or what they couldn't do if it was raining!

Rolls of lining wall paper can be spread on the floor; teams can draw a cartoon pony and label the points, or draw around the outline of the grooming brushes.

Making a hay net

All you need is several pieces of hay string, some bridle hooks and a few older Members to help. About 20 lengths each, knotted at one end and then creating a mesh pattern to the top. The end results are very interesting and most members like to take them home to use.

Quiz

A Quiz is always a great way of learning, having fun and working as a team. The Pony Club Quiz Books 1 & 2 are available from HQ, with hundreds of question and answers ready for you to use.

Treasure Hunt

A nature treasure hunt is fun to do mounted or unmounted. Give the Members a bag, and give them a list of goodies to find e.g.: a leaf, a feather, sheep's wool, a treat for you (sweets) and a treat for your pony (carrot).

Introduction to lungeing

The Members can lunge each other. They can look and handle the equipment, put brushing boots on and attach the lunge line. It is an excellent way for the Members to understand rhythm, footfalls and leading legs in canter. The Member standing in the middle improves communication skills and begins to get a feel of handling the lunge line and whip. This exercise is also great for Members with excess energy!

Rhythm and the footfalls can be explored further with plastic water bottles half filled with stones or gravel. 4 Members (EACH ACTING AS A LEG OF THE HORSE), can attempt to walk, trot and canter by shaking their bottle at the correct time. This can take a while to achieve, as the rhythm is not always good. You could also use music.

* Stand the bottles up on the ground and see if the Members can knock them over using the lunge whip correctly.

Unmounted Games

Bandaging race - Play three legged races, good practice for putting them on and re-rolling correctly.

Dressing up race - In their teams they race down to collect an item of clothing and put it on themselves or their pony.

Blind fold bridle race - Take the bridle apart, race up one by one to collect an item each. Return to the team captain who attempts to put it back together blind folded.

Grooming race - Run to get items of the grooming kit in your team.

Handy Pony Dressage

A great way to introduce dressage to the little ones is to have activities on, or in-between the dressage letters. E.g.: At **A** enter through the cones, at **X** be a statue on the square of carpet. At **C** collect a teddy and take it to **F**. Leave the teddy at **F**, trot to **K** to collect a bean bag, balance the bean bag on top of your hat and ride across the diagonal to **M**. At **M** drop the bean bag into the bucket, and so it goes on.

All you need is lots of fun props and helpers at the markers; to avoid the Members standing, there could be a few doing their Handy Pony Dressage test at one time.

ALL KING EDWARDS' HORSES CALL ME BEAUTIFUL FOOL

Themed days or rallies

At Christmas and Easter we usually have themed rallies or Easter egg hunts. But why not do a Wild West day or a Princess Rally. Use your imagination, you could have a session before to make hats, masks, saddle cloths etc. Why not involve the Parents to make cakes, hot dogs and treats.

Badge days or Club Evenings

Pony Club Achievement Badges: There are now 16 Equine badges and 13 Non-equine badges. Badge Buddy work books are available for some of the non equine badges. These are designed to assist your delivery of the badges, also so the Member can take them home.

You could persuade your local farmer to help with the Farming Badge. Or you may know somebody who loves working dogs. Tomato Ketchup is an essential for the First Aid Badge. Try to make the non-equine badges interesting and fun!

Mini Badges

These are designed with 4-8 year olds in mind. There are 6 very basic badges. To look at they are smaller than the achievement badges. These will be great to do with the little ones at rallies, when they want to get off their ponies and you still have $\frac{1}{2}$ hour until the end! Even at Mini camp when they are too young to do a test.