



GREAT ALASKAN PONY CLUB

January 1, 2020

Website: <https://grealaskan.ponyclub.org/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USPCgapc/>



Membership FAQ

How do I or my child join Pony Club?

Individuals join USPC by becoming a member of a local Pony Club or Riding Center. A club is a group of members, parents and other adult volunteers who have gotten together to administer the Pony Club program in their area. Typically, a member needs to have his or her own mount, or access to a mount, in order to join a club and get the most out of the program.

How much does it cost to join Pony Club?

When an individual joins Pony Club, they are a member of the National Organization, USPC, a region (a geographic collection of clubs and centers), and a local club or center. Membership runs yearly January 1 through December 31. For an investment of only \$205, the returns are great!

National Dues: 2020: \$155 new member, \$145 renewal, \$200 prorated 9/1/2019-12/31/2020

Regional Dues: Alaska Region 2020: \$50 per member or \$100 for a family of 3 or more.

Local Dues: Great Alaskan Pony Club 2020: \$0. We depend on your involvement with fundraising and donation solicitation to cover cost of lesson program. If goal is not met, lessons will be offered "pay-as-you-go."

Do I have to own a horse?

Ownership of a horse or pony is not required for membership, but arrangements for a suitable mount must be made on an individual basis by member's family. Options other than ownership may include leasing, renting from equestrian center where mounted meetings are scheduled, and borrowing. Costs vary. Although the club and its officers are not responsible for arranging a member's access to a suitable mount, we may have recommendations or leads on securing a horse or pony for club activities. Please contact us at GreatAlaskanPC@gmail.com.

(Stallions are unsuitable mounts for Pony Club activities. Horses and Ponies must be at least five years of age for use). Please note: The first year is considered to be January 1 following the date of foaling.

What if I don't have a pony, what if I have a horse?

It doesn't matter, as long as the mount is suitable according to the Pony Club policy. The word "pony" in Pony Club comes from the British Pony Club and was originally used to refer to the size of the rider, not the size of the horse.

How often does the club/center have meetings?

This varies between each club or center. Great Alaskan Pony Club has one mounted meeting and one unmounted meeting each month. Mounted meetings are club riding lessons based on the Pony Club curriculum. 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 the more inexperienced members.

Our club hosts two or three multi-day clinic/camps every year for our members. These provide opportunities to receive several hours of riding instruction in one weekend from highly-qualified Pony Club instructors, as well as spend the day with other members immersed in horse care education and activities. With donations of Alaska Air miles for instructor travel, fundraising and other monetary donations, our club has been able to greatly reduce the cost of each clinic to per member.

How old does an individual have to be to join?

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There is no national minimum age to join Pony Club. Members are considered youth members until December 31st of the year they turn 25. Adult members are classified as Horsemasters and are any individual aged 25 and above.

What if I don't have my own horse trailer?

Trailing requirements are determined by the local club or center.

What kind of clothes do I need to buy?

USPC is committed to safety. It is a membership requirement that Pony Club members wear a riding helmet meeting the ASTM/SEI standard when attending mounted meetings. Other basic riding equipment such as jodphurs or breeches, paddock boots or tall boots, etc. are also helpful.

What opportunities are available to members?

Along with learning riding and horse care skills at local meetings, there are a variety of other educational and competitive opportunities in Pony Club for its members. Check out this [chart of opportunity](#) that lists various opportunities and information on any age and/or certification level requirements for participation.

Do I need to/can I take riding lessons in addition to Pony Club?

Most members take riding lessons in addition to Pony Club. The Pony Club program is designed to be a supplement to any other formal individual training a member is receiving.

Do families need to "know" horses?

No, they don't need to "know" horses, but they will be involved. Clubs are administered by the families and other adult volunteers in the area. Families play an important role in the club. Centers are administered by a facility, but many still rely on their parents to assist in the program. Families should ask any club or center they are thinking of having their child join about the expectations for the families in the club or center.

Member in Good Standing Policy

Member participation in our club's Mounted and Unmounted activities, including Horse Management Meetings (Unmounted), Mounted Meetings (Lessons), Clinics/Camps, Certification Preps is important to success.

<https://www.ponyclub.org/ContentDocs/Policies/1002.pdf>

https://www.ponyclub.org/ContentDocs/Volunteers/ClubCenter/MIGS_Policy_clarification.pdf

Ready to join or have questions?

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