



P  **ny Club**
Where it all begins

Horse Management Organizer Workshop

2017 USPC Equine Symposium and Convention
January 27, 2017

PARENT EDUCATION!



How many times have you had a parent “misunderstand” what goes on during a rally, or a certification testing? Ask these two very, very important questions:

Has this parent ever been involved with USPC before?

Has this parent ever been involved with HORSES before?

Speaking from years of experience working in Horse Management at rallies, and the past five years as the RS for a very large region, the key to turning the problematic parents into advocates for all things HM is to give them a JOB!

Many of these folks are problematic because - for perhaps the first time in their child's life - they are not allowed to be by their side, and this is a hard rule to follow. If the parent is not a pony club graduate him or herself, the unknown is eating them up inside!

I've learned that if a person is given a job, and therefore "allowed" to be in the competition zone, they can see what really goes on and they begin to understand and, voila, you have created a Pony Club cheerleader.

During competition:

If the parent is NOT comfortable around horses, these rally jobs can be useful, but still get them, officially, in the competition area:

Recording times of arrival for turnout inspection

Scribe for REL and S&S (and for turnouts if the individual HM judge is willing, but remember, not everyone WANTS a scribe during a turnout inspection – I personally do not)

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If they are comfortable around horses, and are trainable, teach them how to do Safety Checks!
Always make sure there is an experienced HMJ around in case they have a question.



If they are comfortable around horses, you can also consider these jobs:

- * helping with line-up for horse inspections
- * scribe in vet box at eventing rallies

It is very important to remember to only allow these assignments to happen if the appropriate attire, and most especially FOOTWEAR is being worn.

If the parental unit just isn't comfortable enough around horses, or YOU are not comfortable enough to make the assignment where the horses are present, these jobs are quite do-able:

- * Working in the **show office**
- * In charge of **ribbons and awards** - from ordering to handing out
- * **Volunteer coordinator** - to make sure all jobs are covered
- * **Hospitality** - feeding the judges and officials at a rally. Never underestimate the importance of this job, especially considering the fact that the HM staff doesn't have the liberty of walking away from their responsibilities to find a nice sandwich or cold drink.

During a certification testing, or a clinic:

For the “non-horsy” parents:

Hospitality again - this will always be an important job - no joke!

Keeper of the schedule - especially to keep track of "*who's up next, how long have we been in here, when do I get a bathroom break?*" for the examiner/clinician

Scribe again - depending on the examiner, to record notes/reminders he/she can use as reference when recording the official decision, keep track of the clipboard and writing implement.

Parking lot steward - to keep track of who has arrived and where they are. Keep them apprised of when their lesson is due to begin (*time to get tacked up Susie Q!*) and shows the member where to go to report for safety check and begin their warm-up or ride.

Impartial observer - this is a great job for someone who you want to teach what goes on. The Impartial Observer (IO) observes the entire testing process and acts as a liaison between the examiners and parents/trainers to answer questions and concerns.

The individual should have basic information about USPC testing system. They should have a general understanding of the philosophy of testing and its general format.

The following table was created by one of my regional VRSs, who is also a CA and is being used with her permission. The whole document is several pages long, and is titled “*Parent Volunteers General Positions & Eventing, Show Jumping & Dressage Positions*”. I’ve just pulled out the three things that she has listed that directly pertain to Horse Management

Thank you Jessy Wotjkiewicz, CA from Greenacres Equine Center in Cincinnati, Ohio

Job Title	Abilities & Skill Sets Needed	Job Duties	Time Commitment
Hospitality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Attention to Detail •May require driving a golf cart 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Make sure competitors, Horse Management & other officials have access to water at all time •Deliver food/snacks as needed 	Varied, Times may be broken up by AM&PM, phases, days, etc
Turn Out Inspection Scribe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Note taking skills •Takes notes while standing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Takes notes from judge performing turnout inspections. <i>This is a great way to learn more about how the inspections are done.</i> 	Varied. Usually at least the duration of a division.
Turn Out Inspection Steward/Timer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Note taking skills •Ability to watch the time/record accurately •Seated job 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Checks in each rider to insure that they have arrived on time even if the judge is not ready for them. <i>This is a great way to get to see and meet all of the riders.</i> 	Varied. Usually at least the duration of a division.

In conclusion,

Don't avoid the parents – give them a job. Chances are that they will start to volunteer for the “best jobs” once they see that Susie Q's mom got to go back in the barns!

If they become proficient at the competition jobs, they can be equally proficient during a testing.



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Any suggestions?

What has worked in your region?



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Thank you for your attention!