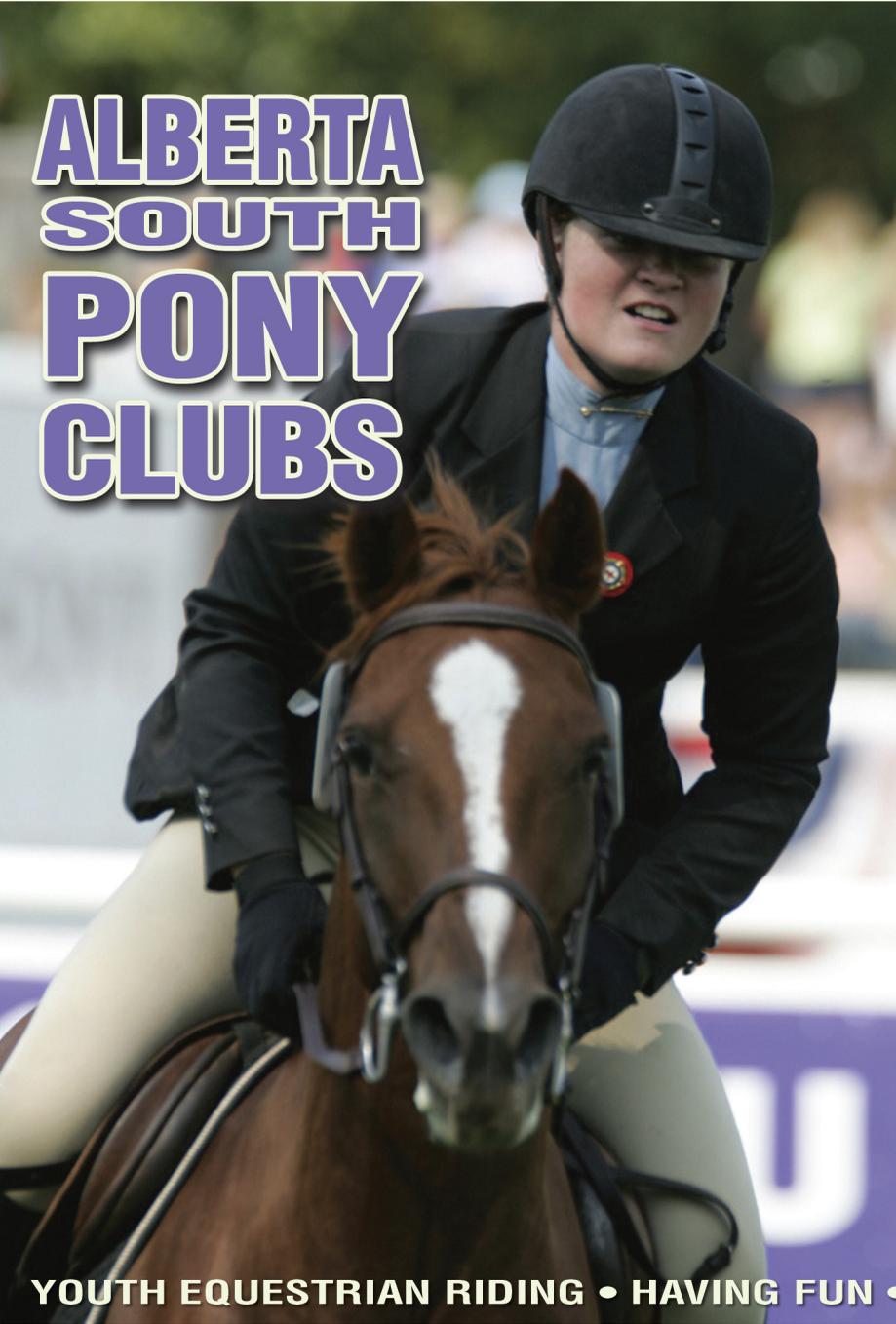




ALBERTA SOUTH PONY CLUBS



Pony Club is an international youth organization that focuses on educating youths in horsemanship. 2009 marks the 75th anniversary of Pony Club in Canada. Education and fun are the key aspects. Members are able to celebrate their learning by progressing through testing levels in either straight stable management or stable management and riding. These levels are recognized by Equine Canada for their coaching programs. Most recently Alberta Education has implemented a program called the Green Certificate Program where students can receive sixteen high school credits for horse knowledge. This is basically the same program as the Pony Club Stable Management stream where no horse is required. The added bonus is that any students that have a passion for horse knowledge can participate in Pony Club and learn, and receive Green Certificate credits even if they don't own a horse. The skills required are based on knowledge and learning, and anyone can participate in this section. Members are able to start being join as young as six years old and they are able to continue to be involved till they are twenty five.

There are many opportunities to experience a wide range of horsemanship in Pony Club. Winter meetings run from January to April, on a weekly basis. Members are introduced to care, feeding, first aid and equipment for horses. These lessons are conducted at local community centers with hands on demonstrations at local arenas. The fee for this is \$100.00. All Pony Club members must also be members of the Alberta Equestrian Federation. In April members compete on teams at the Regional Quiz competition. To continue into the riding program, members must own or borrow a horse. Fees at clubs for riding lessons vary, but it is always very nominal. In these lessons riders can learn dressage and jumping. There are Prince Philip Games which are relay races on horses and tetrathlon which feeds into the Olympic sport of Modern Pentathlon and includes running, swimming, target shooting, and riding. The last discipline is Rally which is similar to three phase eventing. Pony Club members have the opportunity to compete at club events, regional, national and all the way to international competitions in all these disciplines. For anyone interested in further information or those who would like to play knowledge and quiz games, go to the Canadian Pony Club web page at <http://canadianponyclub.org>. For further information contact Jill Stephenson at 403 938 4112 or 2diamond@telus.net or Colleen Bailey at 403 237 7391 or cjayb@telus.net

YOUTH EQUESTRIAN RIDING • HAVING FUN • GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCE



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