



## ***What is the Academy Program?***

If your child decides to “show”, he or she will start out competing in what is called “Academy”. The purpose of Academy competition is to expose new riders to the joys of showing at an affordable cost, to increase new interest in the show horse industry, and to encourage the student to improve his or her riding ability. Horses in Academy classes must be lesson horses used regularly in a professionally operated lesson program. All Academy classes are to be judged on the ability of the rider to control their horse to the best of their ability.

Each rider shows in two classes at an Academy show. The riders are judged first on their riding form (equitation skills) in an “Equitation” class. Riders are then judged on “Showmanship” skills in the second class, which is the way the rider shows their horse and effectively works the show ring.

Competitions are separated by age group (for example “6 and under” and “7/8 year old” riders). The age of the rider is determined by the rider’s age as of December 1<sup>st</sup> and will remain the same for the entire following show/calendar year.

The types of classes are:

*Lead-line Walk* – (Beginner) The rider will be led in at a walk and will work their way around half of the ring and past the judge.

*Lead-line Walk/Trot* – The rider will be led in at a walk and work each way of the ring (again utilizing only half of the ring). The rider will be individually trotted past the judge. Riders are expected to post and be on the correct diagonal.

*Walk/Trot Class* – Correct diagonals are required.

*Walk/Trot/Canter* – Correct diagonals and canter leads are required.

*Academy Driving Classes* – Drivers may have competed in any riding classification, but cannot have shown in Open Driving class. Horses are not judged. Drivers are judged on their ability to drive and control the buggies.

# What do I need to ride in the Academy Program?

**Well, one thing you don't need is a horse!** We bring that for you!

However, there are still many important things you will need.

**Clothing:** You will need to have an outfit made for your rider. Equestrian outfitters come to our barn periodically for measurements and orders, and we are here to help with your selections. Academy riders wear jodhpurs, long sleeve shirts, a tie, vest, boots, riding gloves and a show helmet.

**“Kaboodle” Box:** There are many things, most surprising, that are needed to get ready for a horse show. The most convenient way to keep up with everything is in a big box of some sort (tackle box, craft box, etc.). Your “Kaboodle” should contain:

- 1) **Brush**
- 2) **Comb**
- 3) **Bobby pins** - tight ones AND spread apart type
- 4) **Hair nets** - same shade as your child's hair; Goody makes the best nets
- 5) **AquaNet Hairspray** (trust us on this, the expensive hairspray does not work as well!)
- 6) **Ponytail holders**
- 7) **Black electrical tape** – used to wrap your child's gloves and boots so they don't pop out of shirt and pants.
- 8) **Make-up** – Subtle cheek color and lipstick
- 9) **Towel** – to clean boots before showing
- 10) **Elastic straps** – to hold pants up to keep from dragging before showing
- 11) **Safety pins** – to pin number card on back of vest
- 12) **Scissors**
- 13) **Wipes, tissues**



**Don't worry – we'll show you what you do with all of this stuff!**

## **What do I do the day of the show?**

The barn will make sure everyone has driving directions to the show. Most shows we attend are out of town. High Caliber Stables, LLC will be set up in the show barns with the horses and this is where everyone should meet.

You will be instructed as to what time you need to arrive. Typically riders should arrive one to one and a half hours before starting time. This may sound early but you would be surprised what all needs to be done! You should also plan on spending the majority of the day at the horse show having fun! Shows can vary in length depending on the judging and number of entries.

Once you arrive, you will need to make sure your child is dressed. There will be a dressing room at the barn to use. Check in with a "Show Helper" to get your child's back number. This number needs to be pinned on the back of the vest. You want to place the number in the upper-middle of the back. It should be even with the shoulder blades.

Every female rider needs to have her hair put up into a bun. We will be there to assist with hair but ask for everyone's patience and consideration of others. We will make sure every rider is ready before entering the show ring.

Moms can also put a little bit of make-up or color on their rider's cheeks and lips.

Once everyone is ready at the barn, we will go up to the arena and wait our turn (patiently)! We ask that everyone sit together so that our barn helpers will know where to find all of our riders. Approximately 3 to 4 classes before your child is to show, you need to make sure gloves are taped, boots are taped, helmets are on, lips are done, etc! In other words, make sure your rider is ready!. About 2 classes before your child's class, one of our barn helpers will come get your child and escort him or her to the warm-up ring. We ask that parents remain in the arena and let the helpers get the children where they need to be. The warm-up ring can be a very busy and crowded place so it is best for parents to stay in the stands and wait. We know it's hard!

Your child may wait in the warm-up ring for their second ride. If the ring is crowded, though, they will come back up to the stands and again our helpers will help get them back to the ring for their second class.

Once your child leaves for the warm-up ring, your job is complete! All we ask of you is that you enjoy watching your child do what he or she has worked so hard for!

Not only will your child learn to ride, show and follow their passion for horses in the Academy program, but they will create a bond with each other and come together as a team even though they may compete against one another in the same class. Good sportsmanship is not only important for all High Caliber Stables, LLC riders to have, but it is mandatory! We expect nothing less! Your biggest competitor should be yourself!