



BRIDGES EQUESTRIAN
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HORSE SHOW INFORMATION

Horse Showing is fun!! Competition is all about testing skills and setting goals. The fantastic staff of BRIDGES EQUESTRIAN will make sure this happens for each and every student. This is the big “game” after all our hard practices!

Am I ready to show? If you can walk and trot confidently in a group, you are READY!

What would I do? If you are in the walk/trot (not quite proficient at cantering in a group yet), you will ride in “flat” (no jumping) classes at the walk, trot then do a course of poles on the ground. If you’re cantering, you will ride mixed classes of both “flat” and over fences either cross rails or small verticals with no oxers. If you’re beyond that, you’re not reading this. :D

Who would I show? Horses are signed up in advance, so the sooner you get your registration in the better choice of horse you will get.

Will I get to practice? Yes! If you sign up for the show you will practice the 2 weeks prior, specifically on horse show events. We will do everything we can to make sure you are mounted on the horse you’re showing. You can also purchase private 1 hour Horse Showing lessons with Kendra the two weeks prior to the show on your chosen horse. The Friday prior to the show there are “warm up” classes for all jumping classes (no walk trot). Be sure to be at the stable between 1:00pm and 4:00 pm to ride your warm up rounds! The earlier the better.

How much does it cost? The cost will range from \$300-\$400 per day. See our “Information” section on the website for particulars.

What do I need to wear? Follow the link from our horse show page. That will tell you everything. Be sure to bring your show clothes to Kendra PRIOR to the Friday before the show to make sure everything is right.

How do I sign up?

Follow the check list on our website at www.BridgesEquestrian.com click “Shows” then “County Shows.” This packet is available on that link under 2).

You will see this checklist:

- 1) Talk to your trainer about showing and if you’re ready, which horses/division would be appropriate for you.
- 2) First show? Look [HERE](#) for more information
- 3) [Sign up online HERE](#)
- 4) Purchase the appropriate attire. [Click HERE to see what you’ll need.](#)
- 5) Show up for Warm Ups on the Friday afternoon before the show. You will help get your mount ready and if you are showing in Cross-rails or above, you will ride through your course.
- 6) Show up on the morning of the show! Talk to Kendra, but you will probably be expected to be there between 6:30 and 7am
- 7) Have fun!

You will be signing up either online or by emailing info@bridgesequestrian.com. If you sign up online, make sure to note your top three choices for horse. You can sign up for either Saturday or Sunday, or both days. First signed up first reserved, so sign up early for your favorite horse. Sign ups within two weeks of the show may have day/horse restrictions.

COSTS:

The payment paid online of \$200 is to BRIDGES for the coaching and horse rental. You may cancel up to 2 weeks before the event and receive the full credit of \$200 toward your account. We will not refund. Within 2 weeks of the show, we will not credit or refund, as the rider has begun to school for the show on that specific horse, and the horse is no longer available for other riders.

You will also need to pay the entry fees to the Horse Show office before Friday, in the form of a credit card or an "open" check made out to EE (Equestrian Enterprises). EE charges 5% to pay by credit card.

The entry fees are between \$22-\$35 per class. While we have a good idea how many and which classes a rider will be entering in advance, sometimes we add classes to a rider's day, and sometimes we take them out of classes if we feel it is in their best interest. Sometimes we have a last minute horse change which changes their classes... it is just hard to tell. Also, there are administrative costs per horse of approximately \$50. If you are the only one showing the horse for the weekend, you will pay the entire fee. If you are sharing with another rider(s) those admin fees will be split between the riders. Because of these two factors, we do not know in advance what the total will be.

Warm-ups on Friday are an additional Rail Fee of \$60, or you can use one of your lessons. It is strongly recommended that all riders showing over fences come for Friday Warm-Ups. Sign up separately for warm-up.

BRIDGES will cover your Entry fees if you do not get your payment in on time, however we will charge 20% to the total to cover EE's fees and our own. These fees will be charged to your credit card on file at BRIDGES at the end of the show on Sunday.

OCHSA (Orange County Horse Show Association) Membership:

If a rider is looking forward to showing at the OCHSA Championship Horse Show in October, they must be members of OCHSA. Membership applications are available at the show office for \$40 per year. PLEASE make sure you are a member so that your qualifications will count. Riders placing 1st-3rd in any class qualify to ride at the Championship Horse Show, as well as 1st-4th in large classes.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

The Friday prior to the show you will get a chance to jump the actual jumps you will be coursing over on Sat/Sun. It is important you make this warm up! It starts at 1:00pm and goes until 4:30. If at all possible, do not wait until 3:30 to show up. It gets really crowded. This is also when you will get your last minute schedule changes and your approximate ride times. Please do not call for this information, the coaches will not answer phone calls during the competition times. You can email the BRIDGES office and someone will get back to you later that evening.

Check your email early in the morning, we may have had updates in the evening. www.horseshowtime.com will have the class entries posted. NOTE: Your schedule may change. Results are posted on this site, by Horse Name, Rider Name and Trainer.

When you arrive on Saturday/Sunday (6:30-7:00am), you will check on your updated ride time. Be ready for a lot of waiting, then a lot of hurrying. Hunter/Jumper shows don't necessarily run on a schedule. We will try to post an approximate schedule of classes, as well as a competitor class list in the Spectator area... however these are subject to change. Constant change. Classes are added, scratched, moved around, and the painful "open gate" which delays everyone. We will do our best to let you know approximately when you will ride, but this is almost impossible.

When you get your horse out, there will be someone there to help you. Once you're up, you'll do your warm up, and then go to your class! Easy peasy! We hope you're a little nervous, that's what makes it exciting and fun. And don't forget to cheer your team-mates on! We're here as a team. There's no "me" in horseback riding! That's the beauty of it. You're never alone; it is always "we."

Please let us know if we can help or explain anything. That being said; please be patient with us! The shows are very stressful on the staff, as we are responsible for seeing to a great deal of very important details. Our focus needs to be laser-beamed on our competitors. We try to have a "Show Liaison" or the "Show Manager" in the BRIDGES spectator area to answer most questions. Periodically, the show manager/trainers will come by this area and touch base with parents and friends to answer questions.

MORE IMPORTANT STUFF:

- No dogs the day of shows. No, really.
- We ask that friends and family stay out of the grooming/tacking areas. This is not only distracting, but dangerous to our students, horses and staff.
- Please do not ask questions of the horse show office or gate personnel unless instructed by the BRIDGES staff. Many of the questions have already been asked by our staff, and the office appreciates us fielding our own questions as they are very busy with the show itself.
- Please leave the coaching to the coaches. If you have a criticism or concern for your competitor, please bring it to the staff's attention. Yes, this is a problem. No, it's not you. It's "that other parent." As a horse show parent, you have to outfit, transport, admire, photograph, cheer, hug, compliment, console and write checks. That's a lot to do! We'll do the coaching. That's what you pay us for.
- Pre-competition assistance: Please do not feed your competitor a huge breakfast. These are athletes, feed them as such. Like a runner. Carb up the day before, good hydration is critical, feel free to remind them to eat a little bit. But, no big meals. We don't much like scraping the huge "power breakfast" off of the ponies. Trust me here. OH, and if possible, a good night's sleep. Sleep overs are fun before a show, but sometimes counter productive. If you do the "tack-cleaning, bit boiling, hair arranging" sleep over, make sure it is run as a true pre-show prep, including all the right foods (no candy; it causes a nasty crash in the am), lots of water and good sleep. Teach them the importance of care of themselves as athletes. This is the best help you can be to us before the show.
- Be POSITIVE the morning of! Try not to stress them out any more than is necessary, they're already stressed. (I know, just a reminder. I put it on a sticky note on my mirror the night before...)
- THANK YOU for representing our team! Your competitor is out there in the saddle, but behind every rider in the arena is a herd of dedicated people and horses getting them there! That's why we display the ribbons until the end of the show. Although won by one particular team of horse & rider, we all share in the accomplishments.

GOOD LUCK and welcome to the
BRIDGES EQUESTRIAN SHOW TEAM!
You ride with the B.E.S.T!

(see next page for class definitions)

Basic Class Definitions:

- **Equitation:** Judged on the Rider's correctness of form and control of the horse. The Medal classes are usually equitation classes.
- **Pleasure:** Judged on the Horse's ease of going, should be "flat" across the top, easy going, easy to ride, shown on a long rein.
- **Medal Classes:** Special equitation classes where riders will qualify to go on; always equitation or a combination of equitation/horsemanship.
- **Under Saddle:** (English only) Judged on the Horse's athleticism and motion, should be more forward moving than a pleasure horse, on the bridle, all business.*
- **Walk/Trot:** For riders not yet proficient at the canter, these classes will be judged at a walk and trot only.
- **Over Fences:** A class in which a horse is jumped. To be judged as a "hunter", or on style, not speed. Rails down, refusals, etc are considered disobediences and are considered adversely in placing.
- **Jumpers:** A division in which a horse is jumped against time, and incurs "fault" points for disobediences such as rails down, refusals, and time penalties.
- **Halter:** Judged on the horse's conformation, shown "in hand" or on a halter.
- **Showmanship in/at Hand:** Judged on the handler's ability and showmanship presenting the horse, "in hand" or on a halter (a bridle for English).

Class Divisions: (Hunters) Judged Subjectively

- **Walk Trot:** Riders will walk and trot in a group, and do their over fences work over poles on the ground.
- **Cross Rail:** Riders will walk, trot and canter in a group, and jump a simple course of cross rails.
- **Short Stirrup:** Riders not yet 12 years old as of last December 31 (of last year), will walk, trot and canter in a group, and jump a course not to exceed 18" with no oxers.
- **Long Stirrup:** Riders who turned 12 years old or older prior to Dec 31 (of last year), will walk, trot and canter in a group, and jump a course not to exceed 18" with no oxers.
- **Open:** Open to any rider of any age.
- **Maiden:** Riders not yet having won 1 blue ribbon in this division
- **Novice:** Riders not yet having won 3 blue ribbons in this division.
- **Limit:** Riders not yet having won 6 blue ribbons in this division.
- **Low-Childrens:** The division after Green Rider (cross entries allowed) this division shows at approximately 2'6"
- **Childrens:** This division shows at approximately 2'9 – 3'
- **Adult Amateurs (AA):** Amateur (non professional) Riders 18 and over as of last December 31. This division shows at approximately 2'6 – 2'9
- **Pre Green:** Horses will show 2'9 – 3'
- **Modified Hunters:** Horses will show 3' - 3'3"
- **Working Hunters:** Horses will show 3'3" – 3'6"

Class Divisions: (Jumpers) - judged on faults, not subjectively.

- Classes will always list their heights
- Classes are most often "open" to all competitors, unless otherwise stated
- Classes are set to different "tables," that denote the type of class. For example: table 2a means the horses will jump their first round then any "clean" rounds (no faults) will come back at the end for their jump-off. Table 2b means the horse will jump it's first round, then stop and wait for the whistle to continue on to the jump off, and so-on.

****In hunter classes, judging is subjective, and completely up to the discretion of the judge. Rules are governed by the USEF (United States Equestrian Federation) however the end decision is left to the judge. Personal preference will ALWAYS play a part in horse show judging.**

The definitions of these classes/divisions are standard to most horse shows. There are also more technical classes such as medal classes and Mini and Grand Prix, but for the sake of not confusing you at this point, I have only explained those classes offered at local county and BRIDGES shows.