

Horse Rider Badge



Otter (Do a total of 4 requirements including the 2 starred)

_____1.* What are the proper safety precautions you should take when you are around a horse? How should you approach them? What is the proper way to feed them a treat? Always make sure you have the owner's permission before approaching or feeding a horse. Learn what kind of proper clothing, footwear, and headgear should be worn.

_____2.* Visit a stable and find out how to care for a horse. Find out the following: what kind of food horses eat and how much to feed them each day; acceptable treats for horses; everyday care; and how often a horse needs to be shod and why.

_____3. What is tack? Visit a tack store or look through a tack catalog and be able to identify a saddle, bridle, halter, stirrups, and saddle pad. What is the main difference between Western tack and English tack.

_____4. Draw a picture of a horse and label the following parts: mane, forelock, tail, girth, withers, muzzle, and the hooves.

_____5. What is a gait? Name and define the 4 gaits.

_____6. Read a story about a horse. Write a short book report to share with your troop.

Dolphin (Do a total of 5 requirements including the 2 starred)

_____1.* What are the proper safety precautions you should take when you are around a horse? How should you approach them? What is the proper way to feed them a treat? Always make sure you have the owner's permission before approaching or feeding a horse. Learn the proper kind of clothing, footwear, and headgear to be worn. Visit a stable and find out how to care for a horse. Find out what kind of food they eat and how much every day; acceptable treats for horses; everyday care; and how often a horse needs to be shod and why.

_____2.* Demonstrate the following:
How to saddle and bridle a horse.
The correct way to mount and dismount.
How to turn and stop a horse at both a walk and a trot.
What to do if your horse rears, trips, bucks, stops, or bolts.

_____3. Make a poster of a horse and label 15 parts of its anatomy.

_____4. Make a booklet showing the different types of tack used on a horse. Include at least 3 types of saddles, bridles, and bits. You can cut pictures out of a catalog, or draw your own. Explain the proper use for each piece of tack chosen.

_____5. Read a story about a horse. Write a short book report to share with your troop.

_____6. Learn how to properly groom a horse. What is the purpose of a brush, currycomb, and hoof pick?

_____7. Visit a veterinarian and find out what can be done to prevent the common ailments or diseases of horses.

Butterfly (Do 6 requirements including the 2 starred)

_____1.* What are the proper safety precautions you should take when you are around a horse? How should you approach them? What is the proper way to feed them a treat? Always make sure you have the owner's permission before approaching or feeding a horse. Learn about the proper clothing, footwear, and head gear to be worn. Visit a stable and find out how to care for a horse. Find out what kind of food they eat and how much every day; acceptable treats for horses; everyday care; and how often a horse needs to be shod and why.

Demonstrate the following:

- How to saddle and bridle a horse.
- The correct way to mount and dismount.
- How to turn and stop a horse at a walk, a trot and a canter.
- What to do if your horse rears, trips, bucks, stops, or bolts.

_____2.* Put together a comparison chart of three different stables. Include the following information:

- Boarding or leasing prices
- Stall or paddock accommodations
- Number of horses
- Feeding schedules and type of feed
- Number and types of riding rings and trails
- Amount of pasture
- Type of bedding
- Method of manure disposal
- Quality and amount of water available
- Hours open to patrons

_____3. Create a poster of safety rules to display at your stable. You should include at least 10 rules to use both on and off a horse, in the stable, ring, or on the trail.

_____4. Learn about horse breeding. Choose one breed of horse and research its history. What are its identifying characteristics? Find a picture of your breed, or draw one to share with your troop.

_____5. Write a short report on how horses were introduced to North America and the effect they had on both the Indian and United States history.

_____6. Learn how to properly care for your tack and be able to recognize worn and unsafe tack.

_____7. Shadow a veterinarian while she makes horse calls. Note what she looks for when treating a horse. What are the most common horse injuries or diseases and how are they treated? Interview her and find out the best way to prepare for a career as a horse vet and how many years of schooling it takes.

_____8. Volunteer for at least 6 hours at a horse sanctuary or animal shelter that handles horses. If there are none near you, find a way to support their efforts from your own community through education or fundraising.

Eagle (Do 7 requirements including the 2 starred)

_____1.* What are the proper safety precautions you should take when you are around a horse? How should you approach them? What is the proper way to feed them a treat? Always make sure you have the owner's permission before approaching or feeding a horse. Visit a stable and find out how to care for a horse. Find out what kind of food they eat and how much every day; acceptable treats for horses; everyday care; and how often a horse needs to be shod and why.

Demonstrate the following:

- How to saddle and bridle a horse.
- The correct way to mount and dismount.
- How to turn and stop a horse at a walk, a trot, and a canter.

What to do if your horse rears, trips, bucks, stops, or bolts.

_____2.* Learn about proper health care for a horse. What are the signs of colic? What regular care do they need such as immunizations and worming? Learn about the most common horse illnesses and injuries and how to diagnose and treat them. Learn about proper hoof care and when to call a farrier.

_____3. Research at least 4 careers directly related to horses. Create a chart to compare the education needed, salary expected, availability of jobs in your area, and the hours typically worked. Which one appeals to you the most? Why?

_____4. Attend a horse show or rodeo. What classes would you qualify to compete in? What do the judges look for?

_____5. Work in a stable for a total of 8 hours, preferably in one day if possible. Find out how the weather changes the daily routine, what tools and equipment are needed, and how many people it takes to keep the stable running smoothly.

_____6. Learn how to properly assess a horse. What should you look for in its physical condition and temperament? Design your "perfect" horse. Include personality traits, age, training, physical attributes, and leaning ability. What is the difference between a "hot blooded", "warm blooded", and "cold blooded?"

_____7. For a minimum of 3 months, track the financial cost of owning a horse. Include boarding or leasing costs, feed, tack, veterinarian bills, farrier bills, training, supplies, transportation, etc.

_____8. Create a list of books and websites for horse lovers. Make sure you include books and sites for each age level, mythology, picture books, informational books, fiction, and non-fiction. Share the list with your troop, school or local library.

_____9. Volunteer for at least 10 hours at a horse sanctuary or animal shelter that handles horses. If there are none near you, find a way to support their efforts from your own community through education or fundraising.