

## A Guide to Your First Horse Show

Going to horse shows is so much fun and is a great way to test a rider's skill and figure out ways to improve. There are a few things you will need:

### Apparel

- ✓ Beige show breeches (for kids on ponies, beige jodhpurs and brown leather garters)
- ✓ A brown/black leather belt
- ✓ A show shirt for each day of showing (these are long sleeve button down shirts with collars and rat-catchers, one should be white)
- ✓ If you are worried about possibly spilling on a shirt, bring an extra
- ✓ A black/navy hunt coat
- ✓ Black gloves
- ✓ Black leather tall boots (for kids, brown/black paddock boots)
- ✓ Hair nets (For kids, wear two braids with ribbons tied at the ends)
- ✓ Black crop

### In preparation for a show...

- ✓ Your horse/pony should be bathed before they leave
- ✓ Your tack should be cleaned (bridle, saddle, and girth)

### Once at the show...

- ✓ If possible, riders should get to the show one day before they are scheduled to compete to allow for a schooling ride
- ✓ At horse shows, there is *a lot* of hurrying up to wait. Rings don't always go right on schedule – sometimes they run early, sometimes they run late. So it's important to get to the showgrounds well before you are scheduled to compete.
- ✓ Eat a good breakfast/lunch before you ride. This means lots of protein! You don't want to compete on an empty stomach.

### Things you will need to pay for

- ✓ Stall and nominating fee
- ✓ Classes
- ✓ Training
- ✓ Braiding (unless in crossrail or short/long stirrup divisions)
- ✓ Grooming (the general guide for tipping grooms is \$10 - \$20 per day the horse is there)
- ✓ Trailering
- ✓ Hotel
- ✓ Dinner (we all go out to dinner together each night, so bring cash!)

### And the most important thing to remember...

HAVE FUN!!!