

NICKER'S RETREAT, LLC SHOW TEAM

We are thrilled to be sharing this NEW SHOW TEAM Journey with our students and families!

Our show team is comprised of current lesson students at Nicker's Retreat (NR), both children and adults, beginner through advanced riders. This means that anyone can join the team. Our season runs from March through December, with several shows scheduled each month throughout the season.

Horse showing is an individual sport, but by forming a show team, we work together to not only help each other at the shows, but to cheer for each other as well.

Becoming a member of the NR Show Team has several benefits: discounted use of horse if you don't own your own horse, free use of equipment like saddles and bridles, discounts on shipping and coaching at the shows, clinics, a banquet at the end of the season, and a year full of lots of fun!

In this packet you will find FAQs, helpful information, rules and requirements, expenses, rider attire and rider responsibilities to be on the NR show team. If you have any questions, please talk to your instructor.

Feel free to contact us via info@nickersretreat.com if you have additional questions after reading through this packet! Go Team NR!

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Frequently Asked Questions by New Members...

What kind of shows do you offer? We travel to shows all over Maryland. We participate in several different types of shows. Some of the options include:

Hunter schooling shows offer both flat and jump classes at all age levels and rider expertise. Schooling shows are designed to help both horses and riders improve their skills. Horses and riders are competing against each other in ring at the same time. Their performance is scored relative to the other competitors.

Dressage schooling shows offer flat only classes. Although horses and riders are competing against each other, tests are completed by one horse rider combination at a time, and horses and riders are judged against a common standard, rather than having their performance scored relative to the other competitors. Riders get written comments from the judge to use as feedback for improvements.

Combined Training offer a dressage test and stadium jump class as the division. The dressage test is scored against a common standard and the jump class is judged on speed and a clear round.

Starter Trials are a combination of athletic challenges that puts the all-around ability of both horse and rider to test. There are three phases; dressage, cross country, and stadium jumping - the penalty scores are combined for the final result with the lowest score winning.

Paper Chase/Hunter Pace offer a team event involving a cross country experience with optional jumping. The team goal is to come in as close to the optimal time as possible.

Trail Rides offer a casual "off the farm" ride. Riders may experience water obstacles, hills, gates, livestock, logs, bridges and more! Different opportunities may require cantering.

What if I'm not a great rider? That's the beauty of horse shows...they have classes for every level of rider, for beginners just starting to trot, to riders who are just starting to jump, to the more advanced rider. Waiting to join the team until you think you are "good enough" means that even if you improve your riding skills, you'll have no experience in the show ring.

If you don't own your own horse, how are horses assigned? Once we put together the roster, we'll have a good idea of which riders make a good team with which horses. Occasionally, two or more riders ride the same lesson horse in their different lessons. Since not every rider shows in the same class, it's usually not a problem. Sometimes two riders will share the same horse at a horse show. Sometimes that doesn't work, and then we take some factors into consideration: how long the rider has been on team, which rider makes a more suitable

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combination with that particular horse, which rider makes an effort to attend their lessons every single week. Usually it all works out! But please note, sometimes our lesson horses aren't available to attend shows, due to their lesson horse commitments.

How much is this going to cost? We've outlined the expenses in this handbook, so read on to learn more. Initially you'll need to get all the supplies, as well as show clothes. Then you'll just pay for each show that your child attends. Many other activities that children participate in can be expensive (dance recital fees and costumes, traveling soccer teams to name a few), but for those who truly love horses, there's just something about riding and showing them that makes it all worthwhile for the expense.

As you read through this handbook, you'll probably have questions. Feel free to ask questions. It's all a little overwhelming, but once you have one show under your belt, it will all start making sense!

LESSON REQUIREMENTS

- Each team member must remain enrolled in lessons throughout the show season and must be current on all lesson payments. It is recommended show team members consider 2 lessons a week but not required.
- Team members must attend all their regular lessons. All missed lessons must be made up prior to the show. Drop-ins are available for additional lesson time to achieve this requirement.

SPORTSMANSHIP RULES

- All NR show team members must exhibit excellent sportsmanship at all times. At a show, any team member not behaving, acting rude or disrespectful to other riders, the show staff, or their parents etc. may be asked to leave not only the show, but the team as well. We take our shows seriously and want to assure that all members and participants and their families have FUN!
- The well-being of our horses is very important at the show. Take care of them before you take care of yourselves (don't go to the snack bar if your horse hasn't received water and hay).
- Team members are required to stay at the show until all team members are finished competing. This is so we can work together as a team, helping each other and cheering each other on. Showing is a learning experience not only while you're in the ring showing, but while watching other riders in other classes.
- Winning is great, but that's not the reason we show. The NR show team is for fun and education! We are a team, we work together and help each other as a team, and any team member's ribbon is a ribbon for the whole team.

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EXPENSES - MEMBERS

- Each team member must pay a \$100 membership fee per person per season. This fee ensures you receive the show team discounts for coaching, shipping (transport) and horse use. And you'll also receive a team duffel bag!
- Aside from the membership fee, you will be paying for class entry fees (which range from \$6 to \$40 a class, with \$15 being the average – at most shows you will show in at least 3-6 classes). Some shows charge a grounds fee as well. We'll let you know approximate costs before each show.
- The coaching fee is \$75 per rider per show. The coaching fee not only covers working with you in the schooling ring and observing your classes, but determining what classes to enter you in, registering you for the show, and helping you at the trailer.
- Shipping is a minimum of \$50 per horse (40 miles or less round trip with 6 horses.) but may rise if fuel prices increase. Shipping charges vary depending on the show location and how many horses are being shipped. Shipping rates are listed on the show sign up lists. Shipping charges may be split between riders if a horse has more than one rider.
- Horse use fee is \$50 per rider per show if you do not own your own horse.
- Nicker's Retreat fees are due by the closing date of each show. (Coaching, shipping and horse use fees.) Checks should be made payable to Nicker's Retreat. These fees are NON-REFUNDABLE.
- Class fees are payable dependent on the type of show. Some shows require pre-entries and other shows require payment to the show **on the show date**.

EXPENSES – NON-MEMBERS

If you want to show, you don't have to join the team, but you also won't enjoy the discounted rates or team duffel bag. Prices for non-show team members are:

- Coaching Fee: \$85 per show
- Shipping Fee: \$75 minimum
- Horse Use Fee: \$60 per rider

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RIDER'S ATTIRE

Before making any major purchases, check with the Show Team Staff for advice! All team members must have proper show attire. All team members must have their own attire. No sharing. Depending on your age, and showing level you will need:

Riders under the age of 13 as of January 1st

- Paddock boots (brown)
- Jodhpurs (neutral colored - tan/beige, no white)
- Straps for jodhpurs for over boots to hold jods down
- Garter straps
- Hunt coat (properly fitted, navy or grey)
- Show Shirt with stock collar (no pin, may be monogrammed). A long sleeve shirt is required if the judge excuses jackets in the summer.
- Black Gloves
- Belt
- Black velvet ASTM/SEI hunt helmet or helmet cover.
- Small bows for pigtails
- Pins or string for rider number

Riders over the age of 13 as of January 1st

- Paddock boots with half chaps or tall boots
- Breeches (beige or tan)
- Hunt coat (properly fitted, navy or grey)
- Show Shirt with stock collar (no pin, may be monogrammed). A long sleeve shirt is required if the judge excuses jackets in the summer.
- Black gloves
- Belt
- Black velvet ASTM/SEI hunt helmet or helmet cover.
- Pins or string for rider number
- Hair net with hair tucked into helmet

Keeping all your show stuff together is important!

We suggest getting a garment bag to hang your jacket, a tote bag for brushes and supplies, and even perhaps a hat bag to keep your helmet clean.

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RIDER RESPONSIBILITIES

The night **BEFORE** each rider **MUST**:

Prepare their horse to include:

- Bath
- Mane pulled
- Bridle path clipped
- Fetlocks clipped
- Tail combed out

Prepare their tack to include:

- Saddle cleaned
- Bridle cleaned
- Girth cleaned
- Clean saddle pad

Prepare trailer to include:

- Sawdust in trailer
- Hay bag filled and in trailer
- Water bucket
- Pitch fork
- Brushes
- Tack
- Crop
- Fly spray
- Sponge/rag/towel

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The **MORNING OF** the show each rider **MUST:**

Arrive at the barn dressed to show! Wear clothes over your show clothes to stay clean. *There is not enough time to get ready at the show.* Arrive at the barn with a responsible adult at assigned time.

- Catch and feed their horse
- Groom their horse
- Put their horse's shipping boots on
- Load their horse in the trailer
- Follow the horse trailer to the show

Once we **ARRIVE** at the show each rider **MUST:**

- Park in designated area
- Unload their horse
- Each horse **MUST** have a human with them **AT ALL TIMES**
- Do **NOT** leave your horse unattended for **ANY** reason
- Use a **SAFETY KNOT** to tie their horse to the trailer
- Take off shipping boots and place **INSIDE** the trailer
- Tack up and go to the proper ring to warm up
- After warming up, give your horse hay and water
- Attach your rider number to your jacket and follow instructions

At the **END OF** the show:

All riders must remain **AT THE SHOW** until the entire team is ready to leave

- Load all tack and equipment in the trailer
- Clean up all trash
- Load hay bags into trailer
- Shipping boots on their horse
- Load horses into trailer
- Follow the trailer back to the barn

AFTER the show back at the barn each rider **MUST:**

- Unload their horse
- Take off shipping boots and clean them
- Turn their horse out or feed if necessary
- Unload their tack and put away in proper places
- Clean the trailer
- Empty hay nets
- Empty trash can

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VOCABULARY

Classes/Divisions: Shows are divided up into divisions, based on rider's ability and/or horse's ability. Within the division, there are usually three or more classes. Riders generally show in all of the classes in their division. Some divisions are rider's age specific, or horse's size specific (horse divisions or pony divisions).

Hunters: judged on style and ability of the horse and rider.

Equitation: judged on the ability of the rider's form and skill.

Jumpers: judged on speed and accuracy of jumps.

Course: the prescribed order of the jumps in a specific class. Courses are posted in advance so riders can learn them before they go in. Your trainer will go over the course with you before you go in to jump.

Trip: each rider's course is considered a trip. You'll hear things like "five more trips until you go", which means five riders will jump before you.

Under Saddle: a class where everyone rides together; no jumping (see "Hack")

Hack: a class where everyone rides together; no jumping (see "Under Saddle")

Over Fences: a class where the rider jumps a course of fences.

Junior rider: a rider that is under 18 years old. Age is determined as of January 1 of the current show year (so whatever age you were on January 1, 2018 determines your "show age" for the entire season). Many divisions are restricted by, or to, various ages.

Order of Go: A list that tells you when you are supposed to go in and jump for your class.

Gatekeepers keep an order of go on a chalkboard or wipe-off board, usually.

Off Course: a rider is considered off course if he or she deviates from the posted course diagram.

Pin: the awarding of the ribbons (first/blue, second/red, third/yellow, fourth/white, fifth/pink, sixth/green, seventh/purple, eighth/brown).

Champion and Reserve Champion: the rider with the highest number of points in a division that offers Champion or Reserve status is considered the Champion, the rider with the second highest points is Reserve.

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2018 Show Schedule

FREESTATE 5:00am barn arrival/6:00pm expected home arrival

All Freestate shows start promptly at 9:00AM, every third Saturday of the month starting in April and wrapping up with a Halloween Show in October. So, mark your calendars for the following dates...you don't want to miss out on the fun!!

April 21st

May 19th

June 16th

July 21st

August 18th

September 15th

October 20th

LINTHICUM 4-H Hi-riders 5:00am barn arrival/3:00 expected home arrival

All 4-H shows are scheduled on Sundays starting promptly at 8:00AM. There are 5 shows in the series. They take the hot summer months off and finish with a Halloween Show.

May 6th

June 3rd

September 9th

September 30th

October 21st

Columbia Horse Center Dressage Schooling Shows times TBD

Our dressage shows have local favorites as our judge's; giving plenty of feedback on ways to improve your tests. Riders are assigned ride times

April 15th Open Now Closing date April 9th

May 20th Open date April 23rd Closing date May 14th

Maryland Open Horse Show Series

MOHSS presents a series of schooling shows designed to help both horse and rider. The series will act as a fundraiser for various charities chosen by the MOHSS Junior Board members.

MOHSS hopes to offer a safe and fun series while also raising money for a good cause!

April 15th

May 20th

June 23rd

July 14th

August 11th

September 16th

October 7th

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SHOW TEAM APPLICATION

Rider's Name _____

Address _____

Team Member's Phone Number _____

Team Member's e-mail address _____

Date of birth _____ Age as of December 1, 2017 _____ (this is your "show age" for the year)

Parents Names _____

Parent e-mail Address _____

Parent e-mail Address _____

Parent Cell Phone Number _____

Parent Cell Phone Number _____

Polo Shirt Size (indicate Youth or Adult) _____

**Please include the \$100 membership fee, check made payable to
Nicker's Retreat,
with this application by March 1, 2019.
Once we receive your application, we will set up a meeting with you!**