

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GREENVILLE
FOOTHILLS PONY CLUB MEMBER EXPECTATIONS**

GFPC members:

Are prompt. (DC cannot recommend you for Rallies if you can't be ready to ride on time.) Listen carefully and respectfully to adults in charge. Give undivided attention to the instructor for the duration of the lesson, and always say THANK YOU. Encourage and support other members.

Members of GFPC show respect for others:

They consistently encourage and support others in the club. They try to involve all members in the club in all activities. They do not tease, call people names, or do things that might hurt others' feelings. They do not use profane language, derogatory slang or gestures. They are kind and considerate to other members and adults.

Members of GFPC are team players:

They let every member know that they are happy that they are part of the team. They work together to help each member do his or her best. They value each other, even when things don't go well. They take pleasure in competition and are gracious in victory and in defeat. They are responsible for knowing and complying with the rules.

Members of GFPC show respect for themselves:

They set goals for themselves. They come to Pony Club activities properly and safely prepared with the correct equipment and attire. They do not judge their own ability by what others are saying, but rather their own progress.

Members of GFPC show respect for their horses:

They care for their horses in a safe and timely manner. When borrowing or leasing a horse, they care for that horse in a safe and timely manner. They do not physically abuse their horses. They use good judgment in determining if mounted activities are too difficult or strenuous for their own ability level or for the ability/ fitness level of the horse.

Monthly Mounted/Unmounted Meetings:

All members dress appropriately including ASTM/EN/CE/PAS/ASNZ/ISO approved helmet that fits;- collared, sleeved shirt, tucked in; Pony Club pin; riding pants or khaki pants (belt loops require a belt); hair up and off face (no metal barrettes); no inappropriate jewelry; and ARMBAND WITH MEDICAL RELEASE ENCLOSED OR MEDICAL BRACELET. All horses must be groomed, and tack must be clean, safe, and properly adjusted; current Coggins must be on file. All meetings begin on time. Come prepared, listen attentively, and respond respectfully. No member Cell Phones in the arena. Obey the rules of the host barn or facility and always leave things better than you found them. Always thank instructors and landowners.

Consequences of Inappropriate Behavior

Immediate suspension from the activity, with possible expulsion from GFPC, will occur as a result of the following: Possession, use, or distribution of any illegal drugs or alcohol; possession of any object considered to be a weapon; assault; or use of tobacco, at a Pony Club function

Reprimand or a probationary period, which may include suspension of participation in GFPC activities, may occur as a result of the following: Profanity, vulgar language or gestures; harassment: using words that intimidate, threaten, or persecute others; stealing or cheating; defiance of authority or stated rules; abusing a horse; intentionally destroying property.

I have read the above and understand what is expected as a member of GFPC.

Member Signature

(Date)

Parent Signature

(Date)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GFPC GUIDELINES

- **Monthly Mounted Meetings**

- Meetings are held one Saturday a month and activities are scheduled for the full day (approximately 8:30-4:30)
- Meeting invitations are sent via Sign-Up Genius approximately two weeks prior to the meeting
- Members or their parents must sign up for the meeting before the deadline set forth in the meeting invitation
- Meeting schedules are circulated via email approximately two days prior to the meeting
- All Members are expected to be in attendance for the entire day
 - If a Member has a scheduling conflict, please let us know; it is possible to participate for only part of the day, but full participation is encouraged and should be the norm
- A parent or responsible adult **must** be on site for the day for Members younger than 18
- GFPC news and Pony Club information will generally be communicated to Members and parents during the lunch break at each meeting
- Instructional groups and instructors are assigned with many factors in mind, with the primary goal of providing a safe and appropriate learning environment for all
 - Lesson groups will likely vary each month based upon the horses and riders participating in the meetings
- Unmounted Sessions
 - Members are expected to attend unmounted sessions as set forth in the schedule distributed prior to the meeting
 - For lower level Pony Clubbers, many unmounted sessions and some mounted sessions are led by upper level Pony Clubbers
 - This allows our upper level members to hone the teaching skills that they have learned, fosters mentoring relationships between the members of different levels, and provides valuable one-on-one supervision that is highly beneficial to our younger members

- **Horse Ownership**

- While horse ownership is *not* required to be a GFPC member, access to a horse to use for meetings enables members to fully participate in all activities
- Members who do not own a horse may choose to pursue leasing opportunities or borrowing a horse from a friend or their regular riding stable
- On occasion, arrangements can be made to borrow a horse or pony from a GFPC family
- ***GFPC does not guarantee access to a borrowed mount***
- GFPC is not responsible for arranging transportation for horses to and from the meeting

- **Volunteering**

- GFPC and all of its activities are run on a volunteer basis

- Families are asked to volunteer in whatever capacity fits their schedules and capabilities, so that we can continue to hire highly qualified instructors without having to charge participants for Mounted Meetings
 - The more the load is shared, the easier it is for our club to providing high-quality, fun, and educational activities for our members
- In order to keep our monthly meetings at no cost to our Members, GFPC holds several yearly fundraisers, including:
 - Three schooling shows, generally held in March, June and November
 - The Stick Horse Races at the Block House Steeplechase
 - The tack/garage sale held during our August Mounted Meeting
- For members (and non-GFPC members), it is possible to earn volunteer hours for school or other organizations by working at our fundraising activities
- **Pony Club Competitions: Rallies**
 - Members are encouraged to participate in at least one rally per year
 - A total of 5 Regional Rallies are offered annually, one in each of the disciplines of Quiz, Showjumping, Eventing, Dressage and Tetrathlon
 - Most of the Regional Rallies occur between February and June
 - Competitors who earn qualifying scores at the Regional Rallies are also eligible to compete at USPC Championships, which are held each year at the end of July
 - We usually recommend that for the first rally, Members participate as a Stable Manager (an integral member who helps keep the team organized and on schedule) for a team of riders in order to learn the rules and procedures of a rally without the added stress of bringing a horse and competing as a rider
 - Participating in Rallies requires significant individual preparation and coordination with team members
 - Most preparation should be done by the Members, not their parents
 - Younger D level Members are expected to need significant ally preparation support from their parents and upper level Members
 - Many Regional Rallies begin on Friday nights, which may necessitate missing some school

By signing this document, you acknowledge reading these guidelines and agree to follow them in your/your child's participation as a GFPC member.

Parent's Signature (if Member is under 18)

Date: _____

Member's Signature (if Member is over 18)

Date: _____