



ORIENTATION – August/September 2015

Contents

- 1 Welcome to NCMT!
- 6 Contact Information
- 7 Curriculum Guidelines
- 11 Review Ceremonies and Promotions
- 12 NCMT Leadership Council
- 13 “Horse Shows 101”
- 18 Addendum: Our new website: How to Log In as an NCMT member
- 19 Therapeutic Riding



WELCOME TO NCMT!

NCMT Is Much More than a Riding Program

NCMT is a nonprofit organization. Its mission is to build leadership, responsibility and confidence in youth through sound horsemanship. *All horses and ponies in NCMT's care are donated and made available to our students.* Your child will learn horsemanship skills from the ground up. As our students progress with the help of our staff and that of older students, they gradually master horse care and riding skills and take on additional responsibilities at the barn.

NCMT provides your child with many opportunities for social interaction. It is a place to have fun, to meet new friends, and to experience the meaning of teamwork while discovering the wonders of horses.

There is a lot going on at NCMT: each child actively participates and becomes part of our NCMT family. There are many aspects to our program, giving everyone a chance to excel at what they do best, regardless of athletic ability.

- **Mentor Groups:** All students are assigned to a mentor group directed by an older Trooper. Your child receives assistance from other Troopers to prepare for riding lessons and to perform barn related chores. Mentors maintain contact with their mentees to engage them in upcoming events throughout the year. They plan and run many activities together.
- **Social Activities:** NCMT offers several social events during the year, including the Halloween Parade, Gymkhanas and fundraising events (November and June) to which *your entire family is invited to participate.* Friends are welcome to join in the fun but NCMT needs to be informed of the presence of guests.
- **Trooper Nights:** for Troopers only who attend fun activities on a regular basis and in a supervised setting.
- **Community Service:** NCMT offers every child a chance to participate in community service through special events organized by older students. Older students are also invited to volunteer in our Super Troopers Therapeutic Riding Program.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **Communication:** To stay informed about events and schedule changes, please read our regular emails, check sign-up boards at the barn and visit our website frequently at www.newcanaanmountedtroop.org. Please login under the Members tab to access all program information, photos and more!
- A **calendar of events** is available on our website. It is updated regularly.

- A **member directory** is available on our website under the Members section to facilitate communication between students and families.
- **Administration:** Please read enrollment documentation and contact the office with questions. An enrolled student commits to attend the full academic year. Tuition includes riding and equine care lessons/barn days, and some social events. It is non-refundable.
- **Group Riding Lessons:** Lessons include a maximum of five children. (“Beginner 1” level has a maximum of four participants. At the very start, students may be split into two groups for greater individual attention. Once they become more proficient, they will groom, tack, ride and untack together). *Parents are encouraged to watch the lessons and are welcome to contact the instructors to discuss progress.* A student should:
 - ✓ arrive thirty minutes before the scheduled lesson time
 - ✓ check in with the officer on duty
 - ✓ check the daily horse assignment list to find out what horse to ride
 - ✓ check in with a staff member in the barn, who will provide assistance as needed
- **Equine Care Instruction/Barn Day:** Students are supervised in the barn and are instructed on horse care and stable management. They participate in a weekly lesson on a variety of horse-related topics. It is recommended to make up a missed lecture within the week to keep up with peers. A student should:
 - ✓ check in with the officer on duty
 - ✓ check the assignment list of duties
 - ✓ attend the lesson
 - ✓ perform assigned tasks
 - ✓ assist others who might need help
 - ✓ ask any questions and seek out help as needed
- **Dress Code for Lessons**
 - ✓ A safety approved (ASTM approved–SEI certified) helmet with harness is **mandatory** for all riders, who must bring their own helmet to each lesson. Riding without a helmet is prohibited at all times.
 - ✓ Breeches with tall boots, or jodhpurs with paddock boots, or breeches with half chaps. Denim or jeans not permitted.
 - ✓ Shirts must be tucked into breeches or jodhpurs. Sweaters, sweatshirts or jackets must be waist length and as form-fitting as possible. Tank tops are not recommended.
 - ✓ Gloves are recommended.
 - ✓ Hair should be neatly tucked into the helmet.
 - ✓ Riders should be dressed appropriately for weather. Please send riders to the barn with gloves and warm clothes in winter to ensure comfort during outdoor activities.

- **Dress Code for Barn Day**
 - ✓ Appropriate footwear—paddock boots, work boots or sturdy sneakers—is required. Sandals, flip-flops, and open-toed shoes are not safe and not permitted in the barn.
 - ✓ Long trousers/pants/jeans are strongly recommended. For safety, these should not drag on the ground.
 - ✓ Tank tops are not recommended.
 - ✓ Gloves are recommended.
 - ✓ Please send students to the barn with warm clothes in winter to ensure comfort.

- **Make Up Policy:** Please call NCMT 24 hours in advance if your child cannot attend a lesson. One make up lesson per semester is available to once per week riders during “Make Up Week” (two make up lessons per semester for twice per week riders).

- **Barn Day Substitute:** If a student (ranking 1st Lieutenant and above) cannot attend a barn day, it is his or her responsibility to find a substitute for the day.

- **Horse Shows:** Please refer to “Horse shows 101” for complete information. Parent permission is required for participation.

- **NCMT Review Ceremonies** take place in December and June. *All cadets are strongly encouraged to attend.* New cadets are formally inducted into the organization in December, and they receive honor bars based on overall achievement that recognize a child’s growth and progress at NCMT; recognition is not limited to athletic ability. Perpetual trophies are awarded in June. Troopers also have the option of demonstrating their riding skills at the Review Horse Show held after the ceremony, which is open to all Troopers.

- **Friends:** For safety reasons, we cannot accommodate friends of Troopers on riding or equine care days. Friends are welcome to attend special events under parent supervision. Please let us know if you are bringing friends to those events so we can plan accordingly.

- **Behavioral issues:** Mutual respect is highly valued in our program. Every Trooper is expected to uphold certain standards. Good behavior is important to maintain a safe and fun environment for all who attend NCMT. Infractions will be discussed with students and warnings may be issued. Parents will be contacted after two warnings. NCMT reserves the right to suspend a student from the program due to repeated behavioral issues.

- **Cell phones:** The use of cell/mobile phones or other electronic devices is not permitted in the ring or while working at the barn.

- **Tetanus vaccinations and boosters:** NCMT recommends up-to-date boosters and/or a discussion with your doctor.

- **Annual Meeting:** Members are encouraged to attend our Annual Meeting in June.

Parent Involvement and Volunteering at NCMT

NCMT is run by a volunteer Board of Directors that operates with various committees. There is a volunteer opportunity for every parent. Please let us know your area expertise if you are interested in joining a committee (fundraising, parent, community outreach, communications, finance, facility maintenance).

Like many other nonprofits, NCMT relies on fundraising events to make all of its programs possible. ***Volunteer support is a large factor in the success of those events. It is also a great way to meet other parents.*** Request for help is sent via e-mail; your reply is appreciated. You can help with a one-time task or get involved with the fundraising committee on an ongoing basis.

Our “Super Troopers” therapeutic riding and equine care program offers another volunteer opportunity for parents and older Troopers. Experience is not required since training is provided. For more information, please email Caroleigh Evarts, our Therapeutic Program Coordinator, directly at supertroopers@newcanaanmountedtroop.org.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Please do not hesitate to call or e-mail us with any questions or concerns. We look forward to hearing from you.

Office Telephone: (203) 966-0634

Fax: (203) 966-8592

Mailing address: 22 Carter Street, New Canaan, CT 06840-5005

Website: www.newcanaanmountedtroop.org

Facebook Page: [facebook.com/New Canaan Mounted Troop](https://facebook.com/NewCanaanMountedTroop)

Facebook - Alumni Page: [facebook.com/New Canaan Mounted Troop - Troopers & Alumni](https://facebook.com/NewCanaanMountedTroop-Troopers&Alumni)

Instagram: [@ncmt_new_canaan_mounted_troop](https://instagram.com/ncmt_new_canaan_mounted_troop)

Twitter: [@NCMountedTroop](https://twitter.com/NCMountedTroop)

OUR STAFF:

Executive Director: **Sara Tucker** sara.tucker@newcanaanmountedtroop.org

Equestrian Program Coordinator: **Lyn Pedersen** lyn.pedersen@newcanaanmountedtroop.org

Administrative Assistant/

Fund Raising Coordinator: **Pat Bradley** pat.bradley@newcanaanmountedtroop.org

Barn Manager: **Anne Dylewski** anne.dylewski@newcanaanmountedtroop.org

Head Riding Instructor: **Hannah Wirfel** hannah.wirfel@newcanaanmountedtroop.org

Riding Instructor: **Jess D'Urso** jessica.durso@newcanaanmountedtroop.org

Super Troopers Program Coordinator **Caroleigh Evarts** supertroopers@newcanaanmountedtroop.org

PARENT COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS:

Parent Liaison

Aimee Mueller

amcmueller@icloud.com

Parent Liaison

Cindy Stewart

lukestewart2000@yahoo.com

CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

EQUINE CARE: Student reports reflect

- program attendance
- dress code compliance
- barn day performance and work ethic
- sportsmanship, courtesy, willingness to help
- lecture attendance and attentiveness
- overall effort and dedication

BEGINNER 1: Little or no previous riding experience. For the first few months, two students may share a horse: each student receives instruction for half an hour while the other student receives ground instruction. Once appropriate horsemanship skills are mastered, students are assigned their own horse and ride for a full hour. Introduction to grooming, tacking up, untacking and cleaning tack properly given. A student is prepared to move to the next level when he or she:

- understands barn rules and safety
- is comfortable working around horses
- halts and leads with assistance
- tacks up with assistance
- finds tack with little or no assistance
- grooms with assistance
- understands the use of different brushes
- has stirrups down and reins over horse's head before mounting
- holds reins properly
- walks independently
- is able to post trot

BEGINNER 2: A student is able to walk on horseback independently in a group setting, balances at the walk standing up out of the saddle, and can half seat at the walk; can keep horse trotting for an extended period of time and understands the concept of diagonals; can tack up with moderate assistance. A student is prepared to move to the next level when he or she:

- halts and leads with moderate assistance
- tacks up with moderate assistance
- grooms with moderate assistance
- knows different brushes and their uses in correct order
- estimates stirrup length with arm test

- shortens reins
- sits up tall with weight in heels
- understands the order of aids
- walks independently in group setting
- can half seat at the walk
- balances at walk standing up out of saddle
- understands the concept of diagonals
- is able to keep a horse trotting for an extended period of time.

ADVANCED BEGINNER 1: A student is able to walk and trot independently in a group setting and is ready to learn to canter; at this level, students need to be comfortable working around horses, should be grooming, haltering, leading a horse, tacking up with less assistance, and have a basic knowledge of the saddle and bridle parts and general stable safety rules. A student is prepared to move to the next level when he or she:

- halters and leads with little to no assistance
- tacks up with little to no assistance
- grooms with little to no assistance
- puts on splint/bell boots with moderate assistance
- checks girth before mounting
- shortens, lengthens and untwists reins as needed
- transitions from halt to walk with heels down
- uses artificial aids correctly
- maintains safe distance at the walk
- can sit trot and half seat at the trot
- identifies and changes posting diagonals
- drops stirrups and picks up with feet only
- is ready to learn how to canter

ADVANCED BEGINNER 2: A student is able to walk and trot in a group and to canter individually; is ready to advance to trotting cross rails; riders should have a good understanding of “diagonals” at the trot and have been introduced to “leads” at the canter; ability to groom, lead and tack up without assistance; basic knowledge of the saddle and bridle parts. A student is prepared to move to the next level when he or she:

- halters and leads without assistance
- tacks up without assistance
- grooms without assistance
- knows parts of saddle and bridle
- calls the ring to indicate direction to other riders
- adjusts stirrup length while mounted with help
- drops and picks up stirrups at the trot
- understands artificial aids
- trots independently in group setting
- steers a trotting course
- changes diagonals at the trot

- performs sitting trot without irons with a leader
- canters individually
- understands canter leads
- jumps small obstacles with early half seat, holding mane

ADVANCED BEGINNER 3: A student must be confident cantering and jumping cross rails on a variety of horses. Should have a strong understanding of diagonals and correct leads. Should start to flat without stirrups. Must be deemed ready by instructor to have the strength, confidence and skills to take on the challenges of the Intermediate level horses. Must be able to groom and tack up independently. A student is prepared to move to the next level when he or she:

- halts and leads independently
- grooms and tacks up independently
- puts on polos with some assistance
- has a good sense of balance on the horse
- adjusts stirrup length while mounted with little to no assistance
- adjusts girth while mounted with moderate assistance
- is beginning to flat without stirrups
- is confident cantering in a group setting
- identifies leads while cantering
- jumps at the canter
- uses leg with weight in heels
- knows parts of the ring, e.g. centerline and quarterline
- identifies physical and behavioral issues

INTERMEDIATE 1: A student must be confident with jumping skills and should be able to do a basic course on a variety of horses. Should start to understand take off distances at the jumps and have the ability to count strides between related obstacles. Should understand concepts of leg yielding and lateral movements. A student is prepared to move to the next level when he or she:

- adjusts stirrup length while mounted independently
- adjusts girth while mounted independently
- puts on polos with little to no assistance
- has refined body position
- understands proper body alignment
- is confident jumping basic courses
- jumps on a variety of horses
- knows what distance means
- counts strides between related obstacles
- jumps follow through with release
- consistently releases with motion of the horse
- understands concept of leg yielding
- knows how to hand gallop

INTERMEDIATE 2: Riders should have a strong understanding of “diagonals” and “leads”, be capable of performing simple changes of lead, and ride on the flat without stirrups. Can tack up and know all parts of the horse and equipment. Should understand a distance, count “1, 2, 3” to

the take off spot, and canter a course of eight jumps, correcting leads and counting number of strides between jumps. Able to trot a jump without irons and transition within a line. A student is prepared to move to the next level when he or she:

- puts on polos independently
- puts on standing wraps with little to no assistance
- canters in half seat to full seat without breaking
- jumps basic course on a variety of horses
- knows how to do a figure eight
- demonstrates simple changes of lead on figure eight
- knows how to serpentine
- counts strides
- collects and lengthens
- uses leg yield
- jumps without stirrups

INTERMEDIATE 3: Riders are able to jump courses on an unfamiliar horse or pony. Should have an understanding of flying changes, leg yielding, counting strides between jumps; can jump without stirrups. Riders will learn more sophisticated tracks on course such as rollbacks, inside turns and end jumps. A student is prepared to move to the next level when he or she:

- has good ring sense
- picks up the counter lead
- can leg yield on a variety of horses
- puts on standing wraps independently
- knows how to poultice
- is able to adjust strides
- drops and picks up stirrups without looking down
- can fit a bridle
- can take apart and put together a bridle
- jumps confidently without stirrups
- demonstrates difference between crest and automatic releases

ADVANCED: Riders will learn more advanced flatwork such as serpentine, has strong knowledge of when to use the half seat versus full seat, haunches in and out, and shoulder in and out. Riders canter jumps without irons and counter canter a jump. Course analytics, such as identifying the traps in a course, will also be emphasized. Riders become proficient at flying changes, counter canter, calculating strides, lengthening and collection of stride, and “flexion” of the horse. Riders are able to analyze and ride broken and bending lines, combinations, and inside turn options. Riders can communicate in mid-air which lead the horse should land on. Riders are jumping complex courses (hunter and equitation style) on an unfamiliar horse; strong understanding of lateral and diagonal aids, haunches/shoulder in, impulsion, contact and flexion; horsemanship skills should include the ability to assess vital signs, administer basic emergency care, poultice, lunge, identify conformation flaws, and perform basic body clipping.

REVIEW CEREMONIES AND PROMOTIONS

Each December and June, NCMT holds a Review Ceremony during which Troopers are recognized for their progress and are awarded honor bars. Prior to these ceremonies, staff members evaluate each Trooper's progression so that they can be recognized for their achievements. At the Review, Troopers may be promoted through the Junior Cavalry ranks. Promotions, along with honor bars, are NCMT's rewards for individual improvement – they symbolize recognition of work ethic, responsibility and dedication to the program. Riding level and ability are not key factors in the promotion process. The Executive Committee also reviews promotions. The traditional ranks were founded by the Junior Cavalry of America in 1928 are still used at NCMT today. Please refer to the history of NCMT on our website for additional information.

From highest to lowest, the ranks consist of:

Cadet Major (single highest ranking Trooper)
Captain
First Lieutenant
Second Lieutenant
Sergeant
Corporal
Cadet

The promotion process at NCMT is based on the following criteria:

- overall effort and dedication
- Troop spirit, sportsmanship, courteousness, willingness to help
- barn day performance and work ethic relative to rank
- horsemanship skills relative to rank
- overall program attendance (Full Horsemanship Program students: barn day and lesson participation. Equine Care Only Program: barn day participation)
- lecture attendance and attentiveness
- compliance with dress code

Troopers serve a minimum of 12 to 24 months at any given rank before becoming eligible for a promotion.

The normal progression through the ranks may vary slightly with age and experience level. It is important to understand that everyone progresses and learns at his or her own pace. The curriculum guidelines detail the NCMT riding levels. The average progression through these levels is one to two years but can take longer. Please remember that when determining level placement and progression, we carefully evaluate students' current riding skills as well as their level of confidence, their understanding of technical aids and theory, their size and physical strength, their problem solving skills, and ability to handle horses at the next level.

If you have any questions about your child's progress, please feel free to contact his or her instructor.

CRITERIA TO JOIN THE NCMT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Leadership Council (“TLC”) provides an opportunity for our Troopers to take on a leadership role within the Officer’s Council and to fulfill our mission of “building leadership, responsibility and confidence in youth”. Troopers who are a High School student or a 1st Lieutenant and wish to further their commitment to NCMT are eligible to join the TLC.

Leadership Council members must attend their workday regularly, have a strong work ethic, and be effective role models to their fellow Troopers. To demonstrate leadership, Juniors and Seniors in High School are expected to organize and manage one social event per year.

To join the TLC, Troopers must:

- Be a High School student and/or 1st Lieutenant.
- Be a Trooper for at least six months.
- Submit a written paragraph explaining why they want to join the TLC.
- Attend at least 60% of TLC meetings during the year.
- Attend at least 60% of NCMT events.

If a TLC member does not satisfy minimum attendance requirements, the council reserves the right to ask that member to leave the TLC.

TLC members will receive acknowledgement of community service for volunteering at any of the following functions:

- Horseless Horse Show and Gymkhana
- Halloween Parade and Carnival
- Trooper Nights
- NCMT Horse Shows
- Waveny Fundraiser
- Barn Dance

“HORSE SHOWS 101”

Showing is entirely up to a child’s individual interests and goals. While NCMT does not predicate its business model on the buying, selling, and showing of horses, we do promote good sportsmanship and a chance to test one’s riding skills in a competitive format. Show participation does not affect the promotion process through NCMT ranks

or riding levels. Yet, NCMT provides students such opportunities for those who want to show. Please discuss your possible interest with NCMT instructors. There are several different kinds of shows available. Sign-up sheets for all NCMT hosted shows will be posted outside of the office a month in advance, and taken down about two weeks prior to the show, so entries and horse assignments can be processed.

WHY DOES NCMT HOST HORSE SHOWS?

- To allow our Troopers the opportunity to test their skills in a competitive environment.
- **IT'S FUN!**

SCHOOLING VS. RATED HORSE SHOWS

“SCHOOLING HORSE SHOWS” – A horse show that does not carry a rating by an official governing organization such as the USEF (US Equestrian Federation – formerly the American Horse Show Association) or the USHJA (United States Hunter Jumper Association).

Schooling shows are offered to NCMT members only. Our staff has the flexibility to decide what classes to hold, and what the riders will do. A schooling show judge does NOT have to hold a judge’s card, and may not be recognized by the USEF or USHJA. Schooling shows are a great way to “get your feet wet” and can serve as an introduction to “Rated” horse shows. They offer a low-pressure environment and are less costly than Rated or Open shows. Schooling or Review shows are a prerequisite for Troopers that are interested in participating in Open shows.

Cost: The cost of a Review Show is \$110, which includes the horse use fee, division fees, and training fee. It is paid by check the morning of the show when you pick up the “number” that you wear while showing.

Accumulation of Points: Riders do **NOT** accumulate points towards year-end awards. There are NO association membership fees. These shows are mainly for fun and to practice one’s competitive skills.

Dress Code: The dress code is a little less formal than at rated shows but riders are expected to be neatly dressed.

NCMT offers 3 schooling shows per year: two Review Ceremony Horse Shows (in December and June) and a Benefit Horse Show/Gymkhana in May.

“RATED OR OPEN HORSE SHOWS” – Rated or Open shows are competitions governed and recognized by the USEF and USHJA. These shows are open to the general public: other barns attend them. NCMT Open Shows carry a rating of “C”, which is the lowest rating the USEF/USHJA assigns, and require a minimum number of 25 entries. Troopers compete against riders from other barns. This also means that the number of riders per class is usually higher than that of a schooling show. The dress code for these shows is much stricter and a judge can take off points for inappropriate attire.

Open shows follow either the rules of the USEF/USHJA: there may not always be classes for every level. Open shows hosted at NCMT are a prerequisite for cadets that are interested in participating in “away” or off-site horse shows. NCMT offers between 5 and 6 rated horse shows per year, typically in:

- March – USEF/USHJA “C” Rated
- Early July – USEF/USHJA “C” Rated
- Mid July – USEF/USHJA “C” Rated
- End of July – Blue Ribbon Ventures/CHJA/NEHC rated show. Double points Hoof Print High Score.
- August – FWPHA double points show
- October– USEF/USHJA “C” Rated

Cost: The cost to compete in an NCMT Open show includes:

- \$125 horse use fee and training fee
- Regular Classes \$30
- Medals & Classics \$45
- Office Fee \$20

- NCMT Warm Up \$15
- Average cost to compete in one full division of three classes is approximately \$250, excluding one-time association membership fees that may also be required.

Accumulating Points for Year End Awards: A rider who is a paying member of the USEF/USHJA earns points in the divisions in which they compete. Such points are accumulated towards year end awards. Other organizations that govern showing may recognize NCMT's one-day horse shows, and may also require membership in order to earn points towards year end awards. Points can be accrued in the hunter, jumper, or equitation divisions. In 2015, fees for Association memberships were:

- Hoof Print Series – Blue Ribbon Ventures (local level) – \$30
- FW-PHA – Fairfield Westchester Professional Horseman's Association (county level) -\$55
- CHJA – Connecticut Hunter Jumper Association (state level) -\$30 for juniors, \$35 for adults
- NEHC – New England Horseman's Council (regional level) – \$25
- USEF/USHJA – (national level) \$125 for both

NCMT encourages Troopers to become members in order to be eligible for "Finals" competitions and year-end awards.

"AWAY" SHOWS

NCMT may take a small number of riders to local area Open Shows in the **summer months**. These shows follow the same rules as the Open USEF shows; the formality of the show depends on its rating (A, B or C).

In "A" and "B" rated competitions, the horses' manes and tails are usually braided. There are more participants per class – up to 50 + riders in some cases. Jumping rounds can take up to four hours to complete. These shows are often held over several days, as the classes take a long time. Because the horses have to be shipped by trailer to the away barn, riders may be required to be at NCMT as early as 5:00 AM to help pack the tack trunks and load the horses. Extensive preparations take place the day before the show, including extra horse grooming and tack cleaning.

The cost of these shows are billed to participating families. Example of the cost incurred for an Away Show:

- Braiding = \$50 for manes; \$35 for tails
- Horse Transportation = \$150 roundtrip
- Grooming = \$35 per day minimum, will vary
- Entries = \$35 to \$45 per class
- Office fees = \$20
- Stall fees = \$50 to \$75 per day, depending upon the show
- Training fees = \$75 per day per trainer
- Horse use fees = \$125 per day

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CLASSES?

Horse shows offer sets of classes, called "divisions", for the various levels and abilities of both riders and horses. The three primary divisions are Equitation, Hunters and Jumpers. Within each division, there are several classes tailored to allow riders and horses to compete, from beginner to very advanced skill sets. Riders and horses who compete in several classes of a specific division can be eligible to become "champion" or "reserve champion" in that division by winning ribbons and accumulating points.

Equitation classes: The rider is judged based on position and ability to execute the course with seamless effort and high level of control. The horse is not judged, but the overall picture or presentation of the rider is very important. In Equitation classes, the rider accumulates points. Note that "Judging" can be subjective!

Equitation classes include:

- *Walk-Trot Equitation* – usually 2 classes - flat class only; no jumping.

- *Walk-Trot-Canter Equitation* – usually 2 classes - flat class only; no jumping.
- *Short Stirrup* - 1 flat and 2 jumping classes; open to riders age 12 or younger and includes a simple course of 4 cross-rails or “Xs” with no change of direction.
- *Academy Short Stirrup* - 1 flat and 2 jumping classes; open to riders over 13 years old and includes a simple course of 4 cross-rails or “Xs” with no change of direction.
- *Children’s Equitation* - 1 flat and 2 jumping classes; jumping classes range in height ranging from 2’, 2’3”, 2’6”, 2’9” and 3’. Courses include verticals, oxers, and changes of direction.
- *Junior Equitation* - 1 flat and 2 jumping classes which range in height from 3’ to 4’. Courses include verticals, oxers, and changes of direction
- *Adult Equitation* - 1 flat and 2 jumping classes - height range from 3’ to 3’6””. Courses include verticals, oxers, and changes of direction
- *Medal classes* - Jumping class that includes a test of the top four to six riders over a shortened course. The test is determined by the judge.
 - FWPHA
 - CHJA
 - NEHC
- “Big Eq” refers to Equitation Medal classes and Finals on a national level over fences that are 3’6” or higher
 - M&S – Marshall and Sterling
 - THIS – Taylor Harris Insurance Medal
 - USEF Pessoa Medal
 - ASPCA Maclay Medal
 - USET Medal

Hunters classes: The horse is judged on movement, expression, fluidity, and jumping style. A judge evaluates the straightness in the line of the rider, from the shoulder through the knee to the toe. The judge also looks for the arc, or bascule, of the horse. The horse’s knees must be high and square under the horse’s head, and the horse’s hind end must follow or complete the arc that the front end sets. The horse’s expression must be bright, with ears forward, and have a forward momentum. While the rider’s accuracy and ability is critical, the judge is judging the horse. Judging can be subjective! It is the horse that accumulates points. Prize money is offered in most 3’6” or higher classes to the top 6 ribbon winners.

NCMT riders and horses typically compete in equitation and hunter classes. Jumper classes are set at higher heights and widths which can be very taxing on the horses and is not appropriate for the majority of our fleet.

Jumpers classes: The courses include colored jumps, double and/or triple combinations, water obstacles and others. Fence heights vary, but range from 1.10m to 1.60m, which is Olympic Grand Prix level. Courses are highly technical and challenging, which is why the horse or rider is not judged subjectively. The rider and horse are expected to be highly educated. The rider is judged strictly by the number of faults a horse and rider combination accumulate. Faults include (i) lowering the fence height, (ii) exceeding the time allowed, (iii) and refusals. Riders are eliminated for going off course, falling off, and having two refusals at any time during the course. There is usually substantial prize money offered to the first 6 ribbons in most jumper classes.

POINTS AND RIBBONS

Ribbons range from 1st to 10th place:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 st – navy blue | 6 th – green |
| 2 nd – red | 7 th – purple |
| 3 rd – yellow | 8 th – brown |
| 4 th – white | 9 th – grey |
| 5 th – pink | 10 th – baby blue |

Point values are placed on each ribbon and can vary depending upon the class and rating of the show. The below table shows point values for ribbons in FWPHA and CHJA rated classes. One needs 12 points to qualify for an FWPHA, CHJA or Hoof Print Medal Finals.

| Ribbon | Point Value |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1 st | 10 |
| 2 nd | 6 |
| 3 rd | 4 |
| 4 th | 2 |
| 5 th | 1 |
| 6 th | 1/2 |

SHOW ATTIRE

Proper show attire is required at all rated shows, and subject to points. If a rider is not wearing proper show attire, a judge may subtract points from his/her score.

Items that a rider should have are as follows:

For Short Stirrup or below:

- Clean jodhpurs
- Jodhpur accessories: garters (straps that wrap around below the knee) and pant loops under boots.
- Polished paddock boots.
- Hair braided with ribbons tied on the ends.
- Black gloves
- Show shirt with collar
- Belt
- ASTM approved helmet
- Spurs and crop

For Classes above Short Stirrup:

- Clean britches or jodhpurs
- Polished Boots (field or paddock)
- Hair is tucked in a hairnet and pulled up under helmet.
- Black gloves
- Show shirt with collar
- Belt
- ASTM approved helmet
- Spurs and crop

Tall Boots

Children age 13 or older or over 5' in height, or showing a full size horse in divisions more advanced than short Stirrup should wear tall boots.

NCMT has several of the listed items available for borrowing on the day of the show. If interested, please inquire from the office.

OUR NEW WEBSITE: HOW TO LOG IN AS AN NCMT MEMBER

www.newcanaanmountedtroop.org

Please register on our new website as soon as you can to access all valuable NCMT information – including program documentation, directory, photos and more.

It is a simple process:

- 1) Go to Member Registration in the upper right end corner of the home page.
- 2) Fill in the required information.
- 3) Select the appropriate account type (parents, volunteers and adult riders should select “NCMT Member”, Troopers should select “Trooper”, Super Trooper program participants and volunteers should select “Super Troopers”, alumni should select “Alumni”).

**Troopers must have their own email address to register.

- 4) Click on Register to submit your request for approval.
- 5) You will receive an email that your registration’s approval is pending.
- 6) You will receive another email when your registration has been approved.
- 7) You can then Login by using your user ID and password.

Below is a link to our NCMT tutorial video that will provide you with detailed instructions on how to create your own Profile. This is not a mandatory step but can be fun for all Troopers!
[NCMTTutorial.mp4](#)

If you have any question, please email info@newcanaanmountedtroop.org. Your question will be answered as soon as possible.

Thank you and enjoy our new website!

