

SIERRA GOLD PONY CLUB

Dear Pony Clubber and Parent(s) / Sponsor(s),

October, 2008

The United States Pony Club, (USPC), is an organization dedicated to educating junior riders about riding, horse care, leadership, citizenship and sportsmanship. The use of the term "pony" describes all mounts, regardless of size, ridden by Pony Clubbers. As a member of Sierra Gold Pony Club, you are also a member of the Sierra Pacific Region and USPC. USPC's primary purpose is best described in the following Pony Club maxim:

Our ideal should be to produce a thoroughly happy, comfortable horseman, riding across a natural country and over fences (jumps), with complete confidence and perfect balance on a pony equally happy and confident and free from pain or bewilderment.

Pony Club's format includes testing both mounted and unmounted knowledge and skill on rated levels and proficiency. As a club, Sierra Gold Pony Club, (SGPC), is striving to expose its members to as many Pony Club activities as possible. SGPC has offered its members a variety of activities and encourages everyone to participate in them. We have regular meetings on Tuesdays, (both mounted and unmounted), Regional Rallies (Eventing, Dressage, Show Jumping and Tetrathelon), Games (competing on teams), Quiz (a knowledge bowl formatted like a spelling bee about horses, riding, horsemanship and horse management), and Summer Camp (FUN!!!).

To become a member in SGPC, the following requirement MUST be met:

- Be able to participate in meetings on a regular basis (both mounted and unmounted on Tuesday afternoons/evenings) from the levels of unrated to C-2. See policy guidance attached.
- Own a "pony / horse" or have one available to use on a regular basis. (Mare or gelding 5yrs or older)
- Participating in a regular lesson program outside Pony Club.
- Own a trailer or have one available to use on a regular basis.
- Be between the ages of 8 and 25.
- Walk and trot a pony/horse unassisted.
- Support the club and its activities.
- Members and parents abide by the USPC and SGPC rules.
- MANDATORY PARENT PARTICIPATION. One parent from each family becomes a SPONSOR of SGPC with each membership. A SPONSOR has voting privileges in the policy and budget aspects of running the Club. A SPONSOR also must meet work responsibilities for all aspects of the Club. In order to give our members the exposure to as many facets of horsemanship and activities as possible, we must have a great deal of parent help. Knowledge of horses is not absolutely necessary but willingness to learn and help is!!
- Any prospective member and parent **MUST** meet with the DC before joining the club.
- Wear a correctly fitted ASTM/SEI approved helmet, proper pants and footwear to all mounted SGPC activities. (Cross country facility often requires upper body protector and medical armband).

Your membership and fees in SGPC provides you with:

- *Instruction in horsemanship and riding
- *Average of two member meetings a month
- *USPC National Membership for the PC'er
- *USPC pin
- *One parent Sponsor meeting a month
- *A standard of proficiency rating program
- *Optional instruction programs
- *USPC Insurance
- *SGPC Website
- *Special Friends Who Love Horses!

PONY CLUB IS A TEAM EFFORT. Parents must participate throughout the year. SGPC is a volunteer organization whose officers and committee members receive no payment. We do, however, pay our instructors. We are a group of individuals with a common goal to encourage leadership, citizenship, sportsmanship and horsemanship.

For more information, please contact: Janice Cook, DC & Membership coordinator (916)206-9712 jkcook@surewest.net