

November/December 2020 RS Update

Dear Leaders,

I want to wish everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday Season. I am glad to be back with MidCal as Regional Supervisor in 2021. At our MidCal Annual Meeting in November, the Nominating Committee presented the slate of new officers. The Advisory board has three new members. I would like to welcome Barbie Roth as Vice RS of Membership and Bess Pieracci as Vice RS of Administration. Barbie and Bess will be picking up some of the RS responsibilities. I also welcome Melissa Myers of Black Ridge Pony Club as our new MidCal Secretary. In the January Update, I will include a summary of the MidCal Advisory Board positions and responsibilities.

I would like to personally thank Nancy Pittman and Jackie Anderson for their time on the MidCal Advisory Board, Nancy is the retiring VRS Membership. Nancy is still with us as the Secretary for Black Oaks Pony Club and serves on a number of USPC committees. Jackie is the retiring MidCal Secretary. She will still be helping MidCal as part of our Inclusion and Diversity Working Group and Volunteer with Portola Valley Pony Club.

Stay safe and
Best Wishes,
Kathie Schulz
Regional Supervisor, Middle California Region, USPC

Announcements from USPC

USPC Enews: <https://www.multibriefs.com/briefs/uspc/USPC120120.php>

First-Ever Virtual USPC Equine Symposium and Convention: January 27-20, 2021

Registration is currently open! <https://www.ponyclub.org/Events/AnnualMeeting/>
MidCal will cover the fee for two officers of each Club/Center to attend. Club DC's, Center Administrators, and Treasurers should get first preference for region covered e-tickets. All Officers and Members are encouraged to attend. Tickets are \$95

Please join USPC for the inaugural Virtual Equine Symposium and Convention. The online experience includes a variety of live and on-demand sessions, attendee networking opportunities, and virtual trade fair. Check out the tentative schedule in the link provided above. The Meeting of the Corporation starts at 8 PM EST on Friday, January 29. Featuring presentations from the USPC President Ben Duke, USPC Executive Director Teresa Woods, and others to get the latest updates on USPC. The election of the USPC Board and numerous award presentations complete the agenda for the evening. This is the event you can dress up for and bring your favorite drinks to the awards session:-)

Virtual Quiz Rally

The USPC has announced they will be hosting a Virtual Quiz Rally in February the date is still to be determined. Participation in this virtual rally will earn members eligibility for both the Modified AND Standard Divisions of Quiz Championships 2021.

D-1 Certification Option to Split into Horse Management and Riding.

The Horse Management certification track now begins at the D-1 level. Members now have the option to test the D-1 level Horse Management only (and follow an HM track from D-1 up to the H-HM/H/H-A level) or test both Horse Management and Riding together. Everything on the D-1 Standards of Proficiency remains the same, but there is now a D-1 HM only test sheet provided on the website along with the full (HM plus Riding) D-1 test sheet.

Updated Rally Resources of Organizers

The [Resources for Rally Organizers](#) page of the website received a major update in the summer of 2020, including the addition of new excel scoring sheets and numerous resource materials. The new Rally Organizer's Guide will be available in August on the website and from Shop Pony Club. Take a look at the additional resources and join the [USPC Rally Organizers](#) closed Facebook group to connect with rally organizers across the U.S.

Important Information for Mid Cal Leaders

A Reminder of USPC Procedures:

Club Officers and Center Leaders/Volunteers must complete all necessary requirements before commencing your term. Depending on which office you hold, the requirements may include some or all of the following: USPC Corporate Membership, a favorable background check, SafeSport™ Trained Course, Concussion and Heat Illness Training. Information about these requirements can be found in the USPC Policy 0900 and on the USPC Website's [Volunteering Requirements page](#).

Thank you and a Reminder:

Thank you MidCal leaders for getting your year-end reports completed and uploaded onto the USPC Year-end website. Club/Center reports were due November 15, 2020. If you have not completed or uploaded your documents yet, please do ASAP. Any questions contact Kathie Schulz.

NEW Financial Help for MidCal Members to encourage Regional Mounted Events:

This Essay Scholarship Fund is to help offset the additional costs MidCal members have related to attending mounted Regional activities. There are four available scholarships available for the Spring and Three available in the Fall. Each Scholarship is \$175.

[The Middle California Region's Essay Scholarship Fund](#)

Information for Treasurers

Treasurer Deadlines: The 1099 Form is due January 31, 2021. Here is a link for the reporting information: <https://www.ponyclub.org/ContentDocs/Treasurer/1099%20Info.pdf>

Any Treasurers needing more support:

<https://www.ponyclub.org/ContentDocs/Treasurer/USPC%20Treasurer%20Training-2020.pdf>

2021 Membership Renewals are underway!

All members pay National and Regional dues. This has been a very difficult year for everyone. USPC and MidCal appreciate your timely attention to the National and Regional dues in addition to your Club/Center dues.

All membership information and forms are available on the USPC site:

<https://www.ponyclub.org/Membership.aspx>

2021 Regional Dues information:

All Clubs and centers are responsible for collecting and then payment of the regional dues to the Mid Cal Treasurer in a timely manner

2021 Regional dues are discounted to \$25 for 2020 renewing members who join prorated in 2019 and 2020 members who join before June 1, 2020. Regional dues for new members and returning members (from 2019 or before) will remain \$50.

Please note:

Leaders, we need you to keep careful records and send your membership's regional dues to the Mid Cal Treasurer promptly. To keep the bookkeeping straightforward, please divide the amount between two checks. One Check contains dues for the rest of 2020. The other check has all the dues for 2021 and should be post-dated to January 2021. Checks are the preferred method of payment. Mid Cal Does have a PayPal account but the user must cover the transaction fee.

Regional Dues form:

[2020 prorated/2021 memberships Regional Dues Form](#)

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MidCal Annual Meeting Update

We had a very successful Virtual Annual Meeting in November. Please review the meeting minutes in the link below: [2020 Mid Cal Annual Meeting Minute](#)

National Youth Congress - Deadline is Dec 15!

MidCal does not yet have a representative. There is still time If anyone is interested and meets the qualifications. More information can be found at this link from USPC:

[National Youth Congress Delegate Criteria & Selection Process](#)

Updated and New Procedures and Guidelines

MidCal's new and renewed Procedures and Guidelines are available by clicking on the links or scroll to the bottom of the RS update for the content:

Renewed - [Procedures for Organization, Registration, and Payment of Regional Events](#)

NEW - [Reference and Guideline for the Use and Compensation of the Upper-Level Members in the Mid Cal Region](#)

This is a Guideline and Reference for the Clubs, Centers, and Members within the Middle California Region concerning the financial compensation of Upper-level Pony Club Members when used as Teachers and Examiners for Pony Club Meetings and Certifications.

Conflict Resolution

We are all human. Sometimes conflicts arise in the Club and Region. Please follow the guidelines in this link in order to approach resolutions, or scroll to the bottom of the RS update for the content: [Conflict Resolution](#)

An Update from Diversity and Inclusion Working Group

The working group always welcomes new members. Our group is open to Non-Pony Club members as well so that we can attract support for our group from individuals with valuable input on the subject. This month we have investigated education materials regarding helmet fit and safety. A memo was drafted and sent to the USPC Safety and HM committees asking for better consistency in USPC materials, and a library of links is planned for the MidCal website.

We had a thoughtful discussion at the Annual meeting about sending out a survey to determine the makeup of our region's demographics. It was decided to send the concept back to the working group for a different approach. We all agreed that it is important for the region to be aware of who is currently taking advantage of the Pony Club program. Without knowing who is taking advantage of the pony club programs, it's difficult to determine what support our members need and potential areas to target for potential growth.

Questions, comments, photos: Michelle Cale, mscale86@gmail.com

Social Media

Please follow our pages on FB (Middle California Region Pony Club, USPC) and Instagram (@midcalregionuspc). Encourage your members to follow us too. Junior member's last names are never used in Social Media posts.

We are in continuous need of content for our Facebook and Instagram pages. Please continue to share pictures and videos from your club meetings, certifications, and special events. Mounted photos must show riders wearing a helmet and safe footwear, and behavior appropriate to Pony Club. Let's show everyone "Where it all begins." Send pictures and information to Michelle Cale at mscale86@gmail.com.

2021 Mid Cal Calendar

We solidified much of the 2021 calendar at the annual meeting. Please remember there is always the possibility for change, even in the best of years. Please find the Calendar link here: [2021 Middle California Regional Calendar/ list](#)

Rallies, Camps and Certifications

We are looking at some changes around our Rallies this year. Our fingers are crossed that conditions will allow us to hold our Rallies this year. Two of the Rallies will include clinics and one is hoping to partner with a show. A few will be held at new locations. Our Camps are scheduled. Both Camps will be at new locations in 2021. I am excited to announce the C Camp is going to be in Clovis at Sports Equestrian. Val Owen and Katie Little are the instructors this year and we are planning to include a few other opportunities at C Camp.

D Camp had to be modified and moved from Graham Hill Show Grounds because of COVID -19 complications. Marina Equestrian Center opened its doors to welcome us in 2020 and has done so again for 2021. Those who were able to attend the 2020 D Camp just loved Marina Equestrian Center.

As far as certification goes both the Spring and Fall- C1/C2 Certifications are on the Calendar. We still have some things to work out about scheduling our National Tests. I look forward to announcing those dates and locations in the Future.

In addition to the calendar of events, we have identified several coordinators for the upcoming year of events. Here is the link to the coordinators: [Organizers 2021](#)

Upcoming Regional Events

The Region's Web Site is <https://middlecalifornia.ponyclub.org/>. The website is where information about our Clinics and Rallies is available. At the time of publishing, the events listings is not up to date. We will get the website calendar updated as soon as we can; and will maintain it weekly in 2021.

If you are hosting or organizing an event, please send full details (when, where, what, description, cost, contact) to Michelle Cale at mscale86 @ gmail.com

2021 Middle California Regional Calendar First Quarter
(if conditions permit)

January

TBA - Treasurer Training (if not included in National Training Sessions)

27- 31 - First-Ever Virtual USPC Equine Symposium and Convention -
<https://www.ponyclub.org/Events/AnnualMeeting/>. The attendance fee is only \$95

February

7- Virtual Treasurer Review Workshop (4 hours majority picks time)

TBA - USPC Virtual Quiz Rally - This meets the requirements to participate in either the Standard or Modified USPC Championships.

March

6 - Virtual Palooza - The majority of the programs will be of interest to our older members (C1+, Teens, and Adults). There will be an Intro to Quiz Rally program for our young members. Other programs being planned include D3- C2 S&C, HA/HB prep topics, and Equine emergency preparedness and safety.

7- D Level S&C with PVPC

20 and 21 - Dressage Rally - South Bay Horse Ranch

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Extras:

Procedures for Organization, Registration, and Payment of Regional Events

Club/Center FundRaising Rally or other events

- Any Club/Center may run a rally or other type of pony club event to serve as a fundraiser for themselves and take on the Administration of the Rally. (Administration includes, registration and collecting of money)

Regional Rallies

- The Region orders and maintains the Ribbons for all Rallies even those organized by the Club/Center.
- All registrations and payments for Regional Rallies will be done through the member's Club/Center not individually

Regional Clinics

- Members may register as individuals or through Club
- Club and Personal checks will be accepted. Members may also pay fees using PayPal but 2.7% Must be included to cover PayPal fees.
- The use of Paypal need prior approval of the Regional Treasurer

Regional Certifications

- Members may register as individuals or through Club
- Club and Personal checks will be accepted
- The DC must always sign off on members participating in Certifications.

Conflict Resolution

- If between members consult DC, if unresolved DC contacts RS
- If between DC and members contact the RS
- The RS will notify and may consult the director of regional administration about any conflicts and how they are resolved
- If there is a conflict with the RS, the director of regional administration should be contacted
- It is important to keep documentation

Reference and Guideline for the Use and Compensation of the Upper-Level Members in the Mid Cal Region

What: This is a Guideline and Reference for the Clubs, Centers, and Members within the Middle California Region concerning financial compensation of Upper-level Pony Club Members when used as Teachers and Examiners for Pony Club Meetings and Certifications. This is intended as a suggested guideline for use of DC's and CA's to clarify when an Upper-Level Members' time should be considered giving back or the required experience for certification preparation or when it is appropriate to offer compensation.

Why: The Middle California Region is very diverse in size and makeup of its Clubs and Centers. To meet the needs of both Clubs and Centers and the member's certification needs, it is encouraged for both the Club/Center leadership and members to look outside their home Club/Center when needed. This Guideline and Reference is to clarify when it is acceptable to compensate our Upper-Level Members for their time and possible transportation cost when in the position of Teacher or Examiner whether it is a non-profit Pony Club or the for-profit Pony Club Riding Center. We would like to encourage the fair use of these Upper-Level Members by the Clubs and Centers by offering consistency across the Region. It is also hoped that providing consistency will encourage Members to pursue the Upper-Level Certifications and maintain a giving connection with Pony Club.

Defining and Setting Parameters

Defining Upper-Level Members for the purpose of Testing and Teaching at the Club/Center level is a Member, whether Junior or Senior, who has successfully received a C1 or higher Certification.

Teaching or Examining, if done within the Member's own Club/Center should be considered uncompensated volunteer time (aka "giving back"). An exemption to this might be the use of a Nationally Certified Member (B/HB-A/HA).

Teaching or Examining outside of the member's home Club is open for compensation based on the distance traveled to Club location, certification, and experience. The ability of the requesting Club to compensate should also be considered. If a Riding Center is with another nonprofit organization the same factors for compensation as a Club should be considered. A Riding Center within a for-profit business should be expected to compensate.

The Middle California Region is very diverse in size and makeup of its Clubs and Centers, therefore to meet Certification requirements of hours taught needed for Members, they are encouraged to take advantage of teaching outside their home Club/Center. In this case, Members do not need to be compensated until after the hours required for the pursued certification have been met.

Tracking Hours, Request and Skill of Upper-Level Members

The Region is pursuing a way to track hours accumulated by members pursuing Certifications as well as a resource list for both Clubs/Centers and Members looking for opportunities.

Running list of resources for the Region will be posted to the website:

- Teachers
- Examiners
- Google form tracking hours of Members pursuing certifications requiring hours taught.

Quick guide:

Are you a Club/non-profit Center?

- If yes, then your Upper-Level Members teaching other Members in the same Club/non-profit Center should be considered them 'giving back' (not compensated). Great to alternate several Upper-Level Members to give them experience and offer variety in teaching style and topics.
- If yes, then you should consider your financial well-being and ability to compensate those traveling from outside of your Club/non-profit Center to teach your Members.

Are you a Center(for-profit)?

If yes, then you should expect to compensate members regularly coming from outside of their Clubs/Centers to teach your Members.

Are you a Member going outside of your Club/Center to teach?

- If you are going outside of your Club/Center to gain teaching experience for certifications you are pursuing, this should be considered uncompensated.
- If you are regularly going outside of your Club/Center to teach, you should expect to be given compensation, or given compensation after so many hours of giving back.

Factors to consider:

- Distance Traveled - when compensating for travel/gas reimbursement.
- Certification Level - Following the USPC Certification Checklist system, Members should responsibly teach/examine others whom they are well two levels above the level they are pursuing. If a Member is C2 HM Certified, they can teach other members from UR-D2(max at teaching those pursuing D3HM).
- Age - Instruction decisions are at the discretion of the Club/Center and using mature, Upper-Level Members is great, however no child should be responsible for another child's wellbeing - always have a responsible adult present to supervise or co-teach if a Junior member is used:
 - Think about the level of maturity and respect/authority they may get from a peer etc.

- If compensated, think about what this means for school work permits etc.
- If a Senior Member is used, think about their relatability to/communication style with the Junior members.
- If compensated, think about their level of experience, certifications etc.

See next section for what this means in terms of their Amateur status.

USPC Resources

- D1-C2 Examiner Handbook:
 - <https://www.ponyclub.org/ContentDocs/Instruction/Testing/USPC%20D1-C2%20Examiner%20Handbook%20July2019.pdf>
- Qualities of a USPC Club/Center Level Examiner: Club/Center level Examiners should...
 - be knowledgeable about the Standards from the D-1 to the C-2 Level.
 - possess objectivity and good judgment.
 - be approachable, sensitive to young people, and able to conduct the test in a positive and educational framework.
 - have a good understanding of Pony Club materials, programs and goals.
 - have the confidence to apply their knowledge in a tactful, diplomatic way while exercising fair and excellent judgment.
 - are currently active in horse sports.
 - demonstrate leadership ability, flexibility and a sense of humor!

Senior Members and Retaining Amateur Status

Are you a Senior member looking to teach, who also competes as an Amateur?

- If yes then please carefully read the 2020 USEF SUBCHAPTER 13-B AMATEURS AND PROFESSIONALS
 - <https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/nT3TIM3v0NA/gr13-competition-participants-and>
- To clarify any terms please see the USEF CHAPTER 1 DEFINITIONS ○ <https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/s9SeSv4S0Sc/gr--general-rules>
- As it may pertain to Pony Club, here are relevant terms defined by USEF:
 - Trainer: (GR148) Any adult(s) who has the responsibility for the care, training, custody or performance of a horse.
 - Remuneration: Remuneration is defined as compensation or payment in any form such as cash, goods, sponsor- ships, discounts or services; reimbursement of any expenses; trade or in-kind exchange of goods or services such as board or training.
- As it may pertain to Pony Club, the relevant permitted activities defined by USEF by an Amateur include the following:
 - Accept reimbursement for actual expenses associated with conducting classroom seminars for a not-for-profit organization(*Pony Club*), therapeutic riding programs, or programs for charitable organizations approved in advance by the Federation.
 - Act as a camp counselor when not hired in the exclusive capacity as a riding instructor; assist in setting schooling fences without remuneration; give instruction or training to handicapped riders for therapeutic purposes.
 - Accept a non-monetary token gift of appreciation valued less than \$300 annually.
 - Accept remuneration for providing service in one's capacity as a: clinic manager or organizer (so long

as they are not performing the activities of instructor or trainer), presenter or panelist at a Federation license officials' clinic, competition manager, competition secretary, judge, steward, technical delegate, course de signer, announcer, TV commentator, veterinarian, groom, farrier, tack shop operator, breeder, or boarder, or horse transporter.

- Accept educational competition or training grant(s).
- Still unsure if you are considered an Amateur or a professional? As it may pertain to Pony Club, the USEF defined Profession status is competitor is 18+ and doing any of the following activities:
 - Accepts remuneration AND rides, exercises, drives, shows, trains, assists in training, schools or conducts clinics or seminars.
 - Accepts remuneration AND gives riding or driving lessons, showmanship lessons, equitation lessons, trains horses, or provides consultation services in riding, driving, showmanship, equitation, or training of horses.
 - Accepts remuneration AND acts as an employee in a position such as a groom, farrier, bookkeeper, veterinarian or barn manager AND instructs, rides, drives, shows, trains or schools horses that are owned, boarded or trained by his employer, any member of his employer's family, or a business in which his employer has an ownership interest.
 - Advertises one's equestrian services such as training or instruction

The Middle California Region's Essay Scholarship Fund Application

About: The Essay Scholarship Fund of the Middle California Region of the United States Pony Club, Inc. is used to help members from the Region prepare for and offset costs related to attending mounted Regional activities. A committee of three appointed by the Regional Supervisor will decide on the disbursement of funds to the applicant(s)- the RS, VRS, and a member at large. The maximum amount to be used annually will not exceed \$1,225 for the Region.

Fall and Spring Applications

- Applications are limited to those who are planning on attending any mounted Regional activities (rallies, clinics, camps etc) for the current year
- Applicants must be in good standing that year
- Funds can be used to offset the cost of attending the activity whether it is the entry itself or for getting you there(trailering etc)
- Spring deadline for applications is February 1st for activities occurring February-June of the that year
- Fall deadline for applications is June 1st for activities occurring July- December
- If an applicant receives funds from the Region, they must fulfill the following requirement:
 - They must complete their obligation to the region by submitting a brief report of how the funds were used, their experience in being able to participate in the activity they received the scholarship for, and pictures of all the fun! :)
 - *The Region encourages you, but it is not required that you additionally volunteer in the Middle California Region for 1-3 hours (could be a scribe at a certification, help set up/clean up for a clinic etc..) If you do let us know and include that in your brief report above.

Available Spring Scholarships: 4 available up to \$175

1. Show Jumping Rally and/or Clinic
2. Dressage Rally and/or Clinic
3. Tetrathlon Rally
4. C1/C2 Certification

Available Fall Scholarships: 3 available up to \$175

1. D Camp
2. C1/C2 Certification
3. Upper Level Certificatio

How to Apply?

1. Fill out the google form application (to include your name, certification level, participating age, email address, current Club/Center, DC/CA's contact information, years you have been in Pony Club, list of Pony Club activities you have volunteered at, list of Pony Club activities you have participated in, the names of the scholarships you are applying for and attached essays...) 2.

Write a short essay of 1-2 paragraphs in length detailing what they are applying for, how the funds will be used, and why they should be awarded the scholarship. One essay per each scholarship you are applying for.

3. Save your essay as the name of the scholarship you are applying for. Please do not use your names or names of your mount in your essay or in the title of the document as you save it!

- Do's and Do Not's
- DO answer the question fully
- DO allow your parents to proof read
- DO NOT have your parents write the essay for you
- DO use a separate essay document for each scholarship you are applying for DO write your essay in your own words
- DO NOT put your name or your mount's name or pictures of you anywhere