

Winter 2017 NUMBER 148

NEWS

Pony Club



Dear Pony Club

I know we often struggle to come up with unique fundraising ideas for our clubs and regions and so wanted to share an idea our region has come up with that we are hoping will bring in a little money.

Working very closely with Shelley in the national office to be sure we followed USPC logo policies, we have designed two regional C4 belts. For those unfamiliar with C4 belts they are made out of a TPE plastic that can be printed on. The strap of the belt is cut to size and inserted into a plastic buckle which is interchangeable. I have seen the buckle detach from the belt during a dismount that went wrong which I think is an interesting safety feature. Kids and adults alike really enjoy the versatility of these belts. Typically they retail for \$40 a belt (some charge more for fundraisers we decided to go with the more regular retail price) which includes the buckle. Extra buckles can be ordered separately. Depending on the number of belts purchased it is possible to get the cost of the belt down leaving almost 50% as fundraising profit. C4 are able to drop ship belts to final destination although the shipping is a bit more expensive this way. We are getting around this by asking our club DC's to collect orders within their club and provide a club shipping address and then we are having C4 drop ship that clubs total belt order to that club contact for them to distribute to members.

We think these belts will make great Christmas presents and will look good on our teams next summer at Festival. If you are

interested in a belt or more info on the process just let me know.

Happy fundraising,
Clair Thunes, RS Sierra Pacific Region

Shop Pony Club offers C4 belts for your members and Pony Club friends if you are looking for a perfect gift that fits any size. <http://shopponyclub.org/products/pony-club-c4-belt> Have USPC logo policy questions? Contact marketing@ponyclub.org for all of your USPC logo needs.

Dear Pony Club Parents

Pony Club teaches our children sportsmanship, stewardship and leadership through horsemanship. But, our children gain much more from Pony Club. They gain a reputation worldwide.

When my daughter was nine, I really wanted to find a horse for her to ride regularly. She had ridden at summer camps and I had taught her a bit on a friend's pony. It was time for her to get her own horse and join Pony Club, but, I had two big problems. We live one stop light from Washington, DC, on a quarter acre lot. Horses are a minimum of 30-60 minutes away depending on traffic, and I didn't have much money to invest in her riding.

I couldn't resolve the distance from the barn problem, but I did find a way to save money! I had grown up in Pony Club and I quickly realized that horse people knew therefore that I would take good care of their horse. I knew when to call a vet, how to evaluate the



Dear Pony Club

Hope you find the attached useful. Helena is in the Junior Pony Club program working on her Boots and Bandages badge.

*Candace R. Benyei, CA
Whimsy Brook Farm Pony Club Riding Center*

farrier's work, how to wrap after heavy exercise, his nutritional needs, proper trailering technique and how to condition him correctly for competition. In other words, owners knew that they could trust me with the health and safety of their animal.

My Pony Club knowledge was going to save me a lot of money! Owners were willing to let me "free lease" their horse. I bought the insurance, paid the board, vet, farrier and dental bills; but that was it. I found a cooperative barn as close to our house as possible, a very used truck and trailer and an older "been there/done that" horse and we joined Pony Club. I still had a lot of my old tack and equipment and we borrowed a lot from other Pony Club families.

It certainly wasn't cheap, but it was doable. My daughter's first horse took her from her D-1 through her D-3 in three years and gave her a solid foundation. Six more "free leases" took her through her H-A. Now, she lives in Boston and works full time for a software company and rides whenever she has time. Time, not money!

My investment in her Pony Club career has given her the same advantages it gave me. Owners hand her as many horses as she has time to ride. They know that she can ride well and will care for their horses properly. And, I know that she will be able to give her children the same gift I was able to give her.

Thank you Pony Club!

Dawn Bellinger, Vice RS Virginia Region



Dear Pony Club

In case any of you have ever wondered about the Christmas Tree on the Capitol lawn in D.C., this year's comes with a Pony Club connection. Former Intermountain RS, Holly Becker, works for the US Forestry Service near her hometown. Here is what she had to say...

Actually the Capitol Tree is coming from the Forest I work on, the Payette (pronounced, PAY—ette). It was cut last Wednesday by a couple of friends who I work with. Pretty neat, they used a cross cut saw as the loggers of old used. With the well sharpened saw, two "buff" smoke jumpers, wow, they made it look easy!!! It's a big tree!! It is actually attached to a big crane so it doesn't actually "fall." Another crane is then attached to the butt of the tree and it is carefully lowered horizontally onto a 90 foot trailer with "cradles" built so the branches do not break. Another crazy thing is they "force feed" the tree with something that makes the limbs relax a bit which also helps to keep

the branches from breaking. Quite the preparation, festivities, etc. I have helped with several of the ornament-making festivities that began last February. Recently I tied 500 big bows for many of the ornaments, (seemed like 1000 !!!), and I helped with the festivities at the cutting ceremony. I am also helping with some of the local town visits, and will then fly to D.C. to watch the tree lighting. My son Steven (proud D-3!!) is going with me. Steven has not been to D.C., and we have many cousins from Maine to South Carolina. So, we'll take in the Museums, Smithsonian, Mall, etc., visit friends, and family. It

