

Partridge Acres Levels of Horsemanship

Each Partridge Riding Academy student has the exciting opportunity to participate in Annual Badge Day Testing which takes place on the first weekend in December.

Badge Days are composed of riding and horsemanship sections. Riding skills appropriate for the level are practiced during regular riding lessons. Horsemanship skills are developed during riding lessons as well as additional independent learning. Partridge Badge Days ensure that every Partridge Academy student obtains a solid base of equestrian knowledge while being challenged to further their skills and reach the next level. Participants that successfully complete their Badge Level are rewarded with a special certificate that corresponds to the testing level as well as a written evaluation form.

Partridge Acres Levels of Horsemanship & Colour Guide

Level	Colour
Pre Pony/Pony Garten	Pink
One	Purple
Two	Blue
Three	Green
Four	Yellow
Five	Red
Six	Orange
Seven	Lime
Eight	Magenta
Nine	Lilac
Ten	Bronze
Eleven	Silver
Twelve	Gold

Pre Pony Garten & Pony Garten: Pink

Riders at this level are between the ages of 2-3 years (Pre-Pony Garten) and 4-7 years (Pony Garten). Program involves ½ hour lessons (15 min on pony/15 min off pony horsemanship lesson)

General Riding Ability

- Demonstrate correct riding position (heels down, sit straight, look up, pinky under)
- What does “Halt” mean?
- Name one item a rider must *always* wear when mounted

Pony Garten- Demonstrate everything from Pre-Pony Garten

- Explain how to ask a pony to “Halt” and how to walk
- Explain what a transition is
- Explain what rein you are on
- Demonstrate a “Reverse”
- Explain steering & demonstrate weaving
- Demonstrate two point position at the halt and walk
- Demonstrate a two point trot (straight line approx 25 steps)
- Demonstrate the correct way for mounting and dismounting

Stable Management

- Demonstrate the correct usage of two brushes
- Explain where the “Frog” is located
- What is the piece of tack called that you sit on while riding?
- Explain 2 safety rules in the stable

Pony Garten- Demonstrate everything from Pre-Pony Garten

- Name all the brushes/items for grooming
- Name the pony’s “belt”
- Name the piece of tack that you put your feet in when riding
- Name the piece of tack that you hold onto while riding
- Demonstrate proper leading of a pony
- Explain what goes under a saddle
- Name 1 horse colour
- Name 1 face or leg marking

Level One: Purple

*Riders at this level will be in private or semi-private groups for ½ hr lessons only.
Riders will learn to walk and trot with a leader.*

General Riding Ability

- Mount and dismount with assistance
- Hold the reins correctly at the halt
- Shorten reins correctly at the halt
- Demonstrate basic understanding of correct positions at halt and walk
- Ride independently at the walk
- Perform gradual transitions from walk to halt and from halt to walk
- Demonstrate simple change of direction at the walk
- Show ability to trot in an enclosed area (diagonals not considered) with a leader
- Keep pony on rail of enclosed area
- Maintain position in a group at walk
- Walk and trot over poles on the ground with a leader

Stable Management

- Demonstrate ability to handle pony correctly
- Demonstrate how to give a treat to a pony. Know what a pony eats and drinks
- Identify and know the use of a dandy brush and a curry comb
- Identify the basic parts of a pony
- Identify the basic parts of a bridle and saddle

Perform the following with assistance if necessary:

- Fasten and unfasten throat latch and noseband
- Run up stirrups
- Undo girth on the correct side

Level Two: Blue

Riders at this level will be in semi-private groups for ½ hr lessons only. Riders will learn to steer at the walk and will be starting to trot.

General Riding Ability

- Demonstrate the correct way to hold a pony while dismounted
- Mount and dismount independently. Using the mounting block is acceptable.
- Perform exercises at the halt
- Shorten reins at walk and trot
- Demonstrate basic position at walk and trot (rising, sitting and two-point)
- Maintain forward movement
- Perform simple turns and circles at the walk and trot
- Demonstrate basic jumping position at trot on flat and over poles on the ground
- Understand good manners while riding in a group
- Know the natural aids and their uses

Stable Management

- Name and locate the points of the pony or horse
- Name and describe colours of ponies and horses
- Name and describe markings of ponies and horses
- Identify left and right diagonals
- Identify the right and left leads
- Know the basic routine of the horse you ride. A) feeding B) grooming C) exercise. Be able to identify common feeds.
- Pick out feet
 - Know the reasons why you groom especially as related to ponies kept on grass.
- Identify and know how to use a) hoof pick b) dandy brush c) curry comb d) body brush
- Be able to tack and untack.
- Know the signals of a horse about to kick or bite a) while mounted b) while unmounted

Level Three: Green

Group lessons: Those who are working on mastering the walk and trot and are beginning to start to canter.

General Riding Ability

- Ride with control at the walk in the open
- Demonstrate independent hands and eyes
- Adjust girth while mounted at halt
- Walk on loose rein and with light contact
- Correct position at walk and trot
- Show ability to canter in an enclosed space (with out regard for correct leads)
- Knowledge of trot diagonals
- Upward and downward transitions
- Sitting trot with and without stirrups
- Demonstrate basic jumping position at a trot
 - On flat
 - Over poles on the ground
 - Over a small jump

Stable Management

- Understand reasons for grooming. Be able to groom and know the use of all the grooming tools
- Signs of good health. Signs of colic. Signs of lameness in the foreleg. Minor wounds and how to treat them.
- Know what you feed your own horse and why
- Know how to look after your own horse after strenuous work
- Know how to measure the height of a pony or horse
- Identify simple snaffle bits – egg butt, loose ring, D-ring
- Be able to describe a horse – Colour, markings, size, sex and obvious characteristics

Level Four: Yellow

Group Lessons: Those who have mastered the walk and trot and are starting to master the canter. This group incorporates the use of cross rails.

General Riding Ability

- Knowledge of balancing and suppling exercises at the walk
- Use of Natural Aids to produce and maintain forward movement
- Independent use of leg, seat, upper body, arms and hands
- Knowledge of short, medium, long and automatic crest releases
- Large circles – at walk, at rising trot with correct use of diagonals and at canter with correct lead
- Trot over poles on the ground followed by a small jump
- Demonstrate two-point and crest release
 - Over a pole
 - Over a cross rail
- Demonstrate a controlled straight line halt after a jump
- Demonstrate a simple lead change
- Demonstrate riding up and down hills
- Demonstrate ability to trot a simple course of cross rails

Stable Management

- Demonstrate explain when you would do this
 - Poulticing a leg
 - Sweating a leg
 - Soaking a foot
 - Icing a foot and leg
- Demonstrate braiding over a mane
- Demonstrate braiding a mane
- Demonstrate soaking a foot
- Discuss conformation, including conformation faults of the legs (front and back), head, neck, and back
- Discuss different nutritional needs of a very young horse, a fit horse, and a very old horse
- Discuss a course diagram. Explain striding based on related distances between the jumps

Level Five: Red

Group Lessons: Riders at this level will have mastered the walk, trot and canter and can ride a small course. Height of fences will be a maximum of 1'8".

General Riding Ability

- Trot without stirrups (rising and sitting)
- Alter stirrups when mounted
- Demonstrate a free walk
- Walk and trot on a loose rein
- Transitions through canter
- Canter on named leg on a circle
- Use of half seat
- Negotiate a small course at the canter using simple lead changes
- Riders must be able to recognize an incorrect lead within a few steps and correct it without delay.
- The riders at this level must demonstrate knowledge of arena rules

Stable Management

- Demonstrate cleaning a stall.
- Recognize a loose or worn shoe or excessively long foot and know what action to take. Basic knowledge of foot, care and reasons to shoe
- Measuring height of a pony
- Thrush – cause and treatment.
- How to care for minor injuries.
- Signs of laminitis and colds.
- Causes of colic.
- Some idea of when to call the vet and what to tell him.
- Able to adjust own saddle and bridle, care of new tack.
- Understanding proper cooling out procedures and why they are important.

Level Six: Orange

Group Lessons: Riders at this level will be starting to master basic dressage moves and demonstrate the ability to maneuver their horse with finesse.

General Riding Ability

- Able to canter in small circles
- Demonstrate a simple and flying lead change
- Ride at walk, trot and canter without stirrups
- Ride in open fields with confidence and good judgment of pace and control
- Negotiate a small course at the canter using flying lead changes
- Demonstrate collection and lengthening
- Demonstrate the ability to maintain an even rhythm on the flat and over small fences
- Able to perform non-progressive transitions (walk-canter and halt-trot)
- Demonstrate a crest and an automatic release
- Negotiate a simple gymnastic

Stable Management

- Developing a plan to condition
- Walk a course and explain the striding without a course or established distance
- Good and bad points of conformation. Overall balance and proportion and limb alignment. Reasons for common limb unsoundness.
- Preparation for shipping. Demonstrate safe and efficient application of a shipping bandage.
- Understand how to treat wounds including poulticing, hot compress and cold hosing. Know when to call the Vet.
- Causes, symptoms and treatments for colic, laminitis, ringworm and thrush.
- Age and care of teeth
- Load and unload horse in trailer

Level Seven: Lime

Group Lessons: Riders at this level will be able to ride from leg to hand and start to incorporate lateral movement.

General Riding Ability

- Demonstrate the ability to ride forward from leg to hand. Riders must be able to ride the horse forward with impulsion while maintaining rhythm and evenness of pace.
- Demonstrate leg yield, turn on the forehand, turn on the haunches
- Demonstrate adding and leaving out strides on a straight line and on a bending line
- Change leads on a straight line
- Lengthening and shortening the stride at walk, trot and canter
- Negotiate a simple gymnastic with no stirrups and no reins
- Demonstrate the ability to work on contact
- Negotiate a course of verticals, spreads, combinations and turns
- Demonstrate a gallop

Stable Management

- Discuss stable vices, including cribbing, wood chewing, weaving, kicking and pawing
- Discuss safety issues in shipping horses, including feeding and watering on the road, bedding length of trips, emergency help on the road, ventilation, coggins tests, health papers and tying up.

Level Eight: Magenta

Group Lessons: Riders at this level will be able to ride with constant contact at all paces. This level begins to incorporate more challenging flatwork.

General Riding Ability

- Riders at this level ride with constant contact supported by the leg maintaining rhythm, suppleness contact and impulsion.
- Jump various small natural fences at a trot and canter
- Demonstrate the ability to deal with refusals
- Ride up and down hills and over varied terrain
- Jump a course without stirrups
- Demonstrate a counter canter
- Demonstrate shoulder-in
- Knowledge of the difference between a half-pass and a leg yield
- Demonstrate haunches-in
- Perform a simple dressage test with emphasis on straightness and maintaining an even pace throughout

Stable Management

- Show clip a horse
- Know the normal pulse and respiration of a horse
- Discussing different types of blankets, sheets, turn out rugs, and coolers and when they should be used
- Discuss feeding in extremely cold and hot conditions
- Demonstrate how teeth are used to age a horse
- Demonstrate the correct bandaging of a horse
- Care and fitting of saddle and bridle

Level Nine: Lilac

Group Lessons: Riders at this level will be able to master a large variety of horses on the flat.

General Riding Ability

- Demonstrate the ability to ride the horse/pony with impulsion and engagement.
- Able to achieve consistent bend and straightness as required.
- Able to identify basic training problems and offer opinions for their correction
- Demonstrate the ability to ride on an established constant contact, keeping the horse between the rider's leg and hand.
- Demonstrate the ability to ride both "quiet" and "hot" horses on the flat
- Ride a 2' course without stirrups.
- Negotiate a 2'6" course using flying lead changes.
- Demonstrate travers
- Demonstrate renvers
- Can perform on a trained horse at a CEF Basic 1 level

Stable Management

- Demonstrate the ability to lounge a horse, using the correct technique and handling of the line and whip
- Demonstrate the ability to recognize unsoundness in the front and back
- Knowledge of the structure and diseases of the foot and corrective shoeing
 - Able to identify bad or inadequate shoeing and recognize different types of shoes
- Knowledge of how conformation relates to movement and unsoundness

Level Ten: Bronze

Group Lessons: Riders at this level will be able to work with green horses in lessons.

General Riding Ability

- Demonstrate a collected, working and medium trot
- Demonstrate a collected, working and medium canter
- Rider should be able to get the horse into the bit and be able to keep them in front of their leg at all paces.
- Shoulder-in at trot
- Demonstrate a half pass at trot
- Demonstrate a half pirouette at walk
- Ride a 2'3" course including oxers without stirrups.
- Can perform on a trained horse at a CEF Basic 2 level
- Has an accomplished sitting trot and canter
- Is ready to work with green horses in lessons

Stable Management

- Able to identify location, causes and treatments of unsoundness
- Practical lunging to show improvement and recognize problems
- Know reasons to lunge
- Demonstrate use of side reins, may use bridle or cavesson
 - Understand the theory of side reins
 - How to use them safely
 - How to attach them
 - Determine the correct length
 - Understand how a horse should be lunged wearing side reins

Level Eleven: Silver

Group Lessons: Riders at this level aspire to show the CET Medal.

General Riding Ability

- Train a horse to do flying lead changes
- Negotiate an entry level cross country course
- Train a horse to go onto the bit
- Able to ride an unknown and/or green horse on the flat
- Train a horse to leg yield and turn on the haunches
- Negotiate a 3' Hunter and Equitation course and above
- Demonstrate counter-canter with no stirrups including a lead change across the diagonal
- Demonstrate the ability to handle a disobedient horse when they:
 - Buck
 - Shy
 - Refuse

Stable Management

- Extensive knowledge of bandaging – sweat, poultice, spider, etc.
- Extensive knowledge of feeding – quality, cost, supplements, nutritional value, digestive system
- Understanding the reasons for feeding – for work, growth, health maintenance, weather. Storage
- Extensive knowledge of anatomy and veterinary – First Aid, nursing, diseases, contagious diseases in stable, parasites
- Extensive knowledge of travel – loading, unloading. Problems. Trailer. Safety.
- Discuss the different in local rules, CEF rules and FEI rules

Level Twelve: Gold

Group Lessons: Riders at this level will aspire to train horses and ponies.

General Riding Ability

- Begin training a green horse or pony
- Capable of correcting faults in an older horse and improving his/her way of going
- Able to ride an unknown and/or green horse on the flat and over fences.
- Train a horse to perform shoulder-in and haunches-in
- Train a horse to half pass
- Train a horse to renvers and travers
- Demonstrate the ability to handle a disobedient horse when they:
 - Rear
 - Bolt
 - Runaway

Stable Management

- Extensive knowledge of respiratory, urinary, circulatory and nervous systems. Demonstrate how to care for injuries.
- Extensive knowledge of conformation and unsoundness
- Extensive knowledge of foot and shoeing issues
- Lounge an unfamiliar horse. Bridle or cavesson, with or without side reins, at the discretion of the rider, based on their knowledge of the horse's experience
- Lunge a rider – warm up the horse, then put up the rider. Bridle required.
- Set a hunter and an equitation course
- Discuss potential tests within the course