



Windy Ridge Riders Horse Club Junior Equestrian Team (JETs)

2017 HANDBOOK

Last Updated: 10/20/2016

We're glad you're interested in joining our team! You probably have a lot of questions about the team, what its activities are throughout the year, what your responsibilities will be, what costumes you wear, what it all costs, and so on. Hopefully, this Handbook will answer most of your questions. Feel free to ask Mark Ward (markward@windyridgeranch.com) if you have any questions.

Who runs the JETs?

Mark is the Director and Maddy McCollar is the coach for 2017. Maddy will provide ground coaching at practices and coordinate communications and team fun days. Mark will help Maddy as needed.

What exactly do the JETs do? The JETs will ride a Dressage Quadrille in a team of 4 riders and also in a team of 8 riders. The ride will be set to music appropriate for the gaits. Riding is dressage style, with emphasis on steady rhythm and relaxed performance from the horses.

What are the goals of the JETs?

- Enjoy riding our horses and performing for appreciative spectators.
- Promote horses, horseback riding, and the Windy Ridge Riders Horse Club.
- Improve our riding ability, both as individuals and as part of a team.

Where and when does the team perform?

The JETs will perform at the Washington County Fair the last Thursday in July or the first Thursday in August and perhaps at a dressage show sometime during the summer. They will also perform at some of the WRRHC fun shows and run the food stands at all the fun shows.

How is the JETs related to the Windy Ridge Ranch and the Windy Ridge Riders Horse Club?

The JETs is a subcommittee of the Windy Ridge Riders Horse Club. All JET members must be members of the WRRHC. The Junior Equestrian Team was founded by Mark Ward in 1987 as a fun activity for his junior lesson students and lessees. The Windy Ridge Riders Horse Club and the Windy Ridge Ranch (WRR) are two separate organizations. The [Windy Ridge Ranch](#) is a for-profit business and charges trailering fees for transportation to events and horse usage fees for non-lessees. **WRR donates barn and arena time for the JETs practices. The coaches and other volunteers donate their time.**

WRRHC has a cooperative relationship with WRR. However, the club is independently governed, self-funded, and has open membership to all horse enthusiasts.

Who can join the team?

First, you need to become a member of the WRRHC to join the team. **Also, you need to continue in WRR lessons, at least 4 out of 6 sessions during the year, unless you have permission otherwise.** Riders must be at least 8 years old. JETs members may continue with the team through the summer following their senior year in high school.

If you have been in Mark's classes for a while you probably have the basic skills you need to participate. Some beginners may be skilled enough. You should be able to control your horse's gait at a variety of speeds, maintain a steady distance from the riders in front of and next to you, and display correct riding posture. Final determination as to whether or not you are ready to join the JETs will be made by Mark Ward.

Will being on the team help me to become a better rider?

Yes! Because you're concentrating on the pattern and maintaining formation, all your basic riding skills must become second nature to you. Even if you're an advanced rider, the experiences of riding in formation with 16-24 other riders and performing in public can increase your horsemanship and showmanship.

How do I join the JETs?

You and your parents should first review the costs and time commitments involved with being a JET. Then come and watch one or more practices to get a better idea of what the JETs is all about. [Practice dates](#) will be posted on the club website and the bulletin board in the WRR office. When you decide you want to be on the team (and your parents agree) just let Mark Ward know at markward@windyridgeranch.com. He'll let you know if there's currently room on the team for a new member.

If you are currently leasing and meet the minimum horsemanship skills (as determined by Mark Ward), you will probably be able to join the JETS immediately. If you are not leasing, you may need to wait for a suitable horse to become available. The final step to join is for you and your parents to complete the last page of this Orientation Handbook and put it in the WRRHC membership box in the WRR barn office with the \$50 JETs initiation fee and annual club dues (\$15 individual or \$30 family).

When is the best time to join?

The best time to join the team is in September so you can start at the first practice of the performance year (a Sunday in October). However, you can join any time of the year.

Will I have to wait to get on the team?

How soon spaces on the team become available depends on rider turnover and availability of horses.

What horse will I ride?

Lessees ride their leased horse. Non-lessees need to be flexible and willing to ride different horses. Non-leasing alternates need to be even more flexible since the horse they ride could change at each practice.

Will I be an alternate and if so, for how long?

New riders usually start out as alternates. Alternates are important members of the team and have the same responsibilities and obligations including attendance, dues, and helping with the fun show food stands. They are expected to attend all practices. The job of alternates is to ride in the pattern in place of an absent rider. An alternate will move into an assigned spot in the pattern when a spot is vacated by another rider, which may happen during the year, at a performance, or not until the next year.

Alternates do not ride in the County Fair or State Fair performance; however the "first" alternate needs to be ready to ride at these two shows in case a performance team member is unable to ride at the last minute.

What does it cost to ride on the JETs?

- JETs Initiation Fee (first year): \$50
- Annual JETs Dues: \$35 Due in October. This fee waived for first-year members.
- Annual WRRHC Dues: \$15 individual; or \$30 for a family
- **Lessee** horse usage fees: None
- **Non-lessee** horse usage fees -- Note: Not all of the practice time is spent riding, especially for alternates who may watch the pattern on horseback and join parts of the practice. Also, some of the practice time is spent discussing the pattern or other items. About once a year the team walks the pattern on foot rather than horseback. The number of practices for Periods 2 and 3 will be determined after JETs meetings and discussions during Period 1. The fees for Periods 2 and 3 will be figured at \$30/practice, paid in advance for all the planned practices. A horse is reserved for each rider for each practice. There are no refunds for missed practices.
 - ❖ Due Oct. 16 or upon joining: \$120 for any or all practices during Practice Period 1, which goes through November. *(Those who start after the first October practice can subtract \$30 for each practice they miss before they join.)*
 - ❖ Due Dec. 4: ??? For any or all practices planned during Practice Period 2, which goes from Dec. through the end of April. Fee to be determined when we decide how many *riding* practices to hold Dec – Apr. Some of the JETs practices during this period will include non-riding meetings to help JETs learn more about Dressage.
 - ❖ Due May 7. ??? For any or all practices planned during Practice Period 3, which goes from May through the County Fair in August. It is likely that there will be about 9 practices and 1 performance ride in Period 3. So the fee is likely to be about \$300.
 - ❖ **Discounts** If you are a continuous student from October through April, deduct \$50 from the May 7st JETs horse usage payment.
 - ❖ **Refunds:** No refunds will be given for missed or cancelled practices or fun show or Washington County performances (even if a JETs member is not allowed to perform due to non-compliance of JETs policies). Refunds for withdrawal from team will be calculated at \$20 per remaining 1-hour practice.
- ❖ Costume: Ask the coach what the costume is for the year for County Fair and State Fair. Typical costs range from \$75 to \$150 for buying your own black jeans, shirts, belt, shirt and black boots.
- ❖ Fundraising Activities: Running the [fun show food stands](#).
- ❖ Practice Treats: Each JET brings treats to one or two practices a year (sign-up sheet available in the WRR office). Two JETs bring treats at each practice; usually one brings a snack and the other the beverage. Many JETs like to sign up for a time around their birthday. Healthy snacks are suggested.

What is the time commitment?

The main commitment is attending practices. Without regular attendance it's impossible to learn the Quadrille patterns and develop the teamwork needed.

Besides attending practices, JETs are expected to perform at Fun Shows (one to two times per year), and help out at the County Fair performances. In addition, all JETs and their parents are expected to help by taking turns running the four WRRHC fun show food stands through the year.

When are practices?

October 1 – November: The 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month, 4:30-5:30PM. See emails for exact dates.

December – May. To be determined.

May 1 – until County Fair: Usually every Sunday, 4:30-5:30PM. Some Sunday practices will be held at 6pm to allow for riders to also attend horse shows and 4H meetings. See the JETs Facebook page for exact dates. The team also performs during the summer Dick Kachel Fun Show.

September or October: Year-end party.

Is there an attendance policy?

Yes. Because it is important to have as many members as possible at each practice, we have the following attendance policy. For members to remain eligible for upcoming performances, families should plan vacations and activities accordingly.

Promptness and good attendance are essential. If you can't attend a practice due to illness, vacation, etc. you must notify Mark and Maddy via email, Facebook and/or texting (in that order of preference) *no later than the evening before practice day*, to allow ample time to contact alternates to ride in your place. Riders should be tacked and on their horse by the start of practice time.

A rider is counted present if he or she is on time for practice or performance. Any member physically unable to ride will be counted as present if they attend the entire practice and watch the pattern being ridden. Team members must be physically able to ride by July 15th or they will be replaced by an alternate for the Washington County Fair performance.

Any member missing more than six practices or four consecutive practices will become the last alternate. Any member missing both of the two practices immediately prior to Washington Co. Fair will not be eligible to perform at that event if a suitable alternate exists.

Are there any other rules?

JETs are required to do horse and barn chores after practice – the team will sign up for chores at the beginning of the year. Completion of assigned chores is mandatory for continued membership on the team. Each member will be responsible for completing his or her chore without being reminded by the coaches or captains.

All the Windy Ridge Ranch [Horse Usage and Stable Rules](#) apply. It is especially important that each JET is courteous and friendly to all other JET team members and coaches.

Who can be a Coach?

The director chooses the coach. This selection can be based on leadership roles, communication skills, attendance and horsemanship skills shown during the previous year. Coaches must have been on the team for at least one year and obtain advance commitment from their parents (in writing and turned in to Mark Ward prior to the year-end party) to run the four fun show food stands and host the

year-end party. Coaches are expected to have perfect or near perfect attendance (including being on time for practices and performances), and must be present for the County Fair performance.

What are expectations for the Coach?

- ❖ Communicate with Mark and Emmerson in person, via phone, texting, email and/or Facebook about practices, team members, shows and other issues related to practices and performances.
- ❖ Coordinate and run the four fun show food stands and communicate about who will run which show's food stand.
- ❖ Ensure members sign up to bring treats for each practice.
- ❖ During practices and performances the captains call out the upcoming maneuver, then blow the whistle to initiate it. Sometimes they lead the group into the various maneuvers.
- ❖ Help develop patterns and solve pattern problems.
- ❖ Work with the Drill Team decorations committee chair to create the JETs pictures and bios for the State Fair.
- ❖ Using monies set aside in the JETs budget, the captains and their parents are responsible for the year-end potluck party (in September or October). This includes arranging a site, purchasing potluck supplies, and inviting the coaches, team members and parents.

How are parents expected to contribute/participate?

Besides their monetary contribution, parents are expected to participate in and/or contribute to JETs and WRRHC fundraising activities. In the past, fundraising activities have included the a club clothing sale, barn dance silent auction, a garage sale, tack sales, and pouring wine at a local vineyard.

There are many other opportunities for parents to help out with the JETs. Talk to Mark about how you can help.

Parents are also invited to attend practices and the year-end potluck (September or October).

At the County Fair performance, parents need to be directly involved in the supervision of their children. Parents should never assume the Windy Ridge Ranch or the Windy Ridge Riders Horse Club will supervise their child at events.