

Guidelines for Family Safety and Behavior at Horse Shows

1. Parents need to make an extra effort to arrive on time. We would rather you be early than late! Space is limited back at the barn area, please keep siblings and additional guests up at the show arena.
2. Parents are NOT allowed in the warm up arena at horse shows. The warm up arena is a very busy place. Parents must only speak to their child's instructor with any questions about the show. Parents are not to speak with the show judge, ringmaster, steward, paddock master, other instructors, or our instructors as they are coaching on the rail, etc. during the show. Please just say "Goodbye! Good luck! I love you!" to your child and enjoy the show! To ensure that your rider is focused on the horse and instructor all parents/spectators are asked to sit in the stands quietly, parents are not to stand at the rail and talk to riders. Even a well meaning "good job" can distract from the task at hand.
3. You and your family/guests represent Summit Stables in everything you do at the horse show. Horse show sessions can be long- please use your best judgment in bringing visitors to the show.
4. Before your rider heads to the warm up arena, please make sure they have used the restroom, had a drink, and had a small snack. One of our helpers will come and get your rider when it is time to head to the warm up area and riders will meet parents back at the stands after their class.
5. Riders should leave their cell phones with their parents before heading to the warm up arena.
6. Please support your rider NO MATTER WHAT! If your rider does not receive a ribbon or does not 'make the cut', a hug and a 'I love you and I am very proud of you!' are more rewarding than any ribbon could be. The fact that your child is good enough to compete in a horse show is a tremendous accomplishment which should never be forgotten. Our riders will all have personal goals for each show and class, the work towards these goals is far more important than a ribbon.
7. Speak only positively about other competitors or say nothing at all. Never criticize other riders, trainers, or instructors. You never know who is sitting behind you or in the restroom next to you.
8. Please respect all competitors! Please do not scream or applaud loudly, often times this can scare horses. We appreciate your enthusiastic support of the team, but please make sure its not at the expense of any rider's safety.

Parents' Role:

Unconditional love, encouragement, and support! Parents perform their roles at home outside of the arena. Within the barn or at the show, the instructors perform their roles- please do not coach your child. Your comments detract from the work the instructor is investing in your child. This also interferes with the instructor/rider relationship and does not allow for the development of the relationship with the rider/instructor/horse. These relationships are critical for success in riding both in and out of the show ring.

Showing horses is a very complex and constantly evolving sport. Parents will occasionally become disgruntled or have concerns and questions at horse shows throughout the season. We ask that you discuss this with the trainers rather than allow the problem to escalate or talking about it with other parents. Often during the show is not the ideal time to speak about concerns, the best way to insure that you have the instructors full attention is to set up a meeting at the barn. Chronic troublemakers, at shows and at home, will be asked to leave Summit Stables.

We look forward to a great Winter Tournament Season and thank you in advance for your cooperation with these guidelines.