



Level I

Introduction to Horsemanship

This is the basic level for the rider that is beginning their association with horses, whether it is for the first time or getting back into the saddle. This introduction level will teach how to be safe while working with and around horses, and to get an understanding of equine behavior. At this level, the rider will learn correct position in the saddle, how to hold the reins properly and basic control at the walk, working on good balance and position. We will introduce how to stop, start, and steer.

Horsemanship:

- Understands appropriate attire when working and riding horses
- Demonstrate knowledge of TCR Safety Rules
- Identify basic parts of the horse
- Demonstrate how to approach a horse and places to touch
- Understands horse's eyesight, visual field and where they are unable to see (blind spots)
- Aware of the fight or flight response
- Demonstrates a calm and quiet demeanor around horses while using a calm voice
- Basic understanding of basic horse behavior, ear language and other signals
- Basic understanding of horse behavior toward other horses and herd dynamics

Handling- Able to demonstrate these skills

- Correct Leading; How to hold a lead rope, where to walk/stand
- Cross tie horse without assistance
- Tie a quick release knot
- Correctly bend at the waist (not squat) near horse
- Keep the grooming area neat and clean
- Proper use of grooming tools and knowledge of importance
- Understand how to saddle/unsaddle
- Basic knowledge of bridling (instructor complete at this level)
- Care of tack- cleaning and storing

Horse Care:

- Understand what a healthy horse looks like

Riding Skills- Demonstrate these skills

- Introduction to Arena Etiquette
 - Calling 'gate' when entering/exiting
 - Walk horse to the middle of the arena to prepare to mount
 - Ride left shoulder to left shoulder
 - Calling directions to other riders- 'inside/outside'
- Know how to prepare to mount
- Properly mount/dismount

Triple Creek Lesson Levels



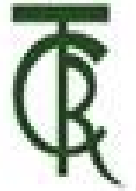
- Lengthen/Shorten reins

Level I Cont.

- Demonstrate basic riding position (head, shoulders, hips, heels)
- Basic control at walk- steering ability
 - Turn and circle
 - Reverse directions
- Stop the horse with control
- Seated position at the walk
- Walk without stirrups
- Two-Point position at the walk
- Ride a short seated trot on longe line
- Balance exercises at the walk- ex: arms out to the side, hands on hips
- Ride the horse forward to a walk by squeezing vs kicking
- Perform emergency dismount
- Run stirrups up after riding

Other Skills:

- Ride Bareback at the walk and have steering control
- Able to walk outside the arena (lower loop) with instructor walking with horse



Level II Advanced Beginner Horsemanship

Riders advancing to Advanced Beginner Level II, to continue to master horse care, handling and riding skills. Students will become more efficient in grooming and tacking/un-tacking, gaining the independence to do it on their own. This level emphasizes correct position, balance and control refining their skills to stop, start, and steer. Riders will learn how to perform sitting, posting and 2 point at a trot. Trot is introduced using the longe-line then riders will be able to trot independently.

-Riders have knowledge or are able to demonstrate all of the skills set in Level I-

Horsemanship:

- Understand horse moods and reading horse demeanor
- Be able to name all of the systems horses use to make decisions
 - senses, sight, focus, barn/homing instinct, defensiveness, possessiveness, personality, energy levels
- Demonstrate mastery of TCR Safety Rules
- Identify differences between and parts of the english/western saddles
- Knowledge of colors and markings
- Principle of Ask, Tell, Make (ATM)
- Clean tack independently
- Understanding horses' fear reaction (spooking) and how to handle it
- Has knowledge of major breeds and general uses

Handling- Able to demonstrate these skills

- Halter horse and lead from pen/stall
- Lead horse through basic maneuvers
- Independently groom horse
- Saddle/Unsaddle horse (instructor bridles)
- Knowledge of safe barn etiquette (entering/exiting barn with horses out, stop before passing and safely leading horse around barn)

Horse Care:

- Recognizing colic and basic understanding of colic issues
- Recognizing soundness/lameness in horses

Riding Skills- Able to demonstrate these skills

- Tightens girth independently before ride
- Adjust stirrups while unmounted
- Master control at walk
- Understanding of use of all 5 aids- Hands, Feet, Seat, Voice, Eyes

Triple Creek Lesson Levels



- Drop stirrups/pick up stirrups without hands at walk
- Balance through turns and circles at the walk and the trot
- Halt horse using all aides
- Transition from walk-trot-walk
- Sitting trot with proper balance
- Posting trot without using hands to balance
- Two-point position at the trot without reins or neck to balance
- Trot without stirrups maintaining position
- Move between positions confidently and with knowledge of when to use each seat
- Walk/Trot over poles posting and two point
- Able to check and maintain the correct diagonal while posting
 - change diagonal every three strides
- Change speeds within a gait: fast/slow trot, fast/slow walk
- Know arena directions (track left/right)
- Perform emergency dismount at walk/trot
- Run up stirrups and loosen girth after ride

Other Skills:

- Ride bareback at the Walk/Trot
- Trail Ride with instructor not leading horse- balance up/down hills, keep horse from eating etc



Level III Intermediate Horsemanship

Students reaching this level have a better understanding of horsemanship, horse handling, and riding skills, demonstrating that they can properly lead, groom, tack/un-tack on their own and have the ability to walk, trot and canter independently. At this level, students demonstrate a solid seat and leg position while maintaining control of their horse. Students will be able to execute complex patterns and be expected to demonstrate control and balance at all three gaits.

Leasing- Students at this level are eligible to lease horses from TCR due to their ability to ride and care for their horse independently.

-Riders have knowledge or are able to demonstrate all of the skills set in Level I and Level II-

Horsemanship:

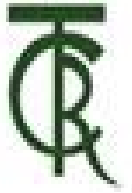
- Consistently puts away and cleans tack after use
- Maintains a clean work area
- Able to complete simple barn chores, cleaning stalls, buckets, sweeping
- Understanding of advanced equine behavior; ex. Fear response, habit formation
- Understanding of behavior shaping, reward and punishment and pressure application
- Knowledge of bits and biting for individual horses
- Identify and correctly use artificial aids, ex. whip, crop, spurs
- Mastery of parts of the horse, colors, markings parts of tack

Handling:

- Able to properly catch and turn out a horse
- Understand how and why to cool out a hot horse
- Safely longe a horse for preparation to ride
- Execute simple groundwork exercises, moving the horse in a circle, turning the forehand and hindquarters away
- Independently saddles/bridles horse in advance of lesson time

Horse Care:

- Knowledge of first aid, doctoring cuts, application of ointments and simple bandages
- Able to take vital signs and knowledge of normal range
- Ability to identify daily management chores and requirements for horse care, stall cleaning, clean water and feeding practices
- Some knowledge of nutritional needs for horses, ex. Forage needs, protein, grain and beet pulp uses



Riding Skills- Able to demonstrate all skills

- Properly adjust stirrups while mounted
- Properly tighten girth while mounted
- Master control at walk and trot
- Canter on the rail with control and balance
- Maintain correct riding position with solid leg position and a following hand
- Demonstrate transitions between gaits at a designated place, accurately and using all aids
- Riding with various rein lengths
- Posting without stirrups for an extended time
- Able to complete stretching exercises at all gaits
- Demonstrate control at the canter, working in a seated and two point position
- Able to perform circles and patterns at all three gaits
- Understanding of leads, balancing through turns
- Developing an understanding of collection and contact
- Developing an understanding of lengthening and shortening strides
- Able to complete an obstacle course with all three gaits
- Perform simple lead changes across the arena
- Jumping preparation: able to complete poles course with correct two point, diagonal etc
- Back in a straight line- 5 steps



Level IV Advanced Intermediate

A rider who has advanced to this level has taken lessons for many years and are comfortable at all three gaits. This rider may have experience in many disciplines, but has begun to specialize in a specific discipline. This rider may be actively competing in their chosen discipline. This rider is capable of riding several different types of horses and can independently care for a horse.

An advanced intermediate rider has an independent and balanced seat and has excellent body control. This rider will be working towards riding less schooled horses and may be learning to assist with training.

Student is consistently in good standing with TCR riding program and is a role model to all riders. Student presents horse for lessons with good grooming, no mud, eyes and nostrils cleaned and tack in excellent condition. Student may begin to assist in teaching lessons and is able to completely handle horses independently in varied situations both on and off property,

Horsemanship:

- Correctly prepares horse for a formal occasion including bathing and clipping horse
- Rider can discuss and demonstrate ability to teach a level 1 student how to prepare a horse to ride, tacking up, grooming and basic handling
- Can describe different types of padding and their uses
- Have an understanding of stable safety including pasture safety and stall/arena safety

Handling-

- Load and Unload horses from a trailer
- Can safely blanket and unblanket horse

Horse Care:

- Has knowledge of body conditioning score and can identify differences in horses
- Can identify and discuss different types of grain and feed types
- Understands and can identify good and bad feed and water
- Correctly can identify a horse who has had recent farrier work
- Correctly wrap a polo wrap
- Describe how to treat minor wounds
- Discuss signs of thrush

Riding Skills- Demonstrate these skills

- Explain tack choices for riding specific horse including explanation of saddle, padding and bit
- Can discuss a plan for riding, has a defined plan for warm up, working, stretching and cooldown for horse and rider
- Demonstrate stretching exercises for rider at the walk and trot
- Knowledge of and demonstration of a half halt



- Perform figure eights at varied gaits with the correct bend
- Ride without stirrups in all gaits and with transitions
- Adjust stirrups while mounted
- Tighten girth while mounted
- Obtain posting diagonal without looking
- Correctly ask for and obtain correct lead
- Identify and use different contact types- long rein, loose rein, light contact and contact
- Developing flying lead changes
- Knowledge of lateral work and benefits
- Ask for and complete shoulder in & haunches in at the walk
- Knowledge of correct aids and demonstrate leg yield at the walk
- Halt and remain motionless for 5 seconds
- Demonstrate turns on the haunches
- Correctly canter/lope through a series of correctly spaced canter poles
- Able to ride a balanced and correct USDF training level test

Jumping Skills

- Ride a gymnastic of several elements demonstrating correct position
- Ride a course of 6-7 crossrails demonstrating correct leads and identifying distances
- Understands correct release over fences

Western Skills:

- Ride and obstacle course 6-10 Challenges
- Complete a side pass over a pole
- Ability to complete single handed maneuvers such as gates, pick ups etc
- Navigate a simple pattern of poles at walk, trot and lope
- Demonstrate circles of varying speed and size: large/ fast, slow/small
- Developing skills for rollbacks

Other Skills:

- Understand safety precautions for trail riding
- Understand safety procedures when a rider falls off



Level V Pre- Advanced

At the pre-advanced level a rider has demonstrated ability to care independently for varied horses in their care and may be working toward a professional career in horses. They have knowledge of numerous disciplines, however may compete or focus in one. They have the skills to work within the training scale and improve horses they ride. A Level V rider may begin to get experience teaching less experienced riders under supervision and demonstrate a responsible and considerate rider. Furthermore, the skills in Level V demonstrate excellent horse knowledge and becoming an educated horseman. They have experience with vet work and extensive stable management skills.

Horsemanship:

- Identify basic leg confirmation faults
- List and discuss 5 disciplines, their goals and some judging points of each
- Have an understanding of the development of rider's chosen discipline and can discuss all aspects of foundation
- List ways of checking helmet fit and the importance of each
- Understand and locate emergency information posted in the barn
- Able to discuss and identify 6 major confirmation qualities desired for specific discipline and reason for those
- Identify color differences within shades: tobiano/overo, dun/buckskin, palomino/cremelo
- Identify different breed types and characteristics
- Be able to recognize fit of a snaffle bit
- Have a formal understanding of the anatomy of the fore and hind legs of the horse including major bones, joint, tendons and ligaments and issues that may arise in areas
- Discuss major dental issues and problems they may cause ex, overbite, underbite, parrot mouth cribbing
- Design and implement a 15 minute ground lesson for level 1 students
- Demonstrate a proper safety check
- Describe and complete a basic tack fit for saddle for chosen discipline

Handling-

- Ability to lunge any horse and give reasons for doing so
- Able to discuss and correctly give a plan for a conditioning program for a horse.
- Able to identify differences and reasons for doing long/slow work or short/fast work
- Recognize major confirmation faults of a horse being presented and how those might affect the usability or suitability of chosen discipline

Horse Care:

- Explain reasons for worming and some symptoms of internal parasites
- Correctly wrap a standing wrap



- Know and implement health care schedules including vaccinations, farrier work and dental work
- Know vital signs and acceptable ranges for respirator and heart rate
- Understand reason for Coggins Test
- Recognize good or bad shoeing as well as some corrective techniques
- Have an understanding of major lameness issues including ringbone, bowed tendon, feet issues, sprains, arthritis, splints
- Measure and record equine vital signs at work and at rest
- Discuss the 6 classes of nutrients required for equine nutrition
- Explain 5 common supplements and their uses
- Explain reasons for floating teeth
- Explain major equine diseases, known causes and treatment ex: colic, laminitis/founder, insulin resistance, influenza, strangles, tetanus, encephalomyelitis, rhinopneumonitis, heaves, choke, skin and tooth problems, West Nile virus, and rabies

Riding Skills- Demonstrate these skills

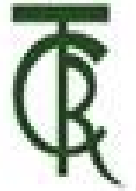
- Demonstrate both a 20 meter circle and a 10 meter circle with correct geometry and bend
- Have an understanding of the Training Scale and demonstrate knowledge by using vocabulary
- Work mount at walk, trot and canter changing direction in all gaits with demonstration of smooth transitions and balance
- Demonstrate geometrically correct serpentine
- Halt Square
- Correct aids for leg yield at the trot
- Correct aids for shoulder in/haunches in at trot
- Knowledge of mount's stride and can identify if horse has forward rhythm and balance
- Demonstrate a lengthening and shortening of stride
- Ask for and maintain correct leads on straight lines
- Explain and set correct distances for trotting poles and cantering poles
- Demonstrate different types of seat: full, driving, light, half and galloping
- Consistently demonstrates a following hand with contact suitable for selected work and training of horse

Jumping Skills

- Ride a gymnastic with several elements demonstrating correct position and release finishing with an oxer of 3'0
- Has ability to walk courses including knowing striding for lines
- Can develop a plan for desired jumping course of 8-10 fences

Other Skills:

- Are able to handle horses in varied terrain including water crossings and steep hills
- Ride safely outside of arena in a group



Level VI Advanced

A rider who has progressed to the Advanced Level of riding has demonstrated excellent horsemanship and riding and would be prepared to enter into a professional career with horses. A rider at the advanced level impresses a professional they are able to fully and completely care for a horse from stable management, nutrition and veterinary care and would improve a horse's way of going with correct, effective riding.

An advanced rider has selected a discipline and demonstrates mastery of the skills required for the discipline and is competitive in their selected arena. The rider improves every horse they work with effective cues and use of tools to improve balky, hesitant, young or mistreated horses.

Horsemanship:

- Can discuss and implement nutrition and conditioning plan for a horse with a set goal including competition or body condition score
- Plan and implement a 30 min flat riding lesson for a Level 1 or 2 student
- Discuss and describe action for snaffle bit, curb bit and pelham bit
- Discuss major illnesses or diseases and ability to describe symptoms and basic care

Handling-

- Perform and complete a complete trailer safety check
- Demonstrates ability to drive trailers and ensure comfort of horses for long or short hauls
- Perform standing wraps, shipping wraps and polo wraps
- Have knowledge of natural horsemanship groundwork and discuss pressure and release as it relates to working a horse

Horse Care:

- Understand reasons for and types of body clipping
- Discuss all aspects of leg and hoof anatomy
- Discuss presented horse's confirmation including suitability for discipline, positive points, negative points, and can identify 8 leg faults.
- Demonstrate taking of vital signs and acceptable levels
- Discuss emergency procedures for colic, puncture wounds, eye injuries and major and minor lacerations
- Perform a morning or night check of facility including feeding procedures and health checks of horse

Riding Skills- Demonstrate these skills

- Selects effective stirrup length for chosen work- ex, flat, jumping, outdoor riding etc
- Demonstrates a fair, following hand at all gaits and transitions
- Ride lateral skills at walk, trot and canter":



- Shoulder in
- Haunches in
- Leg yields
- Half passes
- Travers
- Walk Pirouettes
- Turning on the forehand
- Turning on the haunches
- Ride figures at walk trot and canter including figure 8, serpentine, loops, shallow serpentine
- Ask for correctly and demonstrate flying lead changes across the diagonal
- Demonstrate correctly balanced counter-canter
- Discuss how mount is going in current ride using the Training Scale as talking points
- Demonstrate galloping position for different pace
- Has knowledge of when to use different seats from driving-half seats
- Can correctly explain how to assist with balky horses, forward horses, horses who lack in straightness, spookiness and other common training issues
- Can correctly explain acceptance of the bit and how to improve self carriage in horses
- Demonstrate a deep or classical riding position with correct stirrup length
- Ride a USDF Dressage test at Second Level
- Can correctly alter work for level of horse and implements the training scale to horses' abilities

Jumping Skills

- Demonstrate correct jumping position over crest of jump, on approach and landing of jump
- Develops correct and adjustable jumping strides in the canter
- Correctly and appropriately can describe how to school a horse through refusals, run outs, rushing and bolting
- Demonstrate a correctly ridden jumper round with balanced turns, related distances and aids for maintaining pace at a height of 3'3
- Explain distances for ground poles and reasoning for those poles
- Has knowledge of distances, related distances and setting fences
- Show correct use of a release/following hand over fences
- Explain a plan to introduce horses to jumping and how to improve jumping style and ability
- Cross Country: Has knowledge of different fences and varied types of questions as well as differences in riding styles from Jumpers to XC

Other Skills:

- Show consideration for riding alone or within groups and maintains safety in all situations