



FIVE STAR RANKING SYSTEM

First Star ☆

Part 1

- ✿ Halters and leads correctly
- ✿ Properly fits their own helmet
- ✿ Tacks up with assistance
- ✿ Can adjust stirrup length from ground
- ✿ Knows how to do a tack check
- ✿ Can tie a safety release knot
- ✿ Basic grooming (younger children may require assistance with hoof cleaning)
- ✿ Can mount with assistant
- ✿ Correct position at the halt and walk
- ✿ Trotting in all three positions - sitting, rising and two-point position
- ✿ Performs around the world at halt
- ✿ Can shorten & lengthen reins at a halt
- ✿ Knows an emergency dismount & emergency braking
- ✿ Can keep horse to the rail at the walk and trot
- ✿ Trots poles in two-point position
- ✿ Canters on the lungeline
- ✿ Knows how to properly put tack away

Part 2

- ✿ Knows basic horse anatomy & markings
- ✿ Can name basic tack parts
- ✿ Knows the basics of cleaning tack
- ✿ Knows how to cool horse out properly
- ✿ Can measure grain and hay
- ✿ Knows arena rules and riding distances
- ✿ Can properly bed and muck a stall

Second Star ☆☆

Part 1

- ✿ Grooms independently
- ✿ Knows the procedure for turning out and bringing in with a full pasture
- ✿ Tacks up independently (shorter students may need assistance with what they aren't able to reach)
- ✿ Mounts independently from block
- ✿ Can canter independently and keep to the rail
- ✿ Correct position at walk and trot
- ✿ Has mastered trotting off the lunge line (two-point, rising, sitting) with correct diagonals
- ✿ Understands leads
- ✿ Can dismount at walk
- ✿ Can hack out on trails
- ✿ Rides bareback at the walk
- ✿ Knows how to ride up and down hills
- ✿ Rides a simple crossrail gymnastic, trotting in and cantering out
- ✿ Bathes with assistance

Part 2

- ✿ Knows all parts of bridle and saddle and can re-assemble tack independently
- ✿ Knows how to blanket
- ✿ Can jog a horse in hand
- ✿ Able to identify simple lameness
- ✿ Knows basic breeds
- ✿ Name all types of jumps

Third Star ☆☆☆

Part 1

- ✿ Mounts from ground unassisted
- ✿ Adjusts girth and stirrups while mounted (unassisted)
- ✿ Rides a correct position at walk, trot, and canter with correct leads
- ✿ Rises into trot on correct diagonal
- ✿ Demonstrates direct, indirect and leading reins
- ✿ Rides a sitting trot without stirrups
- ✿ Can ride 20-meter circles at W-T-C
- ✿ Bathes horse on own with correct grooming supplies
- ✿ Fluent over Cross rails
- ✿ Learning to stride jump lines
- ✿ Can set simple jump gymnastics and cavaletti
- ✿ Change of diagonal at the trot, riding a figure 8 in balance & maintaining rhythm
- ✿ Simple lead changes at the canter
- ✿ Jumps simple field obstacles
- ✿ Knows how to control their horse in the open, including emergency aids
- ✿ Stands and backs from lineup

Part 2

- ✿ Can identify illnesses (colic, thrush, rain rot, girth galls, infection, etc.)
- ✿ Understand types of leg support
- ✿ Knows sequences of foot falls of all gaits
- ✿ Understand principles of warm up and cool down
- ✿ Understands basic conditioning
- ✿ Can weigh and measure height of horse
- ✿ Can fit a saddle, bridle and bit properly
- ✿ Keeps a lesson journal
- ✿ Knows dressage arena letters and layout

Fourth Star ☆☆☆☆

Part 1

- ✿ Executes basic lateral exercises (turn on forehand, haunches, leg yielding)
- ✿ Rides balanced circles, turns, and serpentine (various sizes) with correct bend and position at all 3 gaits
- ✿ Can maintain steady contact on the bit
- ✿ Can extend & collect at the walk & trot
- ✿ Half halts correctly
- ✿ Understands differences between hunt seat, dressage, and eventing position
- ✿ Fluently jumping 2' plus courses
- ✿ Jumps a simple grid without reins
- ✿ Posts without stirrups
- ✿ Canters without stirrups
- ✿ Riding and striding grids independently
- ✿ Specialized grooming (mane pulling, braiding, clipping)
- ✿ Can ride in the open in all gaits at different paces
- ✿ Can lunge horses for exercise (knows proper tack and voice commands)
- ✿ Jumping banks, ditches, and other field jumps on varying terrain

Part 2

- ✿ Knows and can measure vital signs
- ✿ Understands turn out & herd management
- ✿ Can bandage for injuries, shipping, etc
- ✿ Understands what to feed, why, when and how
- ✿ Knowledgeable about trailering and proper loading
- ✿ Participating in shows
- ✿ Can articulate basic UESF rules and regulations for competition in chosen discipline
- ✿ Plans training schedules and keeps a lesson/training journal

Fifth Star ☆☆☆☆☆

Part1

- ✿ Demonstrates independent seat
- ✿ Use of aids is knowledgeable and tactful
- ✿ Can ride on the bit with the horse coming through from behind
- ✿ Can do more advanced lateral exercises (shoulder-in and out)
- ✿ Can maintain balance and rhythm and ride with collection and extension on the flat and over fences
- ✿ Fluently jumping 2'6 and up (2'3 for ponies)
- ✿ Can land on a designated lead
- ✿ Jumps on a straight, angled or bending approach
- ✿ Can design & set a full course of jumps
- ✿ Can walk a course and plan the ride based on horse's individual stride
- ✿ Jumps novice level cross-country
- ✿ Understands uses for advanced tack
- ✿ Can fit tack to individual horses
- ✿ Smooth transitions between gaits
- ✿ Can critique and instruct other riders competently
- ✿ Can lunge a fellow rider
- ✿ Performs flying lead changes

Part 2

- ✿ Can load/unload a horse from trailer
- ✿ Can fill out own entry form
- ✿ Understands horses psychology
- ✿ Shows maturity and experience
- ✿ Understands mounted and ground training principles
- ✿ Jumps without stirrups
- ✿ Jumps without reins
- ✿ Can use variety of tack for specific purposes
- ✿ Can lunge green or difficult horse (with different tack)
- ✿ Knowledgeable about first aid for horses
- ✿ Understands conformation and soundness and its relation to different disciplines
- ✿ Can examine a horse for purchase
- ✿ Maintains a training schedule and lesson journal with exercises and training articles specific to discipline