



COMSU HORSE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Horse Certification Requirements:

- *Qualifying Standards*
 1. NO stallions
 2. Horse must be sound
 3. The horse must be 5 years old to be certified; but, may begin the process of qualification (obstacles, formation, trail rides) in its 4th year. Certification begins on January 1 of its 5th year and only then is it permitted to participate in searches, joint simulations, or public events
 4. The horse must be quiet and well mannered and possess no dangerous vices such as kicking, biting, rearing, and running away, etc. or be subject to IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION
 5. The horse must not demonstrate aggressive behavior people or domestic animals
 6. The horse should load readily. Also, it should be willing to be loaded into a strange trailer
 7. The horse must stand quietly while being tied
 8. The horse should stand quietly while being mounted or dismounted from either side
 9. The horse should demonstrate it will walk, trot and lope in both directions in an arena. Control is the issue, not perfection of gaits or leads
 10. The horse should willingly be ponied and able to pony another horse. It should also allow the rider to hold at least two others horses while mounted
 11. Rider should be able to put on a slicker as well as open a map while mounted
 12. On the trail the horse and rider must demonstrate:
 - control while riding with the group at a variety of gates
 - control while leaving the herd and being left behind
 - readiness to negotiate water and bridges both alone and with other horses
 - ability to ride and/or lead over rough terrain easily
 - ability to go up and down a steep hill



13. The horse and rider team will be asked to negotiate an obstacle course of several items. The obstacles could include some or all of the items listed in the next section. The team will be allowed up to three refusals to any one obstacle. A score of at least 80% will be necessary to certify the horse/rider team

- *Obstacle Course (up to 3 refusals per obstacle, a score of 80% or higher needed to pass)*
 1. Walk, trot, lope (both directions) in arena under control
 2. Back through “L”
 3. Side pass left and right
 4. Walk across a large tarp (blue or black)
 5. Slicker (approach, pick up, walk away)
 6. Open and close gate (while mounted or on foot)
 7. Walk across a bridge
 8. Drag a heavy object
 9. Take a small jump
 10. Plastic bag of cans (approach, pick up, set down); ride among toys, balls, bikes, etc.
 11. Pony and be ponied (without rider holding the reins and by a horse other than a stable mate)
 12. Accept loud noises and/or sudden stimuli such as: gunfire, sirens, chainsaws, generators, motorbikes, helicopters, backpackers, hikers, etc

- *Trail Ride*

Horses and riders will be asked to participate in a qualifying trail ride to demonstrate their abilities to interact with others in the trail situation.

Horse Annual Re-certification Requirements:

Horse must participate in at least one COMSU activity annually.