

# GREENACRES EQUINE CENTER RIDER LEVELS

## Introductory Level – L1A

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| <p><b><u>Horsemanship Knowledge</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stable Rules</li> <li>• Basic Equine Behavior</li> <li>• Saddle/Bridle Parts (see Study Guide for Level 1 Test)</li> <li>• Natural Aids vs. Artificial Aids</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Horse Care and Handling</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approaching Horses</li> <li>• Haltering</li> <li>• Leading</li> <li>• Grooming</li> <li>• Tacking</li> <li>• Cooling out a hot horse</li> <li>• Care of Tack</li> </ul> | <p><b><u>Riding Skills</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mounting</li> <li>• Basic Seat</li> <li>• Shortening/Lengthening Reins</li> <li>• Adjusting Stirrups (Unmounted)</li> <li>• Tightening girth (Unmounted)</li> <li>• Hand position</li> <li>• Basic Control – stop, start, steer</li> <li>• 4 Natural Aids</li> <li>• Walk, stay on rail</li> <li>• Circle at Walk</li> <li>• Reverse in walk</li> <li>• Halting</li> <li>• Trotting – Sitting and Posting</li> <li>• Vertical Far (w &amp; w/o hands) at walk</li> <li>• Proper turns</li> <li>• Riding relaxed and balanced with correct position</li> <li>• Drop and pick up stirrups at walk w/o looking at feet</li> </ul> |
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## Level 1 – L1B

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| <p><b><u>Horsemanship Knowledge</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stable Rules</li> <li>• Basic Equine Behavior</li> <li>• Saddle/Bridle Parts (see Study Guide for Level 1 Test)</li> <li>• Natural Aids vs. Artificial Aids</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Horse Care and Handling</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approaching Horses</li> <li>• Haltering</li> <li>• Leading</li> <li>• Grooming</li> <li>• Tacking</li> <li>• Cooling out a hot horse</li> <li>• Care of Tack</li> </ul> | <p><b><u>Riding Skills</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leg up</li> <li>• Adjusting Stirrups (mounted)</li> <li>• Tightening girth (mounted)</li> <li>• 20m Circle at trot</li> <li>• Reverse in trot</li> <li>• Posting Trot Diagonals</li> </ul> <p><i>Testing: Level 1 written test, Dressage Intro Test B (w/ correct trot diagonals)</i></p> <p><i><b><u>Graduates:</u></b> May become Apprentices – must be 10 years old &amp; take the Apprentice Training Class.</i></p> <p><i>+ = can ride in 1B or 2A classes</i></p> |
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***Note: Riders may be at varying points in each level. Riders will be continuously challenged by their instructors to learn & progress regardless of their current “level.” Each rider will progress at their own pace, please do not be discouraged if a rider spends multiple sessions in a particular level. We as instructors will not graduate students into the next level if we are not seeing confidence and competence at the current level- this is for the safety and comfort of the rider.***

## Level 2 – L2A, L2B, & L2C

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| <p><b><u>Horsemanship Knowledge</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horse Terms</li> <li>• Colors/Breeds/Markings</li> <li>• Body Parts</li> <li>• Hoof Parts</li> <li>• Basic Gaits</li> <li>• Ask, Tell, Command</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Horse Care and Handling</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proper way to turnout horses</li> <li>• Stable Chores</li> </ul> | <p><b><u>Level 2A</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro to canter</li> <li>• Sitting / Control in canter</li> </ul> <p>*Need written test.</p> <p><b><u>Level 2B</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canter Leads</li> <li>• Canter 20m Circles</li> <li>• 2pt Position</li> </ul> <p><i>Testing: Dressage Intro Test C</i></p> <p>-----</p> <p><b><u>Level 2C Jumping Classes (begin)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro to Jumping</li> </ul> <p><i>Testing: Trotting a x-rails course &amp; Level 2 written test</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2C+ Riders have taken at least one session of 2C</li> </ul> <p><i>Graduates: May participate in Open Rides.</i></p> |
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## Level 3 Encourages Thinking Riders L3A & L3B

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| <p><b><u>Horsemanship Knowledge</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced horse behavior – Reading Body Language</li> <li>• Basic Feeds/Feeding</li> <li>• Basic Bits and Biting</li> <li>• Tack Fitting</li> <li>• Additional Tack</li> <li>• Kinds of Jumps</li> <li>• Measuring Distances</li> <li>• Creating Courses</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Horse Care and Handling</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catching Horses</li> <li>• Correcting Behavioral Problems on the Ground</li> <li>• Identifying Lamenesses</li> <li>• Parasite Control</li> <li>• Administering Medications/Supplement</li> </ul> | <p><b><u>Level 3A</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro to cantering lines</li> <li>• Trotting cross-country fences</li> <li>• Hand-Gallop – Gallop Sets</li> </ul> <p><i>Testing: Canter 18" course – counting &amp; calling out leads w/ simple changes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• + means riders are right on the edge of the level &amp; the instructor will make the call based on the other riders in the class if the 3A or 3A/B time will fit best</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Level 3B – L3B</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canter 18"-2' courses in jump field</li> <li>• Trotting 18" Cross-Country Courses</li> <li>• Riding on Contact</li> <li>• Relaxed horse, reaching for the bit at trot</li> <li>• Correct sitting trot</li> <li>• Use half halts in transitions/bending</li> <li>• Use of half halts in canter</li> </ul> <p><i>Testing: cantering 2' courses in jump field, trot xc course &amp; Level 3 Written Test</i></p> <p><i>Graduates: May take trail rides while on Open Rides (with a Pony Clubber) &amp; are eligible to join the Greenacres Pony Club at Level 4 (Level 4 written Test must be completed before riders will be permitted to join Pony Club).</i></p> <p>*Riders that need to complete written test.</p> |
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## Level 4 Training Horses / Preparing for Competition

### Horsemanship Knowledge

- Equine Behavior Problems
- Selection and Suitability
- Conformation
- Unsoundnesses / Blemishes
- Teeth and Aging
- Show Ring Etiquette and Rules

### Horse Care and Handling

- Vital Signs
- Equine First Aid
- Hoof Care
- Hoof Problems
- Signs of Health and Sickness
- Proper Handling for Vet / Farrier – Restraints
- Conditioning Horses
- Bandaging
- Braiding

### Riding Skills

- Cantering Courses
- Changes of Lead- Simple/Flying
- Effective Use of Seat Aids
- Effective Use of Leg Aids
- Lengthening / Shortening of Strides in W/T/C
- Turns on Forehand / Haunches
- Dressage Tests
- Showing

**Testing:** Level 4 written test, 2'3" course in jump field & xc, Beg Novice Test A- all tests following this 4A mounted test will be Pony Club Certifications.

**\*\*This Level will be split into A, B, then C groups & will follow the Pony Club Rating System of: Unrated & D1 is 4A; D2 is 4B; D3- C1 is 4C, for the breakdown of lesson times in Level 4.**

\*Riders who still need written Tests.