

What Is YEDA?

Youth Educational Development Association.

The association is for students in grades 4-12. It is designed to help further students horsemanship knowledge while promoting sportsmanship, encouraging academics and building strong character skills. Each rider is placed in a class based on their grade and riding level/experience. Riders do not have to own a horse to compete! Shows are conducted at a host team's facility and horses are entered into a random draw. The purpose is to create great horsemanship skills.

YEDA's mission is to provide an equestrian riding program for youth students, via both instructional and experiential learning opportunities. To accomplish this we will engage in equestrian competitions, instructional clinics, networking events, and occasions for recruitment that includes but not limited to scholarship disbursements.

Are there other resources if I don't find answers listed here?

1. Yes! Anytime you see the asterisk * this means there is an additional email or document that will come from Courtney or team officers as the show season begins.
2. Read the YEDA [Rule Book](#). Visit the YEDA website at www.showyeda.com

*What does my child need?

Every member will need show clothes. The main goal for dressing for horsemanship is to look crisp, clean, well put together and with the latest fashion. This does not mean the most expensive outfit wins. Always keep it simple and clean. This means starched pants, starched shirts, polished boots and a well shaped hat. I can assist you with all these things and most can be purchased online or at consignment sale fairly inexpensively.

Sample outfit purchased by a new parent in 2020:

Used Youth Chaps (Hobby Horse brand) - \$86 on [ebay](#)

**new chaps range from \$69 - \$300 depending on brand*

Used Serratelli Cowboy Hat - \$100 plus shipping on ebay

** new \$200-\$800 depending on brand*

Hat can - can be purchased used for \$15-20 or new \$35-40

Show shirt for general showing

new online \$120-\$3000, depends on your taste & pocketbook

Boys wear nice starched solid color shirts with a bandanna type tie.

Girls wear a horsemanship type shirt or well fitted solid color oxford shirt.

[Showdiva](#) is a good place to look for styles and ideas

YEDA Show shirt must be purchased from the YEDA website

Show pants (Hobby Horse brand) - \$40, Bedford Tack has them cheaper than you can order online. And if you find anything online, they can order it most of the time cheaper than you can get it online.

Boots used \$20; new - \$80-\$100

Hair net (dollar store) - \$2

Belt - \$30

Show Buckle - \$15-20

Earrings - \$10

Number Pins - Hobby Horse around \$30, Bedford Tack

Spurs - \$30-40 (See below for info on what to buy); Spur Straps \$15

Team Polo (team website) - \$40

Team Jacket (team website) \$125

***What is required to prepare?**

A minimum of one lesson a week is recommended to participate in shows. However, two lessons a week is highly encouraged. You will receive more information on pricing from Courtney with regard to lessons, shows, fundraisers, etc. Be sure she has a good email address for you.

What is our role as a parent?

Our role as parents is to take them to lessons, pay our fees, get them where they need to be on time, be supportive and encouraging to all team members, not just our own kids, participate in fundraising efforts, and lend a helping hand when needed.

Remember you are not their coach. You are their support. The best thing you can do for your child no matter the outcome of the ride is tell them "I love watching you compete and do what you love."

Most of the riders are capable of taking care of themselves most of the time so we do not need to hover over them. There are times though when they do need help and we should be there to step in. The shows are definitely a team effort, but it is their team. It is good for the parents to be available and pay attention to what is going on but let the riders take care of everything they possibly can and to help each other out. This will make them more independent and self-confident.

2nd answer on this same question: Be on time, be on time, be on time! Have the riders dressed and ready when they are supposed to be. Bring everything you need to do make-up, buns, etc. Be prepared to help other riders get ready. We all pitch in where needed. Have plenty of water and snacks because sometimes these days are very long. Parents are often seen doing buns, helping with make up, making sure back numbers are straight, and helping with chaps.

Don't bother Courtney with questions that other moms or team officers can answer. She is always busy during a show and can't stop what she's doing to answer questions.

Don't ever go back to the holding area where the riders are mounting. (Per ASSOCIATION rules)You are not allowed there and you will make everyone mad by being there (probably including your child.) The coaches are extremely busy and focused giving last minute instructions, pulling down chaps, dusting off boots, etc.

When we do bring horses to a show, the team has the responsibility to hold our own horses between classes and when riders are mounting up. Each rider will be assigned a horse to hold (usually trading off with another rider). Someone always has to hold a horse if it is not in the ring so your child cannot wander off and sit in the stands or go to the bathroom unless they get someone else to hold the horse till they get back. In general, you should encourage your child to be a volunteer for the many, many tasks that need to get done at the show rather than sitting in the stands, playing video games, or fooling around with their friends outside the arena. At a minimum, they should be watching their teammates and cheering them on.

Ringside behavior: It is best to not sit in the front row at the arenas, as sometimes this can spook a horse going by and ruin someone's ride. At many shows, they make an announcement to this effect, but either way, try not to sit in the front row right by the ring. If you have younger siblings there, it is crucial to keep them well back from the ring and not let them do things that might spook a horse. These riders prepare very hard for the shows and sometimes one bad ride can mean they don't go to Nationals, so it is not fair if a horse spooks because someone let their little kid run screaming toward the ring. It has happened.

Also, don't open an umbrella near the ring. This can spook a horse. In general, it's best not to be too loud or overly dramatic in the stands, and this includes riders on our team who are finished with their class. They don't need to be screeching, shrieking, or generally carrying on when others are riding. If you wouldn't want someone doing that stuff during your ride, remember, the Golden Rule applies....

Don't get angry at Courtney when things don't go well. Sometimes they don't and it's not Courtney's fault. And it's always good to at least entertain the possibility that it is the rider's fault, not the horse's! This is very, very hard to do. Believe me, I know. We all think our kids are totally awesome, so it must be the fault of that stupid horse they were unlucky enough to draw, but the longer I do this, the more I see that problems are often (not always) caused by rider error. We all do this to some degree, but try not to walk around in a huff if your child draws the worst horse in the division. Seriously, for most of us, it does even out over time. Yes, they drew the worst horse this time, but don't forget that sometimes they get the best horse, too. And, interestingly, the better they get as riders, the less the horse they draw matters! Funny how that works! The temptation is always there (at least for me) to attribute a great ride to the rider, and a poor ride to the horse.

But there is no doubt that things will go wrong, and that your child will occasionally draw a horse that just is impossible to get a good ride on. It happens to all of us. Although

the judge's job is to judge how well the rider rides that horse; in actuality, that is very hard to do, unless the judge is extremely familiar with each horse's abilities and quirks. He/she will not know that this horse is extremely prone to breaking gait, won't/can't collect, or that they will always pin their ears when another horse passes them, etc. In a perfect world, the judge would be able to always tell when a rider does a superb job with a very difficult horse, and reward them over the rider who drew the dream horse that makes everything easy, but it just doesn't happen that way very often. Some judges are definitely better at this than others. We have been to a few shows where the same horses place first in every class they are in. So it is obvious they are judging the horse and not the riders. It stinks, but that's the way it is. If that happens, then it just literally becomes the "luck of the draw." You just have to learn to try to be philosophical about it. It is especially hard to do that, though, at Nationals, when you have just the one shot.....More on that later.

Show day... What if we have questions?

During a show, especially shows that our team is hosting, questions can be answered by a coach, a team manager or helper, or another parent. Courtney normally has her hands full watching whoever is riding or getting them ready and questions would be better fielded by someone who isn't so busy. Unless it is an emergency, or something only she can answer, then by all means ask her.

Spurs or no spurs? What determines that?

It depends on the Horse list and the class. The riders in Pearl and Opal can't use spurs in YEDA but may be able to use crops. ALWAYS CHECK THE OFFICIAL HORSE TAG OR HORSE CHANGES POSTED IN THE HOLDING AREA. This is the rider's responsibility. These lists can change throughout the day so it is always important to double check which horses may use spurs or crops. Riders may only wear ball or rowel spurs (that they provide) based on the division they ride in.

I've never purchased spurs before, what do I look for?

Below is a picture. These can be purchased locally or online. In addition to the spurs, you will also need to purchase straps. These come in english and western-you need western, with no bling. In addition, you will need to purchase spur straps. Plain to match your boots.

Samples online: Ball spurs and Rowel spurs

Spurs at [Chick's Saddlery](#).

Straps from [Horse.com](#)



What is required of the kids and/or parents the week of a show? (preparing tack, horses, etc.)

There is a lot to do before we leave. The riders usually get put into teams and given jobs, like bathe horses or clean tack, etc. A lot of that takes place the day/night before we leave. Then there are the morning and evening feedings and the tacking/untacking, watering, haying, etc. at the facility.

Courtney or the team officers will send out an email a few days before we leave that tells what time to meet & where. (Sometimes in the hotel lobby at 6:00.) When we take horses, some people need to meet at the barn and follow the trailer. This is in case we blow a tire on the highway or the truck dies, etc. Make sure chaps are sponged/brushed off, especially at the hem. Make sure hat is clean and shaped and shirt is clean.

What needs to be in the bag for makeup/hair?

Do a quick run-through of your make-up bag, making sure you have:

- hairspray
- large bobby pins for pinning hats on
- fashion tape (2 sided tape to tape collars down if necessary)
- hairpins (I like the u-shaped ones, not bobby pins for buns, but I know others like bobby pins better. Probably depends on how thick the girl's hair is maybe?)
- hairnets – get the fine, cobwebby type, bun-sized ones, not the chignon ones. Those are way too big. Don't get those thick English-style ones unless you want her hair all put under the hat as opposed to a bun. And make sure they are as matching with the girl's hair as possible.
- Make-up
- Sunscreen
- Safety pins – large and small.
- Hair ponytail holders – I use both the big elastics (to match hair) and small clear ones.

**Also stock up on bottled water and Gatorade, and snacks.

What if my outfit isn't complete yet?

In an ideal world, you would like to have everything you need before you go. But in the real world, we borrow what we cannot get in time. Find another kid who is pretty close to the same size, and see if she has something you can borrow.

Do I have to hem my show pants?

Yes. Horsemanship is a lot about "the look." You don't want your pants hanging out below your chaps. Crisp and clean!

Do we take horses to every show?

Most shows, yes. But not ALL. It is rare that we do not, though. Be prepared for barn work.

When getting a hotel, how do you decide on who is bunking with who? Or do you stay as a family?

Both, it's up to you. It is recommended to stay in the same hotel with the rest of the team though because Courtney will sometimes call coaches meetings in the lobby and it would be inconvenient to be in a separate hotel. There are also fun things to do, like swim, which helps with team building if those on the team are in one place and can bond. Ultimately it is your decision however if you choose to stay away from the team it is your responsibility to stay in touch to know what is going on.

What do parents need to know/expect about the day of the show?

Riders need to be there watching when the horses are schooled, preferably standing by the coaches to hear the comments they make about each horse. They don't need to be show-dressed for this, but usually it is just easier to go ahead and do hair/makeup/pants in the hotel rather than doing all that in a crowded (often dirty) bathroom at the arena. Bring show boots, chaps, shirt, and hat to put on at the arena later.

Most shows request that the girls be dressed for the drawing of the horses if doing a live draw. This is an exciting, dramatic time for the girls (and coaches and parents). Sometimes the people putting on the shows make it fun by having the girls draw a candy cane with a number on it, or some other little trinket. Other shows have the coaches draw, and others have the show steward draw for everyone. Courtney will let you know which will be the case at a given show. Most of the girls like to draw for themselves, but it can be a little bit of a nightmare having groups of giggly girls standing around, so I think that's why it isn't done that way all the time. Coaches get very testy if the riders are not quiet during the draw, because they have to write down the rider/horse combos and if they can't hear, they understandably get very agitated.

Do we go sign up like we would at a regular show? Or is this all done by the coaches?

This is done by the coaches. Entries have to be turned in before the show. This is why Courtney will say, "I need to know by ____ if you are going." It is because there is a deadline for coaches to turn in a list of riders. With these shows, there is a lot of back office paperwork done that parents and riders never see. It is not like "normal" shows, where you see the show secretary and see the paperwork being handled.

Can they warm up the horses they draw?

Nope! :) The purpose of the draw format associations is to teach kids to be great horsemen; to be able to ride anything they are given. They go into the ring as soon as they mount. You just ride what you got, and remember everything you have been taught at home to turn out the best ride possible.

How do we know the horse drawn is safe?

The horses are placed in divisions just like the kids. Spike would not go in an open class, because there are higher level horses that can give those kids better rides. And Penny would never be in a beginner class, because that would end badly! The horses are all warmed up by coaches and "warm-up" riders the morning of the show. These rides are watched closely by a show steward. If any horse is acting crazy, we reserve the right to fire them. We all want to make sure that the kids have a good day and that no one gets hurt. Rest assured that there are many knowledgeable adults keeping a close eye on the horses and keeping your child's safety at the top of their priority list!!!

2nd answer to this same question: Well, in my case, that involves a lot of prayer! I've been to all the shows over the last 3+ years and I've only seen one person fall off a horse and that's because someone didn't tighten the girth and the saddle slid off the side of the horse, spooking him. (But don't touch the girth!!! Only the handlers or coaches can tighten a girth.) It is nerve-wracking, but the more experience they get, the less I worry about that issue. People should use good judgment and only bring safe horses to the show, but as we all know, horses are never 100% bombproof, and things can happen.

How much feedback can we expect during the show if we have questions on why or why not for a placing, how they did, etc.?

One thing that is a constant is that during an event the parents should limit their questions and interactions with Courtney to the smallest amount possible. She stays behind the rail where only the riders and the coaches are allowed for a reason. The team is very big and she knows a lot of parents will have questions about why did my child only get a third place or a fifth place, what did she do wrong? A good idea is to video your child during their class and then at some later date, during a lesson, etc, go

over the video with Courtney and she can point out some things. She's watching all these kids do any number of classes and she's going to have a hard time remembering every little thing they do. Also always check the scorecards after the show! This is a great way to get feedback from the judges that you can compare to your videoed ride. It is also a great way to see trends from show to show. Is Courtney always saying keep your free hand still and then you see it on a judges card? Great way to help reinforce the information they are receiving in lessons.

How many shows are required?

Riders must show in a minimum of 2 shows to qualify for State Invitationals or Nationals. YEDA takes the top 6 placings from the shows you attend. You can only show to 12 YEDA judges. Otherwise people would be showing at every show they could get to in the Southeast trying to rack up points. The limit keeps a fair playing field. Some of the shows count as double judged shows, so you can potentially ride at 1 show and receive 2 sets of points for 1 ride.

What if we miss a show because of sickness or other things?

You just don't get points. We do need to know as soon as possible though, so we can let the show office know that your child is a scratch and if any rider that may be taking their place in that class.

2nd answer to same question: That is a pretty big deal. Courtney will sometimes split the team and not showing up to a show may end up meaning that there is no point rider available to ride in that division in the show. That is not fair to the rest of the team because it severely decreases the likelihood of winning or getting points for the team. If it is unavoidable, let Courtney know as soon as possible so she can try to salvage the situation.

Where do we go to see points and results of teams overall?

There will usually be a board at the show with all of the teams listed. Throughout the day, it is updated with points from each class. At the end of the day, you can see the final results and know if we are bringing home the big shiny ribbons :)

2nd answer to same question: There will generally be a show office or show table where they keep a running total of the team points on a posterboard as the show progresses. YEDA awards points based on the number in the class. Sometimes they announce 7th or honorable mention, but there are no points awarded for those.

To see points for teams and individuals throughout the year you can go to National website.

How is the rider order determined at the show? Is this random and does it vary from show to show?

The classes vary from show to show, the order of go (for pattern classes) is usually determined by the draw. We generally do not know what the schedule will be until the week of the show and sometimes not until the day of the show. It is nearly impossible to predict a "time" your child will show. You might get lucky and know whether it will be in the morning or afternoon but that is about as precise as you should ever expect.

Are there consignment shops available to purchase show apparel?

There are several shops available within driving distance from M'boro.

[Hoofin' It Consignment](#) –hosted by Team Need A Hand

Facebook [Used Kids Horse Show Clothes](#)

Facebook [Used Youth Horse Show Clothes](#)

Good websites for show clothes (both used and new)?

Hobby Horse - <http://www.hobbyhorseinc.com/>

Show Time Show Clothing - <http://www.showtimeshowclothing.com/store/>

Rod's - <http://www.rods.com/>

Just Peachy - <http://www.justpeachyonline.com/collections/horsemanship>

Show Me Again - <http://www.showmeagain.com/>

ebay - <http://www.ebay.com/>

Gray Horse Trading Company <http://www.grayhorse.com/> (has hobby horse stuff but better service)

How many points are required to qualify to go to Nationals?

Yeda takes the top 10 riders or top 20% (whichever is greater) point earners for each division.

State Invitational riders are determined by being the top point earner from your state NOT qualified for Nationals in your division.

How are team points calculated/decided?

Here's how the points work. (It's very confusing at the beginning till you get the hang of it.) In the regular season shows, every rider earns points for themselves as an individual every time they ride. So if they show in horsemanship and reining, they have 2 different point totals going. Their goal is to get as many points as possible.

The highest placing team rider's points in each division will count go toward the team points. So they then earn the points not only for their individual standing, but also for the team. These are the points that are added up on the posterboard showing the team standings. The other (non-point) riders are only earning their points as an individual, and their results do not affect the team points directly. However, every time a rider gets a high placing, that means that a rider from another team cannot earn those points for their team. This is called "point blocking." So it is very important that all riders do well,

not only for themselves, but also as it helps the team's relative standings. Coaches love SWEEPING a class taking the top placings!

So who are the team riders at Nationals?

This is the part that people can get touchy about. Courtney has to designate the team rider in each class BEFORE the show. If there are several NAH riders in one division, Courtney has to use her magic crystal ball to predict which one will place the highest. This is very, very hard to do. Some riders always place pretty well, others are wildly inconsistent, either placing first or not at all. Some classes have only one rider so it is a no-brainer, others have 3-4 great riders and it could be a toss-up on any given day as to which of them will place higher. I feel sorry for Courtney having to do this. She still doesn't make a big deal out of telling people who the team riders are until last minute. Probably for 2 reasons: 1) it puts more pressure on the team rider, potentially making them more nervous, and 2) it may hurt the feelings of the non-team riders who may conclude that Courtney doesn't have much faith in them or that she thinks so-and-so is better than me.

It is frustrating (especially for Courtney) when the non-team riders place higher than the team riders, and sometimes as a result, the team doesn't win. Believe me, if Courtney could see into the future, she would pick the right person every time, but she has to make an educated guess and just deal with the outcome.

The bottom line is that your child is always trying to do their best in each ride, and the rest is just administrative and is completely out of their control. So it shouldn't matter to them, in theory. If they get first place and someone else was designated as the team rider, well, at least it kept another team from getting those points. It's probably best not to think about it too much, or talk about it too much. Point Blockers are JUST as important as POINT riders and those who think otherwise do not understand the process.

How do we do fundraisers? How many fundraisers are there during the season?

Our big fundraisers in the past have been chili cook-offs, silent auctions, Hoofin It consignment sale, and our own horse shows that we host in November. We also ask for donations from friends/family members by sending out sponsorship letters. In the past we have also done bake sales, pony rides, haunted barns, and worked concession stands. It is very important to contribute as much as possible to the fundraisers as showing can be quite expensive and this greatly helps defer some of the cost. Sometimes things pop up last minute, concession stand work for instance, and we will try to take advantage of these opportunities to earn money for our team.

What are the different divisions/levels (Pearl, Opal, Emerald, Ruby, Sapphire, Diamond, etc)?

This is clearly explained in the rulebook at ShowYEDA.org It's worth the read.

Above all being a member of team need a hand is about building character, forming lifelong friendships, growing into a productive citizen, and learning from our ups and downs. Some of us may never win a blue ribbon, some may never acquire more than a few points but above all we WILL be successful because success is not determined by shiny things but by the person that you have become and the attitude you leave with.