

HORSEMANSHIP CURRICULUM:

GREEN LEVEL

The **Green Horsemanship Level** is a beginner level, designed to further develop students' basic riding skills while introducing riding at the canter or lope and over obstacles.

This Level encourages **increased independence** while teaching students to consider **their influence on the horse** and their responsibility for the horse's welfare.

WHO IS GREEN LEVEL FOR?

-  **Students in regular group or private lessons** who have completed the **Red** and **Yellow Horsemanship Levels**.
*(We recommend requiring a **minimum** of one lesson a week!)*
-  **Riding lesson students** who have the maturity and physical capability to catch and prepare a horse for a ride independently.
-  **Riders** who aspire to jump, barrel race, and/or ride safely in the open.
-  **Students who are ready to learn more challenging riding skills** and are willing to Level Up their commitment to fitness both in and out of the saddle!

WHAT DOES GREEN LEVEL TEACH?

-  **Routines for efficient and self-directed** ground handling and tacking up.
-  **How to rate a horse's speed** at the walk and trot/jog.
-  **Riding at the canter/lope**, along the rail, through large circles, and over a single pole.
-  **Awareness of posting diagonals and leads**, including how to ride a simple change of lead to change rein at the canter/lope.
-  **Riding without stirrups** and **bareback** at the walk and trot/jog.
-  **A balanced and secure position over ground poles**, and for students in the English curriculum, a small **crossrail**.

Green Level is full of exciting milestones!

While **Green Level** is still a beginner Level, it creates a foundation for intermediate horsemanship. Students develop a balanced seat and strong base of support at all three gaits, allowing them to pursue the riding discipline of their choice.

We consider **Green Horsemanship** to be the minimum requirement for students who wish to ride outside of lessons, including lessees, trail riders and members of our show team. Even casual recreational riders can achieve this Level with the help of a well-trained school horse. **This is also the last mounted Level with a ground handling objective.** Students who earn a **Green Level** ribbon are qualified to arrive early and tack up their horse outside of paid lesson time.

