**C-2 Member Email**

**Welcome to the Upper Level of Pony Club**

**To:** All current C-2 members

**Subject:** 1, 2, 3 to National Level Testing

Reaching the C-2 level is an amazing accomplishment for a Pony Club Member. It shows a level of maturity and the development into a well-rounded horse person who understands the reasons behind horsemanship. The next levels for C-2s are [National Certifications](https://www.ponyclub.org/Certifications/NationalLevel/Certifications.aspx). National Certifications continue to recognize one’s growth as an equestrian, and we invite you to learn more about National Testing.

**Why Test?**

No one can say it better than a fellow member, *“It is worth pursuing the upper level certification because you have to own what you know…When I get on a horse, every exercise I use has a reason and a purpose. I can thank Pony Club for that.”*  Read more from the current *Pony Club News* Summer/Fall 2017 issue – [The Value of the Upper Levels: Owning What You Know](http://digital.olivesoftware.com/Olive/ODN/USPCNews/Default.aspx) by Ema Klugman, A Trad/ A SJ

Need more reasons? Read the Ten Reasons to Test at the Upper Levels from *Pony Club News* Spring 2015, and the Benefits of the Upper Level Certification Process from *Pony Club News* Winter 2013.

**Interested in Testing?** Follow the steps – 1, 2, 3!

**1 – Be Eligible to Test**

· Be a Pony Club Member in Good Standing – if you haven’t already, renew your membership.

· Must have competed in one mounted rally on a mounted or unmounted basis during your Pony Club career.

· Be 13 years of age (by 1/1 of the testing year) to test the H-B or C-3.

**2 – Prepare to Test**

·  [Read the Standards](https://www.ponyclub.org/Certifications/NationalLevel/StandardsTestSheetsChecklists.aspx) – they are the foundation for your studying and skill development. Refer to them often.

·  [Utilize the Checklists and Rubrics](https://www.ponyclub.org/Certifications/NationalLevel/StandardsTestSheetsChecklists.aspx) – these have been developed to assist you in accomplishing various sections of the certification.

· Study, Study, Study – Practice, Practice, Practice

o  [H-B Flashcards](https://shopponyclub.org/products/hb-flash-cards?variant=379745037) are available from [ShopPonyClub](https://shopponyclub.org/). Members repeatedly state that the flashcards are the most important tool for studying for the H-B.

o Test with a Friend – talk with other members in your club/center and surrounding area about studying and preparing for a Testing together. It will make preparing more fun, and gives you a support system during the Test!

o  [H-B Resource page](https://www.ponyclub.org/Certifications/NationalLevel/HB.aspx) is where you’ll find study guides, webinars, recommended reading list, study materials, and access to other resources, such as Pony Club IQ.

o  [Traditional (Eventing)](https://www.ponyclub.org/Certifications/NationalLevel/Traditional.aspx), [Dressage](https://www.ponyclub.org/Certifications/NationalLevel/Dressage.aspx), and [Show Jumping](https://www.ponyclub.org/Certifications/NationalLevel/ShowJumping.aspx) Resource pages can assist with accessing materials to develop your riding skills.

o If you have a non-Pony Club Instructor, make sure you have communicated your goals to them. Provide them with a copy of the current Standards, so they may incorporate the skills needed into your lessons.

· Talk to your DC/CA and RS about your interest in testing. Askabout what opportunities are available to assist you in preparing**:** clinics & preps (especially when being instructed by a NE), camps, teaching opportunities, etc. If you are on the border of another region, you can reach out to that region as well.

· Talk to members who have already tested – They can give you great advice on how to prepare and what to expect at a Test.

**3 – Apply to Test**

· Visit the [General Testing Information](https://www.ponyclub.org/Certifications/NationalLevel/GeneralInformation.aspx) page for specific information on eligibility, fees, refunds, cancellations, requests to change test dates, and retest information.

· Check out the [National Testing Calendar](https://www.ponyclub.org/Calendars/Testing.aspx) to find where and when tests are going to be held and their application deadlines. For the H-B in particular, keep in mind that flying or driving to a test may be a very viable option for you. ***(NOTE:*** *The majority of tests become available on the calendar in February of each year and additional tests are added throughout the year. Visit this page often as you begin to plan when you might want to test.)*· Applications must be submitted online 12 weeks prior to the testing start date, or a late fee will be assessed. **NOTE:** You must be signed into the Pony Club website in order to access Pony Club program pages and to apply for a test. If you don’t have your Username/Password, please [complete this form](https://www.ponyclub.org/secure/login/RequestAssistance.aspx).