



# **USPC CONVENTION January 22-26, 2025**

**Grand Traverse Resort & Spa  
100 Grand Traverse Village Blvd Williamsburg MI 49610**

**Hosted by Great Lakes Region Pony Clubs  
with support from Lakeshore Region Pony Clubs**

# Pony Club®



*Where it all begins*

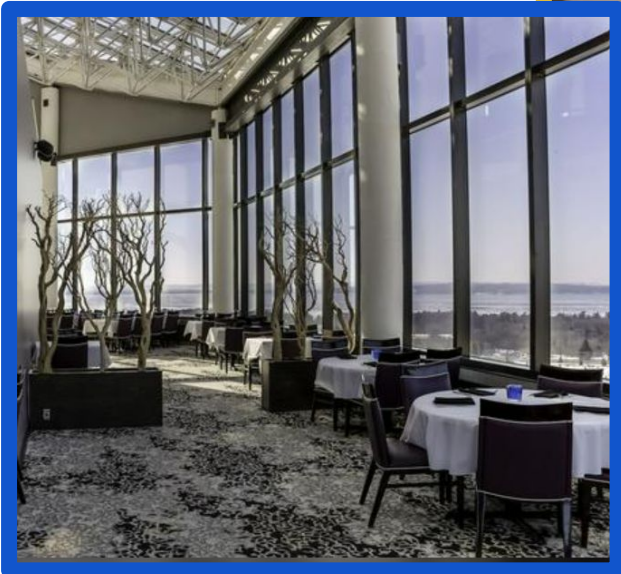
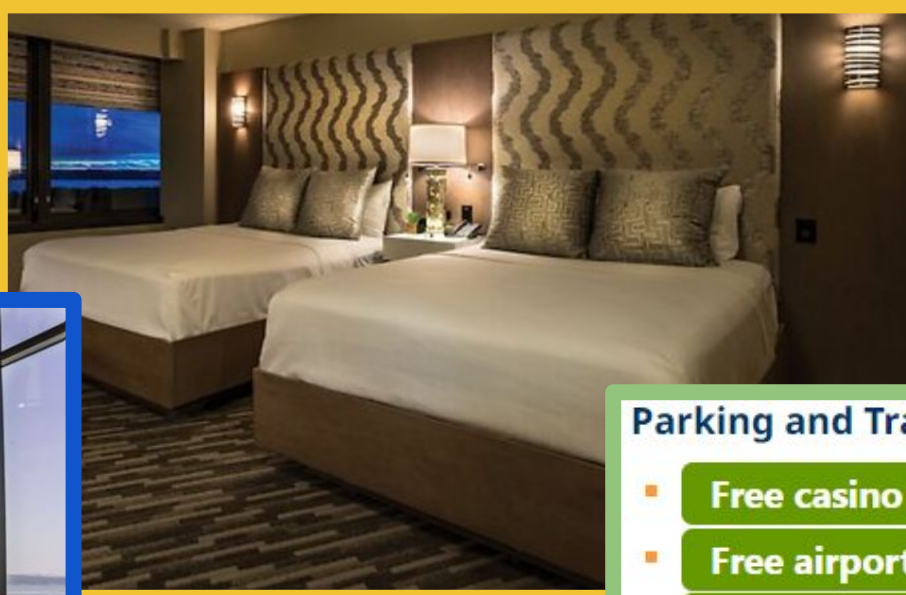
# Grand Traverse Resort and Spa

100 Grand Traverse Village Blvd, Acme, MI 49610



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## Parking and Transport

- Free casino shuttle ✓
- Free airport transportation ✓
- Free ski shuttle ✓
- Free beach shuttle ✓
- Free self parking ✓
- Free valet parking ✓

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2 Indoor and 2 Outdoor Pools

2 Outdoor and 1 Indoor Hot Tubs

Indoor Water Playground

Spa and Salon

Three Championship Golf Courses (54 holes)

Golf Academy

100,000 Square-foot Fitness and Tennis Center

5 Indoor and 4 Outdoor Tennis Courts

# What is Convention?

**Each year**, USPC hosts the Convention in a new location around the United States. In 2025, you can find the USPC Convention just outside Traverse City, Michigan, at the [Grand Traverse Resort and Spa](#) from January 22 - 26.

The event is open to the general public and includes extensive hands-on opportunities such as the Anatomy Lab, Horse Management Room, a variety of educational workshops, and the ability to connect with equine professionals from around the country.

***The USPC Convention is the only time of year when the entirety of Pony Club comes together, which means, alongside the fun, we connect about the future of Pony Club.***

***Gallop Into the Great Lakes***  
**January 22 - 26, 2025**

Connect with leaders, members, and friends from across the United States.  
See you there!



# What is Convention?

## GENERAL FLOW

### USPC CONVENTION

#### THURSDAY

Leadership Trainings  
Trade Fair



#### FRIDAY

Leadership Trainings  
Educational Workshops (PM)  
Trade Fair



#### SATURDAY

Meeting of the Corporation,  
Educational Workshops, Trade Fair,  
Saturday Night Banquet



#### SUNDAY

Educational Workshops  
Trade Fair



The first two days - **Thursday and Friday** - consist of **leadership trainings**. Friday afternoon begins the ever-famous **educational workshops**, kicking off a weekend of fun and interactive learning for members and equine enthusiasts alike continuing into Saturday and Sunday.

**Saturday** morning, we invite weekend and all access attendees to join us for a **complimentary continental breakfast at the Meeting of the Corporation**. Then enjoy the rest of the day perusing through the **trade fair** or attending a variety of **educational workshops**. Don't forget to sign up for the evening event: the **Saturday Night Banquet** for fine dining and the chance to **dance the night away**.

**Educational workshops** continue **Sunday** morning. Don't forget to grab your souvenirs from Shop Pony Club before the morning ends, because in the afternoon we begin saying our farewells as we pack up and begin planning for the next great USPC Convention.





Presented by Banixx Horse & Pet Care  
& Supported by Auburn Laboratories

# ANATOMY LAB

Get to know your favorite animal inside and out, with interactive displays and education in the USPC Anatomy Lab! Come and join Dr. Brad Gordon, DVM and Cindy Healy for some real hands-on experience in the USPC Anatomy Lab. With many specimens, this is a terrific way to learn more about our equine partners.



Thursday - Sunday





# EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

Educational workshops are one of the biggest highlights of the USPC Convention. Equine professionals around the country get together to speak and provide hands-on education on just about every equine topic imaginable.



Friday - Sunday



# Leadership Training - Thursday example



**All RS/VRS/DC/JtDC/CA/ACA** – *Welcome to the 2024 USPC Convention.* Begin your morning with coffee and a greeting from USPC’s Director of Member Services and Regional Administration, Karol Wilson. As a new Vice President of Regional Administration (VPRA) takes office, outgoing VPRA Lorelei Coplen will share some insights learned during her time in office. Then we will welcome incoming VPRA Rae Birr for a brief keynote as she discusses goals for her term.

**All RS/VRS/DC/JtDC/CA/ACA** – *Growing the Culture of Giving in Pony Club* with Lori Pickett, USPC Development Committee Chair. In this session, Lori will discuss what role we, as leaders, play in financially supporting the mission of Pony Club.

**All RS/VRS/DC/JtDC/CA/ACA** – *Insurance Basics That Everyone Should Know*, presented by Kevin Shewmaker of Western Specialty Insurors, LLC. USPC’s insurance carrier is new this year, so you won’t want to miss this explanation of the USPC insurance coverage for clubs, centers, and regions. Frequently asked questions, along with a few changes, will be highlighted.

## 10:45 – 11:00 AM BREAK

Tuscany B & C	Tuscany 2	Tuscany 7
<p><b>Breakout</b> – <i>How to Promote Your Club or Center.</i> USPC’s Marketing and Communications Director, Sarah Evers Conrad, will share tips to promote your club or center, and how to promote USPC as a whole. Explore various communication methods for reaching current and potential members, where to find resources available to Pony Club leaders, and how to talk about Pony Club so that new members become intrigued and understand more about how Pony Club works.</p>	<p><b>Breakout</b> – <i>Safety in USPC.</i> During this hour, USPC Safety Committee Chair SueAnn McClelland will speak about one of USPC’s most important topics. She will discuss the many safety resources, practices, awareness, and requirements.</p>	<p><b>Breakout</b> – VPRA Lorelei Coplen will discuss <i>How to Run a Sponsors (or Regional Council) Meeting.</i> Learn what Sponsors and Regional Council meetings are, why proper meeting protocol is so important, and get tips to holding efficient meetings during this session.</p>

## LUNCH BREAK 12:00 – 1:30 PM

**All RS/VRS/DC/JtDC/CA/ACA** – USPC Instruction Director Connie Jehlik presents *What’s New in Instruction.* Leaders at every level will want to attend this session as Connie discusses the latest Standards of Proficiency updates and what they mean for leaders. Then USPC IT Director Alyssa Sands will join Connie for an interactive tutorial about options for members’ progression through the levels on their educational journey.

## 2:30 – 2:45 PM BREAK

**All RS/VRS/DC/JtDC/CA/ACA** – *Championships and Festival Moving Forward*, presented by USPC Vice President of Activities Jan Whitehouse and USPC Activities Director Erin Roland. This session focuses on the new Championships rotation and what to expect moving forward to Festival 2024 and beyond.

## 3:45 – 4:00 PM BREAK

**All RS/VRS/DC/JtDC/CA/ACA** – *USPC’s New Programs.* Learn about the brand-new member program opportunities coming to USPC in this continuation of the USPC Activities Department presentation, led by Jan Whitehouse and Erin Roland.

# Leadership Training - Friday example



**All RS/VRS/DC/JtDC/CA/ACA** – USPC’s Legal Counsel, Andrew Jacobs, presents *What Makes a Nonprofit a Nonprofit*. Under the USPC structure, all local and regional operations are accountable to the national organization. This session will include discussion of the USPC By-Laws, highlighting relevant topics at all levels. Basic considerations, obligations, and responsibilities of USPC leaders will be explained.

## 9:30 – 9:45 AM BREAK

**All RS/VRS/DC/JtDC/CA/ACA** – USPC’s Legal Counsel, Andrew Jacobs, returns to present *The Money of Nonprofits*. Nonprofits require money to operate, and that money must be raised, spent, and reported correctly. This session will cover topics such as fundraising, unrelated business income, gaming, record retention, and more!

## 10:45 – 11:00 AM BREAK

Tuscany B & C	Tuscany 2	Tuscany 7
<p><b>Breakout</b> – <i>Where It All Begins</i>. Pony Club is THE equine educational organization that prepares riders for safe and successful riding in whatever discipline they want to pursue. During this breakout, USPC Board Member, Clinician, and National Examiner Asia Thayer will share tips for promoting how USPC supports equestrians in any of their competition goals and endeavors.</p>	<p><b>Breakout</b> – <i>Nonprofit Q&amp;A session</i> with USPC’s Legal Counsel, Andrew Jacobs. Bring any lingering questions regarding nonprofit topics here for more info.</p>	<p><b>CA/ACA Breakout</b> – <i>Open Discussion Forum</i> for Riding Center representatives. Facilitated by Eliese Klennert, owner and Center Administrator of The Stables Equestrian Center, a Pony Club Riding Center since 2007.</p>

## LUNCH BREAK 12:00 – 1:30 PM

Tuscany B & C	Tuscany 2
<p><b>Local Leaders</b> – <i>All Things Instruction</i> – USPC Instruction Director, Connie Jehlik will cover a variety of topics with a focus on instruction, education, and testing at the club/center level. Learn how the USPC Instruction Department can help, get answers to any remaining questions about the Standards of Proficiency, and learn so much more related to instruction and education at the local level.</p>	<p><b>Region Leaders</b> – USPC Finance Director Karen Clark presents <i>Club Financial Oversight</i>. Don’t miss this discussion for regional leaders that covers three key topics: Oversight of Clubs (what is this and where to look for help), Oversight of Branch Clubs (how this differs), and the process for Club Discontinuation (who, when, and how).</p>

## 2:30 – 2:45 PM BREAK

<p><b>Local Leaders</b> – <i>All Things Instruction</i> continues.</p>	<p><b>Region Leaders</b> – <i>Regional Best Practice Sharing</i>, including Northern Lakes Region Competition Partnering (RS Linda Scott), Alaska Region Virtual Horse Management Seminar Program (RS Barbara Dey), Big Sky Region “Senior” Camp (RIC Becca Barringer), and Sierra Pacific Region C Certifications (RS Karen McDougal)</p>
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## 3:45 – 4:00 PM BREAK

**All RS/VRS/DC/JtDC/CA/ACA** – As the day concludes, Rae Birr will discuss *Your Role in Pony Club*. Do you know where you fit into Pony Club? Leave this session with a new or renewed understanding of Pony Club’s chain of command, why certain protocols exist, how you help USPC operate, why we do things, and just how important YOU are!

# Examples of Educational Workshops in 2024

## **An Anatomical Journey Through the Training Concepts**

*Sponsored by: USPC National Examiners*

*Jennette Scanlon*

This workshop takes the concepts of the Dressage training scale and applies them to the actual movement of the horse's body and musculature. A further depth of knowledge of these concepts will allow more accurate self-evaluations during a ride and more effective use of the timing and pressure of an aid. The words we use to describe ideas such as suppleness, impulsion, and engagement will be given a third dimension through this anatomical journey.

## **Breaking Down Disability Barriers**

*Devyn Hinkle*

Presented by the chair of USPC's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee, this workshop will discuss the inclusion of Pony Club members with disabilities and explore etiquette, common disabilities, and adaptive equestrian programs.

## **Can You Ride 100 Miles in a Day? Yes! Understand the Sport of Endurance**

*Sponsored by: Sheila Larsen*

*Kassandra DiMaggio, Crysta Turnage, and Nicole Wertz*

The Western States Trail Ride, otherwise known as the Tevis Cup, is the oldest modern-day endurance ride held annually since 1955. Learn what the 100-mile, one-day ride represents, and how it emphasizes the importance of good horsemanship. Join us to see how Endurance can help you and your horse be more successful as a team in any discipline you participate in.



# Examples of Educational Workshops in 2024

## Engaging Horse Management Education

*Sponsored by: Jennifer Ludwig*

*Sedate Kohler and Becky Smith*

Horses are fascinating and taking care of them is important, so why do we struggle with dull unmounted sessions in meetings, camps, and rallies? Those providing or supervising education on a club or regional level can learn to use the goals of USPC Horse Management to create interesting and appealing lessons. Come and discuss the goals of Horse Management, who can teach it, and how to present information to best reach Pony Club members.

## Equine Emergency Dos and Don'ts: A Guide to Practical First Aid

*Sponsored by: Zoetis*

*Holly Helbig, DVM*

Join us for an in-depth review of common equine emergencies with Dr. Holly Helbig as we uncover the dos and don'ts in critical situations. Learn practical information and important first aid care that will strengthen your horsemanship skills.



## Intro to Foxhunting

*Sponsored by: Santa Ynez Valley Hounds*

*Katie Graham*

Have you ever been curious about Foxhunting? Get a brief introduction to Foxhunting and find out what a visiting member is expected to know for their first hunt. This workshop will introduce the unmounted section of the USPC Foxhunting Recognition program, followed by a demonstration and practice of tying a stock tie and other Foxhunting traditions.



SANTA YNEZ VALLEY HOUNDS



# Examples of Educational Workshops in 2024

## Ridden Signs of Saddle Imbalance

*Sponsored by: Wintec*

*Presenter to be Announced*

In a balanced saddle, riders are free to enjoy their riding with clear focus and relative ease. Join an expert from Wintec for an informative workshop that will help you pick up visual clues from a rider's position that could indicate an underlying saddle issue and learn what temporary solutions may help.



## Rider Fitness with Daniel Stewart

*Sponsored by: USPC Middle California Region*

*Daniel Stewart*

This upbeat and humorous equestrian fitness workshop and bootcamp will teach you how fun and easy it can be to become an equestrian athlete! Learn how to build a bootcamp that will improve your stamina, balance, core strength, suppleness, posture, symmetry, and more. Discover ways to use equipment found at the barn, such as mounting blocks, buckets, lead lines, jump poles, cavalletti, cross-rails, and bales of hay to become a better rider and athlete.



## Rider Skills Progression on the Hunter Seat Equitation Track

*Christina Keim*

Do you and your pony like jumping in the arena more than in the open? Does your club or center lack access to suitable cross-country facilities, limiting your members' progression on the Eventing certification track? Are you interested in learning more about hunter seat riding, perhaps to join a high school or college team? Are you a hunter seat-focused program looking to incorporate USPC into your instruction? Join USPC National Examiner Christina Keim to learn more about USPC's Hunter Seat Equitation certification track and why it might be the perfect fit for you!



Presented by Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation  
& Supported by Kentucky Equine Research

# RESEARCH PROJECT FAIR

The Research Project Fair provides Pony Club members of all ages and certification levels the opportunity to expand their equine knowledge. Individuals or groups can compete in Experimental Projects or Literature Reviews.



Friday - Saturday





# Research Project Fair

***GLR members that have participated in past Research Project Fairs***

**Fable  
Wisseman  
(Pierport PC)**

**Elaine Fidler  
(Foxwood PC)**



*The USPC Research Project Fair features four categories:*

- **Individual Experimental Project:** Hypothesis-driven project conducted by an individual Pony Club member. Project must incorporate experimental methods to test hypothesis and determine conclusions.
- **Group Experimental Project:** Hypothesis-driven project conducted by a group of Pony Club members. Project must incorporate experimental methods to test hypothesis and determine conclusions. Groups may range from pairs to an entire Pony Club.
- **Individual Literature Review:** Non-experimental project in which an individual Pony Club member conducts an in-depth analysis and synthesis of existing literature on a specific equine-related topic.
- **Group Literature Review:** Non-experimental Project in which a group of Pony Club members (from pairs to an entire Pony Club) conducts an in-depth analysis and synthesis of existing literature on a specific equine-related topic.



Presented by Kentucky Equine Research

# HORSE MANAGEMENT ROOM

Uncertified through H-A members can participate in activities, see presentations, and do self or expert-guided HM learning. Practice bandaging, discover different kinds of tack, see how many poisonous plants you know, and much more! Newly added is a sample of the Pony Club Badge program, a parallel and supplemental educational program for D members. The Horse Management room is sure to inspire enthusiasts, members, parents, and leaders to learn, teach, and incorporate hands-on methods into local and regional HM programs.

Friday - Sunday



# MEETING OF THE CORPORATION

**Saturday Morning**

*The USPC Meeting of the Corporation is when the business of the organization will be conducted, including the election of the new Board of Governors, updates on the status of the organization, and the presentation of awards, such as the Flash Teamwork Award, A certifications, and the Brookfield Land Conservation.*

# SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET

*You are invited to join us for an evening of fun and dancing Saturday night.*

*Enjoy dinner while celebrating the Research Project Fair winners and Founders Award recipients. Find out what our Keynote Speaker has to say, watch the Passing of the Whip ceremony, and then dance the night away with all your Pony Club friends and family.*

***Ticket Required***



# *Silent Auction*



# TRADE FAIR

Come and peruse through USPC's trade fair! Vendors include both shopping and informational booths.

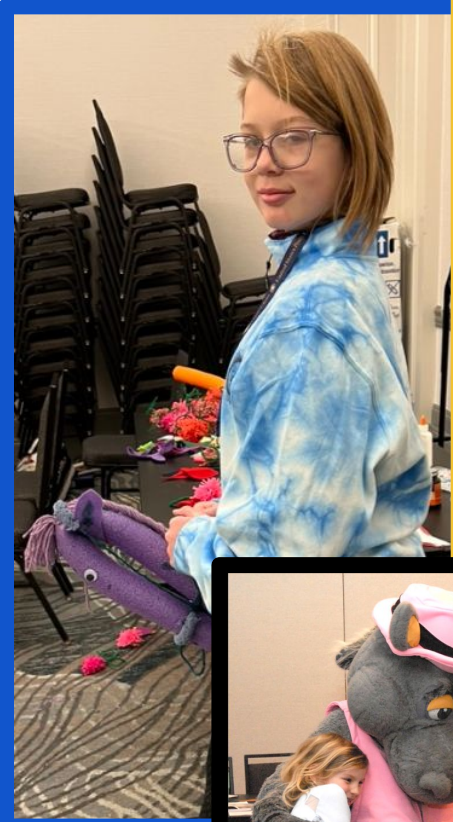


Thursday - Sunday



Shop Pony Club





Presented by the Arabian Horse Youth Association  
& Santa Barbara Polo and Racquet Club

# PONY PADDOCK

Filled with activities, education, and fun, a good time is guaranteed to be had by all at Pony Paddock. Children under 12 can be registered by the day for Pony Paddock through a parent's registration.

Thursday - Sunday 

# [2025 USPC Convention Promo Final.mp4](#)



**USPC Convention**

**January 22-26, 2025**

**[Grand Traverse Resort & Spa](#)**

**For more information contact:**

Wendy Willford or Kerry McKinley

734-646-2514 or 616-581-1457

# NOW WHAT? We need YOU!!!

- > **Participate!** Save the date and plan to attend Convention (Jan 22-26, 2025)
- > **Can't attend in January?** Join one of the several committees needed to host
- > **We need STUFF!** Start asking around for Silent Auction items / donations. All proceeds will benefit the Great Lakes Region Pony Clubs
- > **We need Sponsorships!** GLRPC will receive a revenue share of all paid sponsorships
- > **Any Workshop presenters you'd like to see come next year?** Let us know!
- > **Help recruit Trade Fair Vendors!** A great opportunity for area businesses to get regional and national visibility

**Sign up to volunteer** - tell us when you'll be there & we will happily put you to work!



**Sign up to v**  
when you'll be the  
happily put you to



# Local Organizing Sub-Committees



## **Silent Auction**

Chairs: Stephanie Bugai, Traverse Bay PC & Melynda Ziehm, Pierport PC

## **Hospitality**

Chair: Amy Fidler, Foxwood PC

## **Pony Paddock** (support USPC)

## **Publicity and Promotion**

Chair: Ginger Wisseman, Pierport PC

## **Registration**

Lead Clubs: Traverse Bay PC & Metamora Hunt II PC

## **Research Project Fair** (support USPC)

## **SpiritWear**

Chairs: JLC & Sandy Fountain, Huron Valley PC

## **Sponsorships and Trade Fair**

Chair: Linda Short-Lowe, PC Alumni

## **Workshops**

Chairs: Wendy Willford, Huron Valley PC & Kerry McKinley, Orchard Hill PC

## **Volunteers Coordinators**

Chairs: Wendy Willford, Huron Valley PC & Kerry McKinley, Orchard Hill PC

**Interested in joining a sub-committee?**

**JOIN US** on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 8pm (using Google Meet)

**Chairs** will meet on a monthly basis through August. Bi-weekly beginning in September and weekly beginning in November (no meetings between Christmas Eve and New Years).

**Sub-Committees** will begin meeting monthly in August and as chairs deem necessary.

# Pony Club®



*Where it all begins*