

JUNIOR EQUITATION (JEL) & NCEL

EQUITATION LEAGUE TRY-OUTS

SEE THE WEBSITE FOR IEA INFO & COSTS

Sign-up sheets for tryouts are up. Here are the FACTS! Parents & Riders Read ALL BEFORE signing up.

(Changes in red from prior years)

- Remember tryouts are for a spot on any FMF NCEL or JEL team...the coaches decide, the riders don't. If you show up to try-outs to you are agreeing to abide the coaches' decisions to ride for which ever team is assigned.

You have just entered...a No Attitude Zone.

- All riders will be required to be in two lessons each week starting October 1 for the duration of the season. Scheduled by 9/23. Adults exempted but encouraged.

Who: FMF Riders are invited to try-out who have a strong commitment to improving their skills as riders and who are team players. There are positions for a variety of skill levels but a good rule of thumb is that riders should W/T/C and have started to trot over poles. If your instructor has said you should try-out then do so. If you have not previously been on a team please ask your instructor before signing up. Adults riders interested in the Adult Team should sign up and should attend the try-outs/meeting but will not need to ride at the try-out. There are also no try outs for the IEA team.

When: **Tuesday, September 13th 2016**

4:30 Arrive

5:00 First ride starts

6:15 Parent & Student Meeting – (Mandatory for at least 1 parent please)
Additional riding to follow as needed.

Everyone please plan to come at 4:30 pm and stay until all are dismissed after ALL riding is finished and the barn is swept. We are Team FMF, after all!

PS. Feel free to bring a sack lunch/dinner. This is only the beginning of FMF Equitation Team Togetherness.

What: Riders will be grouped and assigned mounts (randomly?) and will then ride 15 – 25 minutes for the instructors/coaches who will place them later behind closed and hotly contested doors into teams.

Team placements will be posted sometime the following week. Team placements are not negotiable.

About Our Teams:

Team assignments available as follows Junior Equation League (JEL), National Capital Short Stirrup Equitation League (NCSSEL) and National Capital Equitation League A & B Teams. (NCAEL for Adults).

JEL has five divisions of increasingly harder rides, two riders per division. We may run 2 teams in this league.

Some of the other teams have six regular riders (riders whose placings earn points for the team) and 3 alternates who ride two classes for their own glory or practice. Coaches may decide to rotate who rides Alternate. The NCEL A team has a hybrid format. Tryouts will be used to place riders in divisions.

If you sign up you are committed to ride cheerfully where we place you. Please be aware of Student & Parent Time and Cost commitments before you sign up.

FMF Equitation Season

Here's the low down on costs, parent involvement and rider commitments. Practice & show schedules will be posted in the barn and on the website when they are finalized with the leagues.

Summary of Costs:	When due:	Amount
Team Fee	Sept 9th	\$50 all teams including Adults please
Teams Dues ~ Balance Discount if paid in full by close of business 9/30/2016	October 1st	\$400 Everyone has 4 shows (\$25) = \$375 before Oct 1 – EARLY BIRD!
Event Fees	Per Show	See detail, varies by league
Finale Costs	TBD – week before show	All Teams
Banquet	TBD – Late winter	
Team Jacket, if needed	Sept 25	Paid direct to First Impressions via phone

THE DETAILS

1. FMF Team Fee - all teams - due at sign up \$50

This covers league dues, a fraction of the admin time to run teams and to participate in the leagues.

If you change your mind about being on a team after try-outs and before the roster is posted you will not owe the team fee or dues. Your team fee will be refunded to you less a \$25 tryout fee.

The team fees are **non-refundable AFTER the team rosters are posted** AND you will owe the balance of the full team dues by October 1st (as described below) even if you decide not to ride.

2. Team Dues

This includes coaching at regular season shows and pre show practices/meeting times. It is a firm commitment after the rosters are posted even if you cannot ride during the season for any reason.

Team Dues **400**

Early Bird Discount – Paid in full before 10/1 **-25**

3. Inter Scholastic Equestrian League (IEA) Discount:

If you are ALSO registered for the IEA team, **you will receive a \$ coaching discount at your first IEA show.** Open to Middle and High School Students. This is a separate team/league from these tryouts.

4. Event Fees

Event fees are for the host school. Make checks **payable to FMF** due the day of the show. Please give check or (labeled) cash to the Team Secretary. FMF will give one check to the host school for our entire team, including the home show(s).

For each show, finale may be a bit different (fees are estimated from last year):

JEL: \$30/rider, all divisions – if 10 riders fill out the team

A, B, C & Adult: \$45 per rider

5. Finale Costs

NEW: NCEL A & B will have a finale for the 2016/2017 season

Adults, C Team and JEL will have a finale show and will be trailering our horses off site for the last show. The Good News is that any proceeds from your Home Show Food Booth can be used against these costs – this is up to you! See “Mandatory Required Volunteerism” below.

All other Team Members should budget to pay Entry Fee (league determined), Horse Use (\$35), Coaching (\$35) and to Split Trailering (\$75 per horse for under 50 miles) of the horses selected to bring to finale. We do not usually hold a finale practice.

6. End of Year Banquet

7. Team Jacket New team members can order the FMF Blue Team Jacket directly from First Impressions. Sign up sheet and payment instructions will be posted. These have run around \$125 in the past. Team members’ families are also invited to buy their own jacket. Go FMF!

While probably not a comprehensive list, it gives you some idea.

Parent Involvement:

Aside from the normal wear and tear on parents in the course of parenting a rider, you should expect to:

Parents attend shows for your rider:

1. Away – come & help your team as needed!
2. Home (FMF hosting) – plan to watch and help all day. The Team runs the show! We prep the ring the night before too.)

Food Booth

1. Home shows for “Your Team” – Plan and provide food for your home show food booth(s)! Your team can decide what to sell and how to use the money. Other FMF team parents will work your booth so you can help at the show and see your kid ride.
2. Home shows for “Other FMF Teams” – plan to take a two hour shift at one FMF Food Booth that your kid is NOT riding at. Sign Up sheet will be posted in the grooming barn. Sign up early for the shift you want! (These hours are not available toward the Volunteer Discount Program.)

Volunteer Program Discount: 10 hours = \$36, form available online

No volunteer hours are available for working at any of your own teams home shows or activities nor for your one required parent shift of another teams food booth.

Time spent at the annual painting party is not eligible for volunteer time.

Any other time working at another teams home show is eligible - and much appreciated!

Rider Commitment:

1. Riders will have a good attitude and will exhibit good sportsmanship at all times.
2. Riders will be scheduled by 9/23 and riding in TWO lessons a week by October 1st. Adults exempted but encouraged. Riders will need to make these lessons or be catching a make up the same week.
3. For ALL FMF teams -

Mandatory~Required Volunteerism at Home Shows for Other Teams. Each team member from the Adult team, IEA team, A, B, NCSSEL & JEL is:

Everyone is **ONLY** required to volunteer for
TWO 3 HOURS SHIFTS AT ANY FMF TEAM SHOW(S) OF THEIR CHOICE
in addition to their own team's home show.

Sign up sheets will be posted in advance. Please be sure to eat before or after your shift starts. Active participation is a must. (Standing around eating & talking is not helping.) If you stay longer than your shift, great but you are fair game!

Everyone, you only need a total of **6 hours** before you can apply for volunteer time.

Any extra time is good toward volunteer hours and discounts off your lessons! Team members are Highly Encouraged to volunteer in excess of minimum time required as able.

4. For Adult Team Members Only

- We host luncheon when we show at home. Be prepared to organize, provide food & beverages and set up/clean up.
- We each need our own groom/volunteer for the all home shows and the finale and are responsible for obtaining a competent horse holding body – Coach to approve selection.

If you would like to ride on the Adult team but can only make a show or two, please let us know before we finalize the roster. If we have room in a division appropriate for you, you may pay per show at a higher rate. Amount to be determined when league show fees are set. Estimated costs are \$145 per show and includes entry, coaching and practice.