Whether you are interested in trail riding, dressage, western pleasure, barrel racing, reining or jumping, the Ohio horseman's council Youth Program has something for you! We are a, all breed, all discipline association. Even if you are a horse lover without a horse, you can and should become involved!

- **Introduction:**

What child doesn't love horses? Boys and girls alike dream and play pretend games of riding a horse.
Why the attraction? Is it the power and freedom a horse represents to a young child? Maybe or it could be the mere fun of having a friend who has four legs and who is super tall. There are many reasons kids are attracted to horses and there are good reasons why we should introduce our children to the world of horses.

- **OHC Youth Program Objective:**

To give a child /young adult members of OHC who want to participate in a hands-on horse training opportunities that will teach the fundamentals of horsemanship, leadership and community service. The youth will also have opportunities to participate in other activities which benefit the Ohio Horseman's Council and the equine industry as a whole. Other merit awards such as; mileage patches, high mileage and saddle hour awards are available.

- **What are the fundamentals of Horsemanship?**

Horsemanship or equitation is the art of riding in a balanced and graceful manner. This takes time and patience and can only be accomplished if you and your horse work together as a team.

- **How can a horse teach me how to be a Leader?**

One of the gifts that horses give humans is their sensitivity to their environment, including the human one. Horses know when you are putting on a brave face to hide emotions. Horses help us learn to be more of who we are, not who we think we

should be. As we learn their language, we discover that horses give wonderful feedback for each step we take towards being truly ourselves.

- **Who Can Participate?**

Youth memberships require a parent or guardian permission. We would love to have the entire family come and enjoy the various activities and events that OHC offers even if you do not own a horse however; everyone must have a membership in OHC as an Youth or through family membership. **Note:** You do NOT have to have a horse in order to be a member or participate.

- **Safety Considerations:**

Horses are big animals. Even a gentle one could hurt a small child if it accidentally stepped on the child's foot. Safety and proper horse handling techniques will be taught by knowledgeable people. Even the wearing of a helmet while horseback riding is a requirement. Safety comes first.

- **Social Benefits**:

People who do not own a horse but has a passion to get involved ~ Share their natural talents/gifts.

- **Stress Reduction:**

Ability to have an outlet to manage day to day stress by doing activities such as but not limited to grooming the horse, exercising while riding or by hand ie. ground work

- **Additional Benefits:**

  - ❖ Enhances decision-making capabilities

  - ❖ Improves public presentation skills

  - ❖ Develops self - confidence & self esteem

  - ❖ Develops responsibility

- **Opportunity:**

  ❖ Volunteer for the OHC at the horse events and at other OHC activities.

  ❖ Share your accomplishments and adventures.

  ❖ Participate in OHC and OHCY shows, regional events, horse camp and other opportunities.

  ❖ Learn about Ohio's Equine Industry and the issues that affect it.

  ❖ Find out how these issues will affect you as a future industry leader and an adult member of the equine community.

  ❖ Discuss these issues with other Youth horse lovers throughout the state.

Equine activities can develop life skills such as decision making, communicating, problem solving and even setting goals. Oh and a big one Patience.

Email: youth@ohconline.com

For more information on the Ohio Horseman's Council Inc. visit us at our website ohconline.com you can also find us on Face Book. Our youth members can also visit us at Ohio horseman youth program (OHCYP) on Face Book; join the group and see what other members are doing throughout the state.