



A large, semi-transparent watermark of the Canadian Pony Club logo is centered in the background. The logo is circular with a yellow outer ring, a purple inner ring containing the text 'CANADIAN PONY CLUB' in white, and a central white circle featuring a red silhouette of a person riding a horse. Four red maple leaves are positioned around the central circle.

Canadian Pony Club is committed to the vision:  
***To provide the opportunity for every child in Canada to have a positive experience with horses through providing opportunities:***

- ***For Education***
- ***To learn responsibility, sportsmanship and good citizenship***
- ***For enjoyment and/or competitive success with horses***

# Survey Says!

**70** members completed the 2018 Central Ontario Region member survey... **THANK YOU** for your feedback!





# How many years have you been a member of Pony Club?

Of those who completed the survey:

15% said it was their first year

Almost 40% said they'd been involved for 2 to 3 years



Just under 10% said they'd been involved for 4 to 5 years

Almost 40% said they'd been involved for more than 6 years

# What is your favourite thing about Pony Club?



# “Other” Favourite Things:

- I enjoy getting together with my horse friends and doing social activities but learning about the sport we love.

Taking care of horses.

Variety of activities ie. polo, working rally.

Riding.

Friends for life; belonging.

Working Rally & Le Trec.

Travelling across the country.

WORKING RALLY AND QUIZ.

Our ponies, and friends.

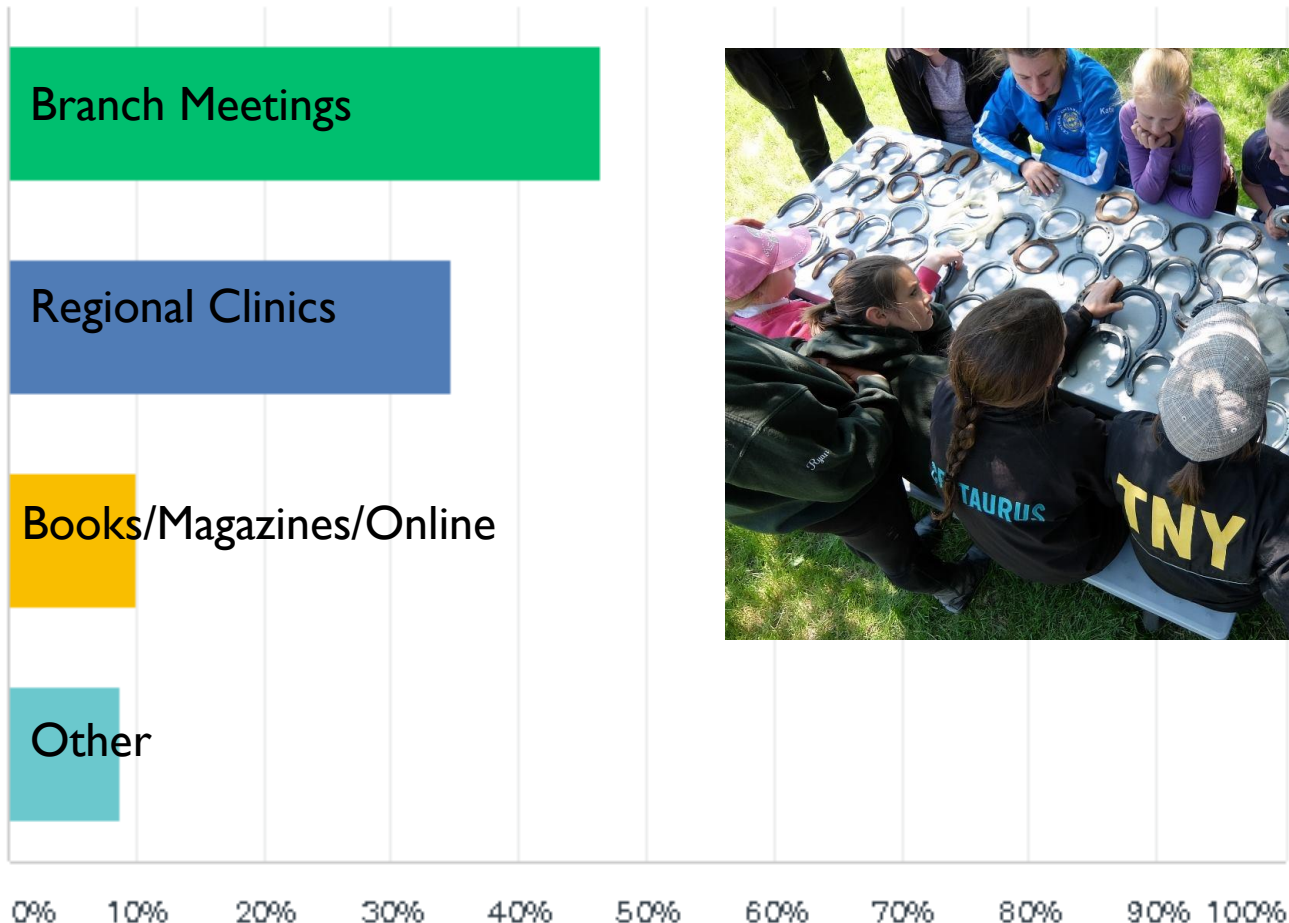
Being able to compete easier.

Developing skills, meeting people from all over, being a leader/a part of a group.

*I honestly can't pick a favourite - all aspects listed are important to me.*



# Where do you best like to receive EDUCATION information?



# “Other” Sources for Education:

- Hands on clinics (riding not sitting and watching)
- Our club has educational meeting/clinics
- At Regional and Branch meetings (boring otherwise), at events, working rally etc.
- Hands on experience, we get that with our club
- Clinics would be good but COR doesn't really host any
- Branch meetings and clinics both



Your suggested education topics:



# More Specifically:

Advanced Grooming (braiding, clipping, pony paint)

- A simple seminar for the younger members directly aimed at info for their D test

First Aid Horse & Rider

Teach Pony Club Moms to Have Less Drama

Techniques for dealing with difficult pony, ground and mounted

Qualified, experienced instructor giving more information on anatomy, conformation, vet/wound care

Equipment care

How to canter without getting frightened

Rider Preparedness

Review current code of practice for equine care and handling

Feeding the Competition Horse

TURN OUT AND SHOW ETIQUETTE

Show horse management

Prepping horse for shows

# What motivates you to continue with testing?



- 22% I only test to the minimum required and focus on other aspects of Pony Club
- 40% I enjoy the challenges that come with testing to the higher level
- 7% I continue to test in order to be eligible for National Competitions
- 18% I continue to test because I'm interested in a career with horses
- 13% Other

# Other motivators to test:

Just starting out; going to do D test

- To compete and learn with others at the same level as me

Our club doesn't test that much. I wish we did more.

Not sure what this is – new member.

Tested to meet requirement for IMGE

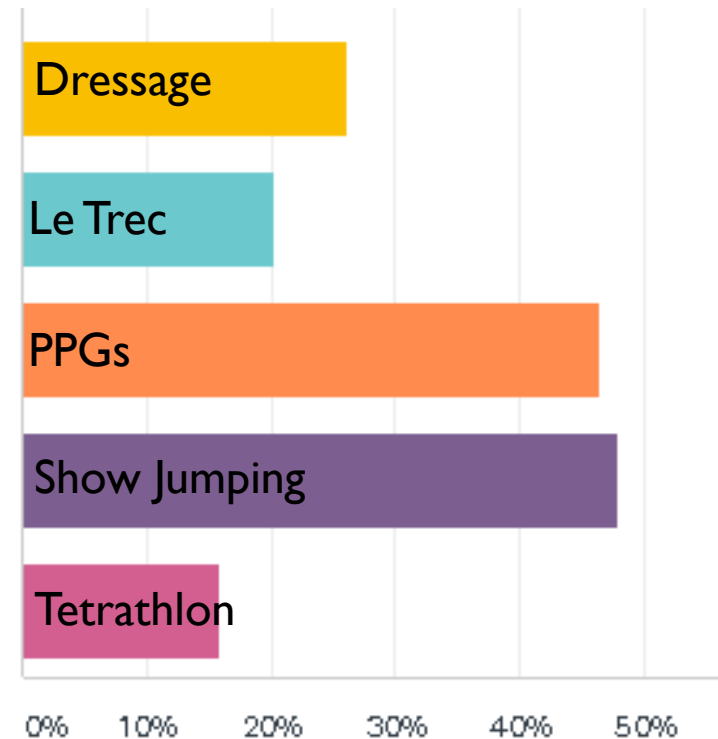
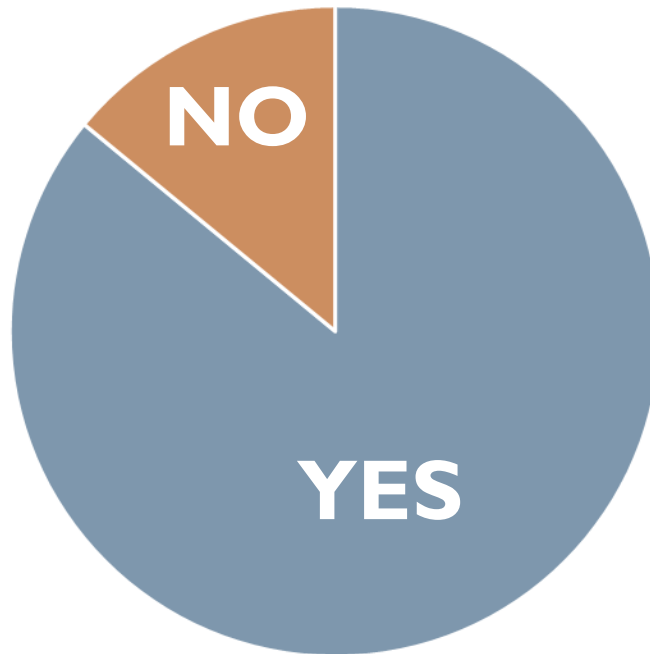
As a 'horse master' member I haven't done any testing, but can say when I applied to vet college they were very pleased that I had done Pony Club testing!

Not interested in testing.

Have not tested yet.



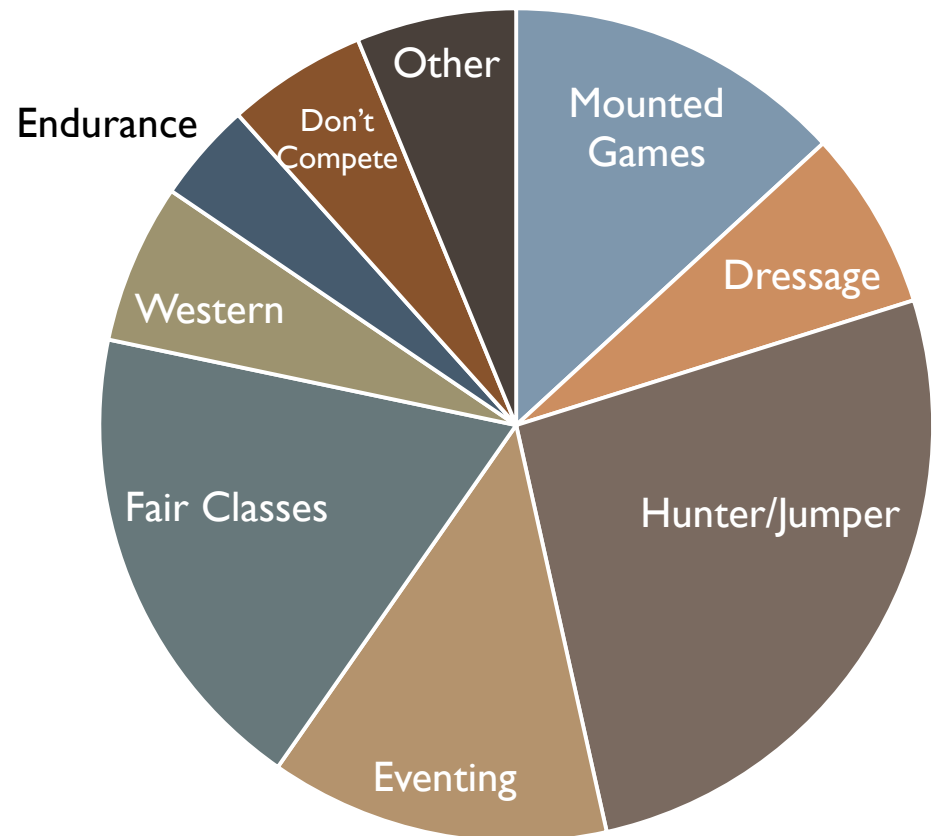
# Do you participate in Pony Club Competitions?



# What is important about Pony Club Competition?

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
It's fun, inexpensive, & local	38%	21%	19%	21%
Schooling my horse or pony	22%	40%	18%	20%
Practicing for other competitions	21%	23%	43%	12%
Gaining points for year-end	10%	15%	26%	48%

# Participation in non-Pony Club competition



also combined test, leadline, schooling shows & breed shows

# YOU SAID IT!

- I love learning with my Pony Club what's needed to improve so that I can do my best when showing in the summer.
- More leadership opportunities for older pony clubbers.
- My daughters just joined Pony Club this year. We shall see what the year will bring. I may be able to better answer a survey after completing a year in Pony Club.
- In the education, I have learned a lot and it has been very fun. For testing I wish we could get testers in more often. I have had so much fun in the competitions and can't wait to do more. I've made some great friends and had lots of fun.
- test preparation and feedback
- We should do more trail rides.
- Would love to do a welcome to Pony Club night to show the things that you do and a bit of what it's about to potential new members
- More competition at the shows, ie. number of competitors
- Friendship with horsey people.
- More competition closer to the northern region like North Bay or Sudbury.
- Pony club does not make vaccines mandatory which I find very unsafe.
- I wish it was cheaper and easier to find
- It has allowed me to experience various equine disciplines. I enjoy learning. Sportsmanship needs to be better demonstrated by some in leadership roles.
- Good sportsmanship always trumps winning. All Clubbers should have equal opportunities to try various disciplines. Testing should be more objective and well-defined.
- We need to ride in Pony Club!!
- It seems there is a lot of focus on competition and nationals. I just want a place free of the very competitive sport of horse riding to learn and have some fun
- more riding clinics
- Would like to see working rally continue
- I want to be the best horseperson i can be, have fun, and be good to my pony :-)



# YOU SAID IT! (cont'd)

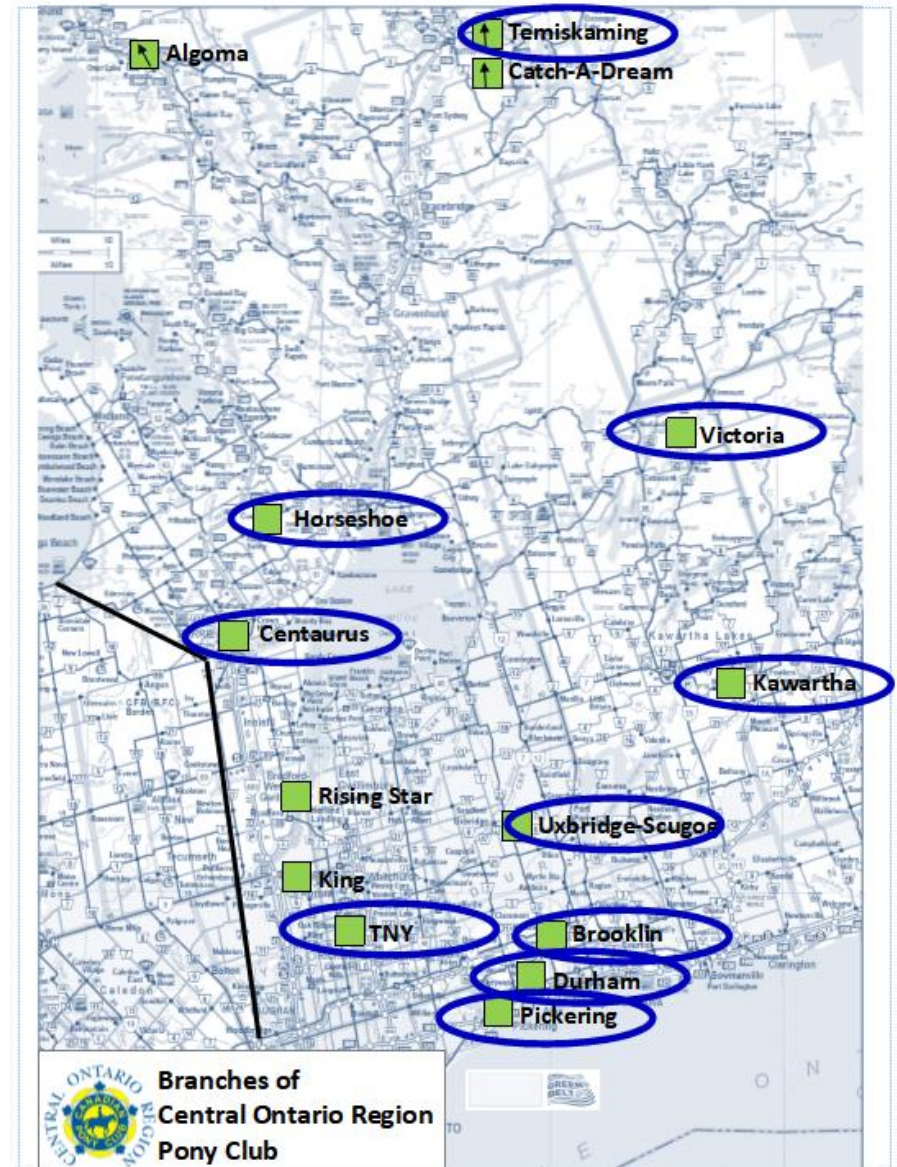
- I LIKE THE LIFE LONG FRIENDS I HAVE MADE. I LIKE THAT I HAVE ENOUGH KNOWLEDGE TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS FOR MY HORSE
- In my Pony Club region, there is not a lot of opportunities to go up in the levels. I haven't been able to do my riding testing in 1 1/2 years!
- I think that pony club is focused too much on competitions and the high-level riders, I would have more fun if it focused more on education and having fun over all. I would really like to see badges come back also!!
- Know dates of events earlier. When things are organized last-minute it is hard to plan to attend when we have other commitments.
- Working Rally is a good experience as well as the COR conference.
- I sometimes miss important COR updates on the fb page (where I look for all my COR news) because of the education updates there. Scrolling past them all is very time consuming. Didn't these used to live on a COR education page?
- I love pony club! I find a lot of the clinics / events posted are not self explanatory to the beginner & feel more info/details need to be provided, too vague.
- More hands-on activities with the horses, and to bring more Clinics to pony club (riding clinics and horsemanship clinics)
- Education is good but numbers for showing are low
- More regional wide clinics. It is too hard to host branch clinics at an affordable price if numbers help decrease price and to have enough riders to run clinics.
- More opportunities for show jumping that are close to home and not just two or three competitions that are only once a year
- Pony Club has helped me be a better safer rider. Our branch has a lot of social events so we have fun other than competing
- More competitive
- Use more horses at the barn for some more hands on things
- I want there to be a riding aspect of ponyclub. Where depending on your tested level, meaning one day D-D1 do ppgs, and D2+ do flat work or jumping because they are tested to a higher level of riding
- Awesome experience.

# YOU SAID IT! (cont'd part deux)

- Pony club is a great way for like minded people to come together and share the passion they have for horse riding. It's fun to get together with my horse friends and learn about horses, riding, and other aspects of pony club. It's nice to have competitions where we feel safe in our environment and can focus on the task at hand.
- Concentrate on education in a fun way. We need to still enjoy it. There are enough competitions outside of Pony club which don't consume Pony Club resources, and help compete with more variety of people, which would also perhaps give more publicity to PC as well if the members are well versed in horse knowledge.
- Seen a lot of change over the years what I notice the most is participation in regional events. With participation declining, increasing attendance is important to encourage education especially at the higher levels. Running clinics is awesome but looking at where the members are coming from for that clinic is important. Some clinics have been run to far away for a lot of members to attend easily. Also, taking into consideration if horses are need or not for the clinic. Less people are likely to attend if it involves horses of their own as not a lot of members have their own trailer to get there. Maybe the best way is to help is to help branches in an area run a clinic. Like one clinic for RS, HS and Cent. and then one for Kawartha, Victoria. And then one in the TNY Durham Pickering area so no one has to drive far and can tailor the clinics to what those clubs need. But leave them open so anyone in the region can attend if they want.
- I came from a non-horsey family, so pony club was my opportunity to get into the world of horses, and I never looked back! I think that the marketing of pony club (in Canada) is very much in need of improvement - no one I talk to seems to know about it at all, unless they are already in it! There is a real opportunity to reach out to kids who did not grow up on horse farms! I will throw in my top pony club marketing idea: a season (or even one episode!) of Heartland that had a pony club-related plot line would be fantastic for pony club in general (and Canadian equestrian sport in general!).
- Really enjoyed Pony Club but now away at Uni, find it hard to commit to all the events and shows. Finals are always when I am away. Would prefer to do shows in my own schedule, have friendly shows at PC, collect points towards final trophies through other shows I can attend during holidays. It would be nice to get together with other branches for friendly competitions, love fun rally, working rally concept, a couple of weekends a year to learn and hang out with my PC besties!
- I did Pony Club to gain experience for when I went into eventing. After I started eventing, I much preferred eventing over Pony Club shows because there was more competition and had a more professional feel. Pony Club was a good start but it was something I could not see myself going far with. I only showed a few years in Pony Club shows.
- Pony club is supposed to be a fun experience that everyone will have a smile on their face. I know there's rules, but overall, I think it needs to be the kids that are most important. Everyone should be able to leave with a smile on there face and great memories. For me working rally is probably the best event I've ever gone to in pony club.

# Who did we hear from?

50% of respondents shared which branch they are with



For more information about this survey, please contact  
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