

About the



Learn to Ride Program



**HORSE COUNCIL
BRITISH COLUMBIA**



SUPPORTING SPORTS IN BC



What is the Equine Canada Learn to Ride Program?

The Equine Canada (EC) Learn to Ride Program is aimed at individuals who wish to become well-rounded horsepeople, able to care for and ride their horses in a correct and safe manner.

The Program is available for both English and Western riding disciplines; providing a systematic process for introducing new riders to equestrian sport and presenting the basics of good riding.

Organized into levels (ten in the English Program and four in the Western) the Learn to Ride Program develops practical riding skills along with the knowledge that will help ensure riding is a safe and enjoyable experience.

Experience and skills developed during lessons are supported by further learning material found in the handbooks that accompany each level in the program.

Proper riding technique is best developed with the aid of an accredited instructor. As such, the Program has been designed to be delivered by an EC certified Instructor or Coach. Coaches are provided with materials and guidelines to support their delivery of the Program.

Why Participate in the Learn to Ride Program?

Track your progress

- With its clear standards for achievement and progression the Program will help you and your coach assess exactly where you're at with your riding.
- The detailed descriptions of the skills required at each level will help you and your coach determine exactly what you need to do to improve.

Work towards a national standard

- The Learn to Ride program is recognized across Canada. This means that if you move you can continue your progress through the program with an EC certified Coach in your new province of residence.

Learn to ride safely

- Safe horsemastership practices are emphasized at every level of the program.
- Progression through the program is gradual and systematic. Participants are only encouraged to move on to the next level of difficulty once they have demonstrated mastery of the skills and techniques required at the current level.
- The Program is taught and tested by EC certified Instructors/Coaches who have to meet specific standards including, but not limited to, maintaining a current First-Aid certification, submitting a criminal record search and attending mandatory skills updating sessions.

Develop a range of skills & knowledge

- Throughout all levels of the program participants develop skills and knowledge in a variety of areas including riding, stable management, and theory.
- The Program is also a starting point for those wishing to become certified Instructors and Coaches.

Recognize your achievements

- Progression through the program is acknowledged with a certificate and badge for each level attained.

Join a program that is for everybody

- The Learn to Ride Program rewards all riders, recreational to competitive, for advancing their learning.
- Those new to riding will benefit from the gradual progression of the program and its emphasis on safety.
- Riders with some experience will benefit from the opportunities the program provides for checking progression, recognizing achievement and guiding further skill development.
- Equivalences have been established to enable riders who participated in the previous EC English Rider Level 1-3 program to transition easily into the new English Learn to Ride program.

Learn to Ride Program FAQs

Do I have to take each level of the Program in order?

Not necessarily; in the English program a "current", certified EC Coach can recommend you "challenge" a level in which they feel you are competent. Those participating in the Western program must take each level in order.

How long will it take me to pass each level?

The time it takes to pass each level differs from person to person. Factors such as an individual's riding experience, their horse's ability, access to a good Coach and the Level being attempted will all have an impact.

What do I receive when I pass each level in the Program?

You will receive a discipline specific Certificate and corresponding badge for each Level.

How much does it cost to participate in the Program?

Riders participating in the program usually pay the normal lesson fees charged by their coach. Additionally, those in the Program will need to purchase the accompanying handbook for the level they are working towards. When you are ready to be tested, a \$16.80 (includes HST) test fee is payable to Horse Council BC via the testing coach. This fee covers the cost of your certificate and badge. The testing Coach will have a fee for the time it takes to test you (usually their normal lesson fee).

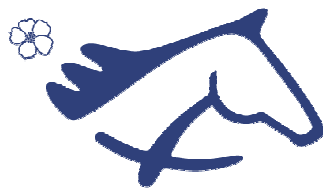
Do I have to be member of HCBC to participate in the Program?

Yes. You can purchase your membership from the HCBC office. The membership has many features, including insurance coverage, that are of benefit to you.

Getting Started

Follow the checklist below to get started on the Learn to Ride program.

- ☒ Find a current, certified EC Instructor/Coach. Go to www.hcbc.ca to find a EC Coach/Instructor in your area, or call 604-856-4304 or email coaching@hcbc.ca
- ☒ Buy the appropriate Learn to Ride Program handbook and, where recommended, the Stable Management in Canada manual. These items can be purchased at the HCBC office or from the online bookstore.
- ☒ Let your Instructor/Coach know that you want to participate in the Learn to Ride Program and be tested.



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