



Sass 'n Saddles Precision Drill Team

Tryout Instructions for New Members and Returning Members with New Horses

1. COMPLETE the tryout application.
2. READ the Rules and Requirements, and LOOK OVER the schedule.
3. SIGN the signature form.
4. RETURN the application and signature form **no later than October 20**. Mail to Dawn Burnette, 630 Becky Road, Blairsville, GA, 30512 OR hand to Tali Patterson or Dawn Burnette in person (at a Saddle Club show or meeting, for example).
5. INCLUDE a copy of your signed lease if you lease your drill team horse or your Coggins if you own your drill team horse.
6. MEET at the Saddle Club on October 30 at 2:30 p.m. A parent/grandparent must be present for an introductory meeting at 2:30. Tryouts for horses/riders will begin promptly at 3:00. We hope to be finished by 5:00. Specific tryout requirements are listed in the Rules and Requirements.

Tryout Instructions for Returning Members/Horses

1. READ the Rules and Requirements, and LOOK OVER the schedule.
2. SIGN the signature form.
3. RETURN the application and signature form to Dawn or Tali **no later than September 24**.
4. BE at the Saddle Club (tacked) on October 30 at 2:45 p.m. to help with tryouts.

Sass 'n Saddles Precision Drill Team

2017 Tryout Application

Name: _____

Age (as of January 1, 2017): _____ Current (paid) UCSC member? YES NO

Names of Parents: _____

Name of Person Responsible for Horse Transportation: _____

Parent Email Address: _____

Parent Cell Phone Number: _____

Previous Riding Experience (lessons/instructors, types of riding, years riding, etc.):

Why do you want to be a member of the drill team?

Competition is optional. Members are required to pay for their own transportation, lodging, food, and possibly horse stalls. Do you plan to compete if you make the team?

Judge Notes:

Sass 'n Saddles Precision Drill Team

Rules and Requirements for Membership

Team Purpose:

- to represent the Union County Saddle Club and stimulate interest in equestrian activities
- to promote and develop good horsemanship and sportsmanship
- to entertain spectators at rodeos, horse shows, parades, competitions, etc.
- to have fun!

Team Coaches:

Dawn Burnette (404-348-7755) and Tali Patterson (706-897-2292)

Tryouts:

Tryouts will take place on Sunday, October 30, at 2:30 p.m. at the Saddle Club. Team coaches will make final decisions about membership. All riders wishing to try out must be current (paid) UCSC members and must submit an application and signature form by the deadline. Tryouts will begin with a mandatory parent meeting at 2:30, followed by auditions at 3:00 sharp. Horse/rider hopefuls will be required to trot and lope with a flag (flags and flag holders will be provided for tryouts), demonstrate lead changes, lope small and large circles, stop from a trot and from a lope, trot and lope in a single file line with other horses/riders, trot in a line abreast with other horses/riders, and trot and lope side-by-side with another horse/rider (all while maintaining proper spacing between riders). Music will be playing during tryouts. Note that current team members are not required to try out again unless they have changed horses. Therefore, the number of openings available will depend on the number of members returning. Openings will go first to riders between the ages of 10 and 21 as of January 1, 2017. Older/younger riders may be chosen for remaining spots.

Team Members:

The drill team will consist of up to ten members, but only eight will ride in any given performance. Coaches will choose alternates for each performance. Team captains will be responsible for blowing the whistle during routines, leading the team through new routines, and giving verbal instructions when a coach is not able to do so (such as during a performance). Coaches choose the captains based on their age and experience—not because they are somehow more important than other members!

Horses:

If you're going to participate, you must own or formally lease a cooperative horse! It is your responsibility to have a prepared and well-mannered horse present for drill team practices and performances. A horse that runs into other horses, does not keep all four feet on the ground at all times, or exhibits other uncooperative behavior is dangerous to his own rider and to riders around him. While parents can choose to put their child in a dangerous situation, they do not have the right to endanger other people's children. When a drill team horse is uncooperative (or even hurt for that matter), we try to find a different (but always safe) horse for the rider. Parents do not have to accept a substitute horse, but if they cannot provide a replacement of their own, the rider will NOT perform or practice. In the interest of safety, please desensitize your horse to flags and music BEFORE you try out. If you need to borrow a flag prior to tryouts, contact a coach.

Benching/Dismissal:

Our top priorities are to keep the riders safe in the arena and to impress the crowds! Both of these goals can be accomplished only if the team practices together with cooperative horses (see above). If a rider misses practice, the coaches may deem it necessary to replace her with an alternate for the next performance. If a rider regularly misses practices and/or performances or displays a bad attitude toward the team, she will be dismissed. Any member who misses the last practice before a performance will NOT be allowed to participate in that performance.

Practice Schedule:

Please review our 2017 schedule. While we may have to make minor adjustments to this schedule as we go, girls are expected to be present on these dates at these times. We will practice only when we need it, and we will make good use of our time! Please note that, while we do our best to schedule around junior rodeo and NBHA events, we can't rearrange our schedule for individual members. Girls need to be on their horses, in the arena, warmed-up, and ready to practice at the stated "be ready" time! Coaches can honor our ending time only if members honor our starting time. We will always begin by walking or trotting through our routines if that helps you plan your warm-up time.

Preparing for Practices:

In an effort to teach routines as efficiently as possible, coaches will provide each member with a copy of the formations for each routine. We will go over these formations before we begin learning so that everyone has a feel for the big picture. Girls should also review these formations before each subsequent practice. In addition, team captains will walk through or "block" routines ahead of time so that they know how to lead the team through them. Other riders who will be leading sections of a routine might be asked to attend blocking practice as well. Members make this extra commitment to take the chaos out of learning new routines.

Uniforms/Tack:

Drill team uniforms and tack are purchased by and owned by the team. Members are required to keep their uniforms and tack clean and in good repair. Drill team members should not use drill team uniforms and/or tack for activities not related to drill team. If you need to alter a uniform, please try to do so without cutting. For the sake of uniformity, all drill team members must perform in western saddles and boots.

Finances:

Each member will be expected to raise a minimum of \$200 through fundraising activities. Coaches will use a spreadsheet to keep up with each member's fundraising participation/contributions. Any member who prefers not to participate in fundraising may choose to donate \$200 up front for team expenses. Each member will also need to purchase at least one team shirt to keep. The Saddle Club will purchase a team jacket for each member to keep.

Personal Conduct/Priorities:

Members are expected to treat each other with kindness at all times, to be a positive role model for spectators and for other riders, to display good attitudes and sportsmanship, and to make the Saddle Club proud! A member of a team must understand that the priority is always the team, not her personal desires. Girls who will not put the team first are better suited for individual sports. Parents are expected to have riders and horses where they need to be on time and to respect the authority of the coaches. As coaches, our priority is always the team, not the personal interests of any individual rider, and our decisions will always reflect this priority. Parents and riders who will not respect the coaches' authority should pursue other activities.

Signature Form:

Before you can try out, signatures are required from you, from the person responsible for transporting your horse to practices and events, and from BOTH parents (unless you have only one or no longer live with either parent).

We have read and agree to uphold the rules and requirements for being a member of the drill team. Also, we are willing and able to commit to the publicized practice and performance schedule.

Rider: _____

Person Responsible for Horse Transportation: _____

Parent: _____

Parent: _____

Date: _____

