

CPDS Welcome Packet Index

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Congratulations on choosing Central Plains Dressage Society as your GMO!

CPDS is where it's at. Fun, Friendly and Forward in our thinking, we hold both Classical Dressage and Western Dressage competitions, symposiums, freestyle festivals, fun days, and other educational activities. We also host several schooling shows to help people start in competition and improve their horses.

While participating, you will find awesome volunteers who are friendly and supportive of your efforts and an atmosphere at Valley View Equestrian Center that is conducive to a supportive environment.

Forward thinking keeps us improving how events are run: all of our events are live streamed, computerized scoring gives you immediate results, and our online electronic entry system makes signing up a breeze. Through our excellent social media presence, we stay connected and informed.

If you are not a rider and want to be involved, we always need volunteers to help prepare, work during shows and clean up after events. For a relatively small club, we are very active, and we hope that you will jump in and be active also. Dressage is about education, and we offer as much as we can.

Welcome again. We look forward to getting to know you and your horse!

Chris Cashel

President/ CPDS

Horse Show Office Quick Reminders

1. Enter online (if available) and include payment. Read the Premium completely.
2. Read all communications from show management. It contains specific information about the show.
3. Have a number on your horse (bridle or halter) at all times. This is a USDF rule.
4. Get any technical questions answered early. Remember the TD is there to help you.
5. Be flexible and pay attention to the schedule as it often changes. No one wants to make the judge wait.

CPDS Dressage Show Preparation and Timing for Test

Before Show:

- Read all show information within email and premium, know arena protocol (see [Dressage Protocol](#))
- Pack all equipment and prepare trailer, tires, gas, etc. (see Horse Show Packing Checklist)
- Arrange for a caller days in advance
- Memorize test weeks in advance (enter appropriate test for your current skill level)

Day Before Show:

- Arrive early to school horse in applicable warmups and arena
- Check in, pay if necessary; check stall chart
- Check times for show and check the class – time show day (see below)
- Know time limits on arenas
- Clean tack, attach number to bridle and halter
- Walk horse to familiarize with warm up and show area, know times available for this
- Organize and get ready show equipment, tack, and clothes – pack away schooling equipment after schooling
- Braid
- Administer electrolytes, if needed – horse and human
- Wash horse
- Clean stall – follow barns rules for disposal

Timing Day of Show (use page 2 FOR EXAMPLE):

Example Show Day Schedule	Suggested Approx. Time Allocation (Personalize!)	Example Show Day Schedule Timeline
<input type="checkbox"/> Feed/Water/Clean Stall	30 min.	6:00 a.m. – Feed/water/clean stall
<input type="checkbox"/> Check times for changes	15 min.	6:30 a.m. – Check times
<input type="checkbox"/> Check/redo braids	30 min. - 1 hr.	6:45 a.m. – Check/redo braids
<input type="checkbox"/> Walk horse	30 min.	7:15 a.m. – Walk horse
<input type="checkbox"/> Groom	15 min.	7:45 a.m. – Groom
<input type="checkbox"/> Check tack – check # is attached to bridle	15 min.	8:00 a.m. – Check tack
<input type="checkbox"/> Tack up	15 min.	8:15 a.m. – Tack up
<input type="checkbox"/> Dress – check times for changes	15 min.	8:30 a.m. – Dress
<input type="checkbox"/> Review test, focus, relax, bathroom	15 min.	8:45 a.m. – Review test, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/> Bridle	5-10 min.	9:00 a.m. – Bridle
<input type="checkbox"/> Walk to warmup	5-10 min.	9:10 a.m. – Walk to warmup
<input type="checkbox"/> Warmup	30 Min.	9:15 a.m. – Warmup
<input type="checkbox"/> Ride Time		9:45 a.m. – Test

CPDS Dressage Show Preparation and Timing for Test

My Show Day Schedule Template:

My Show Day Schedule	My Approx. Time Allocation	My Show Day Schedule Timeline
<input type="checkbox"/> Wake up (Set alarm clock!)		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ride Time		

Suggested Horse Show Packing Checklist

FOR THE HORSE SHOW

OFFICE

- Proof of negative Coggins, health papers, vaccine records
- Registration papers
- Membership papers
- Rule books/test books
- Emergency phone numbers
- Veterinary information

FOR THE HORSE

- Saddle
- Girth
- Schooling saddle pads
- Show saddle pads
- Bridle(s)
- Schooling boots or wraps
- Ear bonnets
- Cooler
- Scrim sheet
- Blankets, as needed
- Halter, extra and lead
- Polo wraps or leg protection
- Lunge line
- Lunge whip
- Side reins
- Safety pins

FOR THE EQUINE

FIRST AID KIT (BASIC)

- Veterinarian Number
- Rectal Thermometer
- Gauze, wraps
- Instant Ice Bags
- Blunt Tipped Scissors
- Tweezers
- Self-Sticking Bandages
- Medications
- Stop bleed
- Epsom Salt
- Antiseptic Cream & Ointment
- Electrolytes

FOR THE STALLS

- Hay
- Haynets
- Grain
- Supplements
- Bedding (if allowed)
- Duct tape, black electrical tape
- Pliers
- Zip ties
- Safety release clips
- Double-ended snaps, straps or hooks
- Water bucket(s)
- feed bucket
- Hammer
- Staple gun
- Screwdriver
- Bailing twine
- Cross ties
- Tack hooks
- Saddle racks
- Pitchfork
- Muck bucket
- Hose with extra washers, sprayer
- Broom
- Rake
- Wheelbarrow or wagon or dolly
- Bike locks for tack room
- Extension cords
- Spare batteries
- Fans
- Step stool
- Dry erase board and markers

FOR THE GROOMING

BOX/BRAIDING KIT

- Body brushes
- Curry comb
- Hoof pick
- Mane and tail brush
- Mane comb
- Detangler
- Waterless shampoo
- Hoof dressing
- Baby powder
- Fly spray
- Scissors
- Baby wipes
- Clippers
- Spray-on conditioner
- Seam ripper
- Yarn and/or elastics
- Hair product/braiding spray
- Pull through/latch hook
- Hair clip

FOR THE WASH RACK

- Shampoo
- Sweat scraper
- Spongers or scrubbers
- Towels
- Bucket designated for washing

FOR THE TACK

CLEANING KIT

- Small bucket
- Tack cleaning hook and chain
- Saddle soap
- Leather conditioner
- Double-sided sponges
- Washcloths
- Toothbrushes
- Metal polish
- Boot shining kit
- Leather hole punch

Suggested Horse Show Packing Checklist

FOR THE HORSE

TRAILER/TRUCK

- Spare Tires/Jacks
- Flashlight/spare batteries
- Spare fuses
- Registrations
- Break away halter
- Lead ropes
- Head bumpers
- Hay net
- Trailer ties
- Water
- Wire/bolt cutters
- Emergency roadside flares
- Tire pressure gauge
- Spare tire with air
- Hitch locks
- Tire blocks

FOR THE RIDER

- Boots and extra pair, if possible
- Boot polish
- Belt
- Helmet
- Gloves

- Spurs
- Rain gear
- Breeches
- Show shirt
- Show jacket
- Laundry soap
- Spot remover for breeches
- Small mirror
- Sunscreen
- Lint roller
- Small sewing kit
- Snacks
- First aid kit
- Safety vest, if needed
- Chair
- Toiletries

FOR THE RIDER'S

FIRST AID KIT

- Health insurance information
- Thermometer
- Aspirin
- Ibuprofen/acetaminophen
- Antiseptic cream/ointment
- Band aids/gauze/ace wraps
- Athletic tape

- Triple antibiotic Ointment
- Things for upset stomach
- Anti-itch cream
- Eye drops/saline
- Aloe vera for sunburn
- Instant ice/heat bag
- Small scissors/tweezers

FOR TRAVEL

- Maps and directions
- Rolls of coins (tolls/laundry)
- Notebook
- Sunglasses
- Beverages and snacks
- Camera
- Cell phone charger
- First aid kit
- Cooler
- Blanket and pillows
- Change of clothes
- Iron/steamer
- Toiletries
- Magazines/books/games
- Emergency phone numbers
- Spare batteries/chargers
- Trash bags
- Folding wagon

IMPORTANT REMINDERS ABOUT HORSE SHOW PACKING:

- ✓ Take as little as possible but as much as necessary
- ✓ Label and organize so you know exactly where everything is
- ✓ Minimize trips in and out of stable
- ✓ Always inspect trailer and truck before leaving (brakes, electrical, tires, etc.)

Helpful Horse Show Resources

Understanding Dressage Show Rules and Protocol

USDF “Dressage Show from A to X”:

https://www.usdf.org/EduDocs/Competition/Dressage_Showing_from_A_to_X_Miller.pdf

USDF Dressage Protocol: <https://www.usdf.org/edudocs/competition/dressageprotocol.pdf>

USDF “Dressage-Arena Etiquette”:

<https://usdf.org/education/university/kb/item.asp?ID=2463&q=etiquette>

USDF Surviving the Warm-Up Ring with “The Warm-Up Warriors”:

<https://usdf.org/education/university/kb/item.asp?ID=1024&q=etiquette>

Understanding, Memorizing, and Riding Your Dressage Tests:

USDF 2023 Tests effective from 12/1/2022 to 11/30/2026 (Introductory through Fourth Level):

<https://usdf.org/downloads/forms/index.asp?TypePass=Tests>

USDF Purpose of Tests: <https://www.usdf.org/EduDocs/Training/purposeoftests.pdf>

USDF Explanation of Dressage Movements:

<https://www.usdf.org/edudocs/training/movements1.pdf>

USDF “Know Thy Test: 10 Easy Strategies for Test Memorization”:

<https://usdf.org/education/university/kb/item.asp?ID=357&q=memorizing%20tests>

USDF Dressage Tests and “Sleep and Memory Retention”:

<https://usdf.org/education/university/kb/item.asp?ID=2489&q=memorizing%20tests>

USDF “Geometry Class from the Judge’s Box”, tips on riding an accurate test from a USEF “S” Dressage Judge: <https://usdf.org/education/university/kb/item.asp?ID=2163&q=tests>

USDF Test Prep Strategies for Show Ring Success:

<https://usdf.org/education/university/kb/item.asp?ID=2568&q=tests>

USEF/USDF Rule Changes:

USEF Rule Changes: <https://usdf.org/competitions/usefrulechanges.asp>

Understanding Your Test Scores and Comments:

Interpreting Your Test Scores: <https://usdf.org/about/about-dressage/competition/tests.asp#:~:text=Each%20movement%20is%20scored%20on%20a%20scale%20of,horse%20is%20ready%20to%20move%20up%20a%20level>.

USDF “Understand Collective Marks: Rider Scores” (short video):
<https://usdf.org/education/university/kb/item.asp?ID=2464&q=tests>

USDF “Get the Most out of Your Test Sheet”, a guide to interpreting and learning from the judge's comments: <https://usdf.org/education/university/kb/item.asp?ID=1536&q=judges>

2023 USDF Glossary of Judging Terms:
<https://usdf.org/education/university/kb/item.asp?ID=991&q=Glossary>

USDF Approved Scribe Abbreviations:
[https://www.usdf.org/EduDocs/Competition/USDF Guide for Scribes 2019.pdf](https://www.usdf.org/EduDocs/Competition/USDF%20Guide%20for%20Scribes%202019.pdf)

Understanding the Role of the Judge:

USDF “The Judge Is Your Ally”:
<https://usdf.org/education/university/kb/item.asp?ID=2340&q=judges>

USDF “The Judge’s Box: What Do Dressage Judges Really Think”:
<https://usdf.org/education/university/kb/item.asp?ID=2281&q=judges>

Understanding the Role of Technical Delegate (TD):

USDF The Role of a TD (Find out what they can and cannot do for competitors) (short video):
<https://usdf.org/education/university/kb/item.asp?ID=2034&q=technical%20delegate>

USDF “Mythbusters, TD Edition” – Dressage Technical Delegates, what they do and why you should make the TD your go-to competition resource:
<https://usdf.org/education/university/kb/item.asp?ID=2319&q=technical%20delegate>

Additional Important Resources:

USDF Virtual Education Series: [Serieshttps://usdf.org/education/university/virtual-education-series.asp](https://usdf.org/education/university/virtual-education-series.asp)

Safe Sport Resources: [SafeSport Initiative \(usdf.org\)](https://www.usdf.org/education/university/safe-sport-initiative)

USDF Guide for Scribes:
https://www.usdf.org/edudocs/competition/usdf_guide_for_scribes2012.pdf