

RIDE ON WITH CHA

Certification Types

English/Western Instructor

For group riding instructors dealing with progressive skill building for all levels of riders, both in the arena and on the trail. Levels of certification may be earned in both English and Western disciplines in this five-day certification with or without jumping.

Trail Guide

For trail guides managing rides ranging from an hour up to wilderness packing. Five-day Trail Guide Certification clinics involve two nights at a base camp and three nights on the trail. Topics include evaluation of camping skills, environmental issues and trail ethics.

Combined Instructor & Trail Guide

Combined Certification offers both English/Western Instructor Certification and Trail Guide Certification up to the second level in each program in a five-day clinic. For use in recreational programs and lower level instructional programs that include both progressive skill building and trail riding.

Equine Facility Manager

A certification for equine facility employees from stable worker to commercial equine facility director. Certification involves a three-day evaluation of knowledge and skills, based on written tests and skills demonstrations.

Instructor of Riders with Disabilities

For instructors that teach horsemanship while working in programs that provide therapeutic, recreational or main-stream riding for people with disabilities. Levels of certification may be earned in both cognitive and physical disabilities in this six-day certification.

Seasonal Equestrian Staff & Day Ride Trail Guide

For seasonal riding program operators, such as summer camps, youth organizations, guest ranches and trail operations. These three-day certifications target seasonal or temporary riding staff that work under the supervision of a CHA Certified Instructor, Trail Guide or program director. The Seasonal certification has a focus on arena lessons while Day Ride Trail Guide focuses on trail ride activities.

Vaulting Coach

Vaulting Coach Certification is for coaches in recreational and competitive vaulting programs, including camps, equestrian programs offering one-time vaulting experiences or highly competitive walk-trot-canter teams. This is a 3-day certification.

Driving instructor and Driver

For driving instructors who teach lessons in the camp or commercial driving school setting and for recreational or commercial drivers. This five-day certification includes single and team driving with multiple vehicle types.

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CERTIFIED HORSEMANSHIP ASSOCIATION



CHA Membership Benefits:

- Online Directory Listing
- CHA Website Links
- Marketing & Advertising Opportunities
- Discounts on:
 - CHA Instructional & Educational Manuals
 - CHA Merchandise & Products
 - Horsemanship DVDs & Posters
 - Conferences & Webinars
 - Horsemanship Safety Streaming Videos
 - Partner Products & Services
- CHA magazine, *The Instructor*
- Free Classified Ads
- Free Job Postings
- Student Curricula & Achievement Awards
- Monthly News Eblasts
- Insurance Discounts
- Continuing Education Opportunities
- Monthly Podcast

English/Western Instructor, Trail Guide, Combined Instructor & Trail Guide, Instructor of Riders with Disabilities, Equine Facility Manager, Vaulting Coach, Seasonal Equestrian Staff, Day Ride Trail Guide, Driving Instructor/Driver, Skills Workshops



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CERTIFIED HORSEMANSHIP ASSOCIATION

Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA)

CHA is a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization operating internationally. It is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and managed by a small, professional staff. CHA was founded in 1967, to develop a means to test and evaluate riding program staff for teaching ability, horsemanship knowledge, risk management skills and professionalism.

The mission of CHA is to promote excellence in safety and education throughout the horse industry. This is accomplished by promoting safety standards, certifying equine professionals and providing support and educational resources. CHA accredits equine programs and facilities, serving both their clients and staff. CHA Program Members include riding programs, youth associations, clubs, boarding and training stables, camps, colleges/universities and recreational programs. CHA also publishes safety standards and equestrian manuals.

Today, CHA is the largest and most active instructor certification system in North America and boasts a base of over 4,000 members and certified professionals. CHA offers about 100 certifications annually in North America and certifies over 800 individuals each year.

Over and above the certification programs, CHA provides support, services and resources to equine programs and professionals to help make their programs safer and more effective. See the wealth of materials available at www.CHA.horse.

CHA Site Accreditation

Site Accreditation is based on compliance with the safety and operational standards set forth in CHA's *Standards for Equestrian Programs*. The standards establish needed policies, procedures and practices.

Site Accreditation is visible evidence to potential customers/clients that the facility strives to adhere to industry standards. It is no guarantee that clients will be free of the inherent risks associated with handling equines. However, accreditation does indicate to the public that the equine facility has allowed voluntary comparison to standards established by professionals within the horse industry.

Any type of equine operation may apply for CHA Site Accreditation. Accreditation does not require operations to conform to particular methods, but rather insures that the operations meet overall requirements. Benefits: With CHA Site Accreditation, equine facilities receive a recognition sign, may use the CHA logo on their marketing material, and are eligible for insurance discounts.

Application: To apply for CHA Site Accreditation, contact the CHA Office for an application. Pay the program membership and accreditation fees. Prepare for visitation by addressing concerns of the standards and preparing materials and written documentation that are needed. Once a facility is ready, a site visit is scheduled by two CHA Site Visitors to confirm compliance with 100% of mandatory standards and at least 80% of recommended standards.

CHA Certification

The CHA certification process consists of testing and evaluation by two CHA certifiers, in a multi-day, multi-level certification clinic. During the certification, participants are evaluated on their existing level of equine knowledge and ability in the selected certification type. Certification clinics do not actually teach the discipline.

About half the time in a certification clinic, participants are teaching lessons or doing skills demonstrations. There is also a written test(s), a riding/driving or horse handling evaluation and presentations by the certifiers. Certification is available at various levels in each type and is awarded at the end of the process. The level of certification attained, if any, is at the sole discretion of the Certifiers. Certification is typically valid for three years from the date of certification as long as CHA membership is current. Certification may be renewed at the end of the three-year period with documentation of continuing education and activity in the industry.

Certification Host Sites

Certification Clinics are held across North America at approved Program Member facilities characteristic of the certification being offered. The fee may range from \$600 to \$975, may include lodging and meals, and always includes manuals and CHA membership for the remainder of the current year.

Registration

To register for a Certification Clinic visit www.CHA.horse. The certification schedule is available there. Certification materials are sent upon registering.

Certification Prerequisites

- Minimum of 18 years of age on the final day of the certification. A participant at 16 or 17 years of age may achieve an Assistant level only in English/ Western Instructor and Level I in Equine Facility Manager.
- Have a strong awareness of horsemanship safety.
- For any certification program that involves riding, be able to ride at the walk, trot/jog, and canter/lope in the arena or an open area with correct diagonals and leads and with control.
- Be able to ride/drive or perform at a level above where they can be certified. CHA has a policy to address participants with prior equestrian skills who are no longer capable of riding or handling horses.
- For all instructor certifications, be able to teach horsemanship theory and application, and be able to manage people and horses in a group environment of at least three riders.
- Be able to positively and effectively communicate with others both verbally and in writing.
- Demonstrate and encourage professional behavior, setting a good example in attitude, language and appearance at all times.