

Discovery: Horses- Cadette

From the famous Tennessee Walking horse to the working Quarter horse, horses are a part of the history, culture and economy of Tennessee. While earning this badge you will experience breeds and riding styles common to Tennessee and explore careers involving horses.



Steps:

- 1) Safety First
- 2) Horsey Hygiene
- 3) Grown-Up Fun
- 4) Saddle Time
- 5) Fun N' Games

Purpose:

When I've earned this badge, I will know the basics of how to ride, be familiar with different types of riding common in Tennessee and have learned about some of the careers available in Tennessee involving horses.

Step 1 – Safety First

Like anything that weighs 1000lbs or more, horses can be dangerous if you don't know and learn the safety procedures to keep yourself and your horse safe from harm. In this step, you will learn and practice the procedures designed to keep you safe while working with and handling horses.

- A. Learn six safety rules for being in the barn or around horses. Be able to give reasons why these rules are important and in place. Give examples of what problems could happen, if these rules are not followed.

OR

- B. Learn, explain and demonstrate how to approach a horse safely in a stall or tied to a fence.

Step 2 – Horsey Hygiene

While riding is definitely fun, a Girl Scout should be able to properly care for her horse as well. *Horsey Hygiene* is about the importance of keeping your horse clean and healthy. In this step, you will learn how to keep your horse clean by grooming and learn the basics of horse health care.

- A. Examine and learn the tools to groom a horse. Discover the purpose of each tool. Demonstrate proper use of each tool, while grooming your horse. Learn why grooming is important to your horse. Think about the similarities to your hygiene routine.

OR

- B. Horses and humans can have the same illnesses. Learn how to take your horse's temperature, and what to do if your horse has a fever. Choose one other illness/injury (such as sprained ankles or a cough), and find out the steps to diagnose and treat your horse for that problem.

Step 3 – Grown-Up Fun

Horses aren't just for children and youth. Many adults turn their love of horses into a career. In this step, you will explore different careers that could be available to someone who wants to work in the horse industry in the state of Tennessee.

- A. Some careers with horses are obvious, such as veterinarian or horse trainer. Think about what you might want to be when you grow up (such as a school teacher or an accountant), and discover how you can still work with horses in your chosen career. Find out what kinds of jobs in Tennessee meet your goals with horses. Remember, a Girl Scout can be anything she wants to be!

OR

- B. Find and interview someone in Tennessee who works with horses or in relation to horses. Think outside the box. Find out what they do on a daily basis and how it relates to horses. Record or write down your interview, and share it with your troop.

Step 4 – Saddle Time

There are so many ways to enjoy riding on horseback, from English or western or saddle seat, to racing or even bareback riding. In this step, you will learn the differences between common types of riding, and try your hand at one of them.

- A. English and Western are the most common types of saddles. Examine these two styles of saddles and spot three differences in the two types. Then learn why each difference is unique to that type of saddle and the reason why they are different. The famous Tennessee Walking horses are often ridden with a special saddle. Compare the *saddle seat* saddle to the all-purpose English saddle. How is it different?

AND

- B. Based on your examination of the saddles, think about which style you feel would suit you best. Learn how to safely mount and dismount your horse, how to stop, start and steer your horse. If possible, observe the gaits of a Tennessee Walking horse and a Quarter horse or another horse who trots. Do you see how the patterns of footfalls are different?

Step 5 – Fun N’ Games

There are several types of games that can be played on horseback. Tennessee has active groups who participate in many of these games. In this step, you will try your hand at some games played on horseback, or learn about some games and share them with your group.

- A. Learn about some common types of games on horseback, such as barrel racing, pole bending or even ‘tag’. Under supervision of an instructor, try playing these games. Remember, all of these games can be done at a walk and are still exciting. Don’t forget to cheer for your teammates!

OR

- B. Learn about three common games played in Tennessee on horseback. This can include competition games like Barrel Racing or sport games, like Polo. Use your artistic skills and draw a diagram of how the game is played. Share your new ‘games book’ with your group! Find out where you could go to watch your favorite horseback game.

Congratulations! You have earned the *Discovery: Horses* badge! You can add this badge to your Journeys.

You might collect ideas for a Take Action project involving horses, or talk to one of the riding instructors about their role with the horses and discover how they interact with the horses for a different kind of aMazing Journey!

Service:

Now that I’ve earned this badge, I can give service by:

- Becoming a *Vaquera* at Camp Sycamore Hills and assisting with horse programs.
- Becoming an assistant to a Girl Scout Brownie troop and help them with earning the *Loving and Grooming* or *Pony Ready* Try-It.
- With permission and supervision, finding a volunteer group that uses horses or local equine rescue, and volunteering my time to groom the horses or help with barn chores.