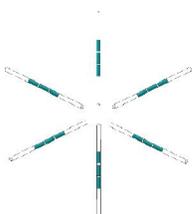




#StayatHomeHorsemanship

CHALLENGE 2021

JANUARY



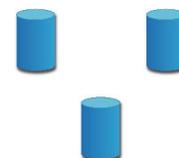
#SnowflakePoles

FEBRUARY



#CupidShuffle

MARCH



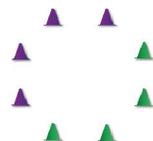
#ShamrockBarrels

APRIL



#OvertheRainbow

MAY



#MayFlower

JUNE



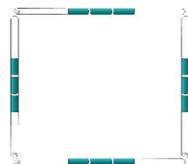
#IceCreamCone

JULY



#PoolParty

AUGUST



#GetintheBox

SEPTEMBER



#ThinkOutsidetheBox

OCTOBER



#SpookySeason

NOVEMBER



#TransitionTuneup

DECEMBER



#JingleJam

Stay-at-Home Horsemanship Challenge

#StayatHomeHorsemanship

Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2021

The purpose of the challenge is to provide motivation and community to equestrians worldwide, especially those who may feel isolated due to restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

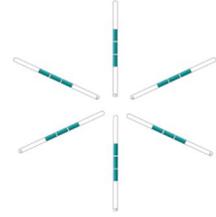
Each challenge consists of simple training tasks that can be achieved by anyone with access to a horse, independently or with assistance.

How it works:

- 🐾 **The challenge is hosted by HorseSense Riding Academy and HorseSense Learning Levels, LLC.** A copy of these rules may be downloaded at <https://HorseSenseRidingAcademy.com/challenge/>.
- 🐾 **Challenges are announced and officially opened on the first of every month** on the HorseSense Riding Academy facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/HorseSenseRidingAcademy>) and on Instagram @horsesenselevels.
- 🐾 **Each challenge contains a task demonstrating horsemanship skills under saddle or in hand.** (Some of them are driving-friendly, if that's your discipline of choice!) Challenges contain minimal equipment that can be modified as needed. They can be completed by beginners and green horses as well as advanced riders – the goal is to demonstrate your own creative interpretation.
- 🐾 **Participants are invited to share videos and/or photos demonstrating each challenge using the official hashtag, #stayathomehorsemanship,** as well as individual tags containing the monthly challenge title. HorseSense Learning Levels may share participants' public Facebook and Instagram posts, so be sure to check your privacy settings if you do not wish to be featured.
- 🐾 **On the first of every month, along with the details of the new challenge, we may share three entries on the HorseSense Riding Academy Facebook page and open voting for Fan Favorite.** The monthly winner will have their demo featured on the Riding Academy website and be entered in a drawing for year-end prizes.
- 🐾 **To be eligible for Fan Favorite, demos must be posted and tagged in the official calendar month for each challenge.** Otherwise, playing catch-up is or working ahead is allowed – and encouraged, especially if you start after January!
- 🐾 **After Dec 1, 2021, participants may submit a copy of the attached calendar showing that all challenges have been completed.** Each entry received will be entered into an additional drawing for HorseSense Learning Levels courses and other prizes TBA.
- 🐾 **Any safe and humane tack is permitted;** helmets strongly preferred.
- 🐾 **Kind and considerate horsemanship is expected.** We will not share or promote any entry demonstrating rough handling, obvious pain or fear in the horse, or an activity unsafe for horse and rider, at our discretion.

JANUARY: Snowflake Poles

Set out six poles to form a snowflake. Ride or maneuver horse in hand over the pole formation in three different ways. Your choice of gait; feel free to add transitions, turn the poles into jumps, or move sideways or backwards!



Don't have enough poles? Use cones instead – we recommend three cones per pole, which will allow you to create a number of different patterns.

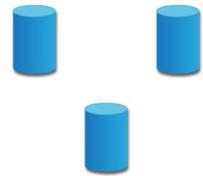
FEBRUARY: Cupid Shuffle



Demonstrate a sequence of movements, under saddle or in hand, that could be set to the refrain of the dance song "Cupid Shuffle." Must include movement to the left and the right!

MARCH: Shamrock Barrels

Set out three barrels (or cones) as if barrel racing. Demonstrate riding, or maneuvering horse in hand, around the barrels in three different patterns. Feel free to add "extras" such as transitions or lateral steps.



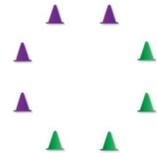
APRIL: Over the Rainbow



Demonstrate riding, or maneuvering horse in hand, through a shallow loop. Your variation can include extra circles, transitions, or obstacles if you wish. (Are there pots of gold at the end of your rainbow?)

MAY: May Flower

Demonstrate riding or maneuvering horse in hand through 8 cones set in a circle. Create the pattern of your choice – it might look like flower petals, or basket weaving, or contain circles of different sizes. Just make sure to include every cone!



JUNE: Ice Cream Cone



Ride or maneuver horse in hand while holding an "ice cream cone," made by placing a tennis ball on top of a paper or plastic cup. Your demonstration may include any gaits or movements you wish, but should include at least one obstacle (ground pole, jump, bending poles, bridge, etc.).

JULY: Pool Party

Incorporate at least one pool noodle into a riding or groundwork demonstration. How many ways can you think to use it?



AUGUST: Get in the Box



Use four poles to create a square of poles. Use the box to demonstrate three different mounted or unmounted maneuvers – include at least one that takes place entirely inside.

SEPTEMBER: Think Outside the (Sand) Box

Explore new territory with your horse. This could include a trail ride, an outing, or simply walking outside the arena. Whatever adventure you choose, make your entry shows you and your horse in a place you don't normally go.



OCTOBER: Spooky Season



Demonstrate riding or maneuvering horse in hand over, through or around an obstacle your horse used to find frightening. Your obstacle can be as simple or as elaborate as you like, but the horse must demonstrate confidence and relaxation.

NOVEMBER: Transition Tune-Up

Demonstrate as many transitions as possible in sixty seconds. Your changes of gait may occur under saddle or in hand, in the arena or in the open. Feel free to omit pieces of tack (*#NoStirrupNovember*, anyone?) or add obstacles to your demo!



DECEMBER: Jingle Jam



Compose a riding or groundwork routine to perform to your favorite holiday song. Your demonstration can be as long or as short as you like, and you can perform solo or invite friends to take part!

FAQ - #StayatHomeHorsemanshipChallenge

HOW THE CHALLENGE WORKS

How do I participate in a challenge?

Follow the instructions for each challenge, then show off your own creative interpretation by tagging videos or photos with the hashtag [#StayatHomeHorsemanship](#).

To have your videos/photos featured by HorseSense Riding Academy, you'll need to create a public post within each Challenge's official month – but you are welcome to share privately with your friends, or simply use the challenges to inspire your daily riding or training.

What skills do I need to complete each challenge?

You will need a little imagination and basic horse safety training, allowing you to safely ride or work with your horse on the ground. Otherwise, each challenge is designed to be friendly to beginner equestrians and green horses, as each task can be completed entirely at the walk and halt.

If you are inexperienced, we strongly recommend that you practice each challenge with the assistance and supervision of your instructor or another knowledgeable horseperson.

Can I do the challenges English? Western? Bareback? In my pajamas?

All riding disciplines are welcome here. We simply ask that you demonstrate safety along with creativity. Properly-fitted, certified helmets and boots are strongly recommended. Your horse's tack should be correctly adjusted and allow the horse to move freely and comfortably.

Do I need any special equipment?

Most of the challenges require a few pieces of equipment, such as ground poles, cones, or pool noodles. However, any safe and creative substitution is welcome. Feel free to use cones in place of barrels or poles. If you are feeling very brave, you can try the June challenge with a real ice cream cone instead of a cup!

Do I have to do all of the challenges?

You can do as many of the challenges as you wish, in any order you wish. However, if you can show proof of completion for all 12, you can enter a drawing for year-end prizes.

Keep track of your accomplishments on our [printable checklist calendar](#), and keep an eye on our social media channels for more information on submission in Dec 2021.

Can I dress up for the challenge?

Although not required, you and your horse are welcome to show your style or dress to reflect each challenge! Just make sure your attire is horse-safe, please.

CHALLENGE RULES

How does each month's challenge officially open?

On the 1st of every month, we'll post an announcement on the Facebook page for HorseSense Riding Academy, and cross-post to the Facebook and Instagram for HorseSense Learning Levels. This post will contain detailed instructions and examples for the individual challenge. If you have questions about individual challenges, that will be the time and place to ask them!

Do I have to do each challenge within its assigned month?

You're welcome to practice ahead or play catch-up – however, *to be eligible for Fan Favorite, you'll need to tag your post within the official window for each challenge.* Challenges open on the 1st of each month and close at midnight on the final day of the month.

Do my videos or photos need to be edited?

No editing or fancy cameras needed – although we would like to be able to see you and your horse clearly. If you tag photo(s) instead of a video, try to take enough to demonstrate completion of the challenge.

Can I critique posts that you or other participants share?

ONLY when asked for! Our goal is for the hashtag to encourage community and inspiration. Horsemanship is a never-ending journey, and we are ALL works in progress. Keep your comments supportive, and if you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all!

I don't have social media accounts. Can I send you my entries each month?

We can only share and promote hashtagged content uploaded to a public space. If you'd like to post your videos to YouTube or a similar hosting platform, you can include the hashtags, and consider asking a friend to share the URL on our Facebook post.

Can I sue you if I get hurt attempting a challenge?

No, you cannot. We're all going to agree that you accept full responsibility for any decisions you make during your participation in this challenge.

*Our standard **Limitation of Liability and Indemnity**: You agree and acknowledge that you are fully responsible for your own acts, and that if you, or other individuals are injured in conjunction with any information or services provided by HorseSense Learning Levels, it was your choice alone to rely on that information or service and you do so at your own risk. Use of any HorseSense materials, whether for personal or professional means, constitutes your agreement to indemnify HorseSense Learning Levels from all liability.*

Will you get mad if we demonstrate reckless behavior?

You do you – but keep in mind that the challenge is designed to promote good horsemanship. When choosing posts to share and nominate for Fan Favorite, we'll be looking for submissions that honor this goal. We won't promote entries that show rough horse handling, dangerous behavior, or obviously lame or fearful horses, at our discretion.

VOTE FOR FAN FAVORITES

How does Fan Favorite work?

Toward the end of each month, we'll choose three public posts tagged with [#StayatHomeHorsemanship](#) and share them on the Facebook page for HorseSense Riding Academy.

TIP: *include a second tag with the name of the individual challenge!*

You can vote for your favorite there, and the winner will be featured on our website and social media channels.

Are entries judged?

The challenge is not competitive – although you might wish to challenge friends at your barn or riding school to some friendly in-house competitions!

Our decision process for choosing Fan Favorite finalists is totally subjective, but we'll be looking for entries that demonstrate creativity and a spirit of playful partnership between horse and handler. No extra points are given for advanced riding skills. (That said, if you've got 'em, please feel free to show off.)

How will you choose entries for Fan Favorite?

We'll be keeping an eye on the hashtag and saving our favorites throughout each month. We know algorithms can be tricky – and we also have families and businesses and farms to look after, and may occasionally miss a day or two, especially around the holidays. If you have a submission you're particularly proud of, make sure to tag us on Facebook or Instagram!

Do I get anything else if I'm the winner?

At this time, we can only promise online bragging rights to Fan Favorites, but stay tuned for announcements about year-end awards.

Also – we would love to collaborate with other small businesses. Want to donate a prize or a discount code for our winners in exchange for promotion? Drop us an email: bossmares@horsesenseridingacademy.com