



Certified Horsemanship Association

CHA Certification Programs

CHA has developed a highly lauded certification process for standard instructors, trail guides and instructors of riders with disabilities. Instructors are evaluated in five areas: SAFETY, HORSEMANSHIP KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITY, TEACHING TECHNIQUE, and GROUP CONTROL AND PROFESSIONALISM. The CHA certification process has been continually monitored and refined for more than 30 years, in order to meet the needs of a changing horse industry.

THE BENEFITS OF CHA CERTIFICATION...

Are numerous and affect not only the individual instructor, but also the employer, program manager and the riding student. Certification is a validation of the individual's knowledge and ability and demonstrates to employers and customers that the instructor has been proven against a respected standard, under independent evaluation. Certification means the instructor is committed to professional standards and is proven to be safe, knowledgeable and effective. Additional benefits of CHA certification are insurance discounts, marketing/advertising advantages, increased employment opportunities and the experience of a "hands-on" program that offers critique by teaching experts and the opportunity to network with peers and colleagues.

THE CHA CERTIFICATION PROCESS...

Consists of evaluation by two CHA certified clinicians, in a 5 day certification clinic held at approved CHA Program Member facilities in the US, Canada, England and elsewhere. All CHA certification clinics involve teaching at least four practice lessons, a riding evaluation, a written test and participation in workshops on risk management & industry standards, teaching techniques, professionalism and herd management. Certification is awarded at the end of the clinic and the level of certification attained (if any) is the sole discretion of the two CHA Clinicians conducting the clinic. Certification is valid for three years from the certification date; the instructor must maintain annual individual membership in CHA. Instructors may re-certify at the end of the three-year certification period by providing documentation of continuing education and work within the industry. The only way to raise the level of certification is to attend another CHA certification clinic. You can watch the "Preparing for CHA Instructor Certification Webinar" if you like, to give you a better idea of how it goes...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GuhOm8YjGyl&feature=c4-overview&list=UUWHxf9F_XrKPbooUCdQsd2A

THE CHA CLINICIAN...

The CHA clinician is a career professional that has participated in numerous evaluations of his/her skill level, has demonstrated management experience and teaching excellence, and has made a commitment to furthering horsemanship safety. The Clinician candidate is subjected to a painstaking application and review process, which includes an apprenticeship as an Assistant Clinician to attain the honor of being named a CHA Clinic Instructor. Additionally, clinicians are required to meet specific certification criteria on a yearly basis in order to maintain the position.

CHA CERTIFICATION CLINICS ARE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE

Certification clinics are held at program member facilities throughout North America and are an exceptional value. Most host facilities charge from \$850-950 for a certification clinic, which typically includes lodging and meals. Clinic fees always include student manuals, instructor manuals, and CHA membership for the remainder of the current year. For a current certification clinic schedule, call the National Office at 1-800-399-0138.

CHA'S MINIMUM CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Instructors must be a minimum of 18 years old on the date of certification or a minimum of 16 years old for Assistant Instructor/Guide certification (no exceptions). A candidate for certification must have sufficient experience with horses and people to assume responsibility for the safety and well being of groups of less experienced riders. Instructor candidates must have strong organizational skills and communicate clearly. Instructor candidates must be able to demonstrate the ability to catch, lead, groom, teach and generally handle and care for horses without assistance. They must be able to mount, dismount and ride at the walk, trot and canter/lope on the correct lead, with good form and control in a group, in the arena and in the open. Instructor candidates must be able to ride above the level that they will be certified to teach (for exceptional circumstances, see Special Considerations under "Instructor Competency Guidelines" in the CHA Clinic Instructor's Manual.)

WHAT TO EXPECT AT A CERTIFICATION CLINIC

Candidates will teach at least 4 demonstration lessons on topics assigned by the clinic staff, according to the candidate's ability level. When not teaching, the candidates will ride in lessons, role-playing as a student. All candidates will give oral evaluations of their own lessons, as well as the lessons given by other candidates; clinic staff will also give oral and written evaluations of lessons for safety, group control and effectiveness. Candidates will also be evaluated throughout the clinic on their professionalism, including appropriate dress, attitude and demeanor. Expect long days and evening classroom sessions; participants may also be expected to help with horse chores.

WHAT TO BRING TO A CERTIFICATION CLINIC

This will depend on the type of clinic, time of year and the location of the host facility. Specific information will be sent to participants after registration, by the host facility. Clothing should be safe, neat and suitable for riding and barn chores. Participants are required to wear an Approved Helmet. Participants should be prepared for classroom sessions and note taking, and it may be helpful to bring resources for use in planning lessons (books, poster board, models, charts, etc.) Suitable school horses and all necessary equipment are provided by the host facility.

TO REGISTER FOR A CERTIFICATION CLINIC

Fill out a Registration form and send it along with your \$100 deposit (payable by e-transfer to bookkeeper@teenranch.com OR cash, cheque, visa or MasterCard) to the host site. Upon registration, participants will receive instructor and student manuals, a course syllabus, packing list and additional information to help prepare for the clinic.