

PASCO SHERIFF'S OFFICE MOUNTED POSSE OPERATIONAL AND TRAINING GUIDELINES

Certification Standards for Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4 Details

- Evaluation Standards are the minimum requirements accepted by the Pasco Sheriff's Office.
- Level 1 & 4 must be completed at 100%
- Level 2 & 3 must show at least 70% efficiency
- The Training Officer(s) will complete evaluations on each Posse Member and their mount(s).
- If a Posse Member chooses to use more than one mount, the member that is riding the mount must certify each mount. **(member & mount combination, you can not certify a horse for someone else to ride)**
- **Level 1 Certification** is very similar to our warm ups at every training day, with the exception of citizen and vehicular contact.
- **During Level 2 & 3 Obstacles Certification Evaluation**, Posse Members will ride with a partner (as if on a detail).
- During Drill Certification Evaluation, Posse Members will ride in teams of **at least** 4-6 members. To pass the evaluation, the posse member must call the ride to the other members on the team with no less than a "YO" to signify all members are to accomplish a certain task during the choreographed drill and all members move at the same time.
- During qualifications, if a rider falls or is thrown from their mount; can not either mount or dismount on the near side during any portion of a certification evaluation; or receives a Below Standard Score the rider will automatically be disqualified and will receive remedial training; then may attempt the certification evaluation again on the same day if time/weather permits. The rider will be afforded another day to certify. Certifications dates will be set quarterly for existing and new members. The Training Officer(s) will set the re-certification date.
 - Each Posse Member, with each mount, will complete a minimum of 4 hours of training at an organized training day every 3 months Jan-Apr; May- Jun; Jul-Sep & Oct - Dec with a training officer recognized by the Pasco Sheriff's Office. To accumulate additional hours members can include extra training credit hours for events/details, classes with Capt Barry McKie, Donna Schneider, Marcy Whittle, & Kim Billquist also count towards training hours. If the 8 hour minimum is not met the member will have to re-certify their mount(s).

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- If a Posse Member is unable to certify for Level 1 (and/or Level 2,3,4), the member may continue to attend organized training days and attempt to certify on a scheduled certification date.
 - After a Posse Member certifies a mount for Level 1 Details, they may only attend Level 1 details until such time the member certifies for Level 2 Parades/Details and then for Level 3 Parades/Details that are held after dark. Some Levels will have special/mandatory training held before such an event. Examples: Steeplechase, Tallahassee Memorial and Sparklebration. The Training Officer(s) reserves the right to disqualify a member & their mount(s) if necessary due to the liability of the member & mount in public and to advise against participation at events where a particular member and mount is not ready to participate.
- To attend a Ranch Patrol Detail, the Posse Member must attend the Ranch Patrol Class and/or Refresher Class as deemed necessary by the Liaison Officer (due to new membership).
- This class will be offered the day of a scheduled certification day, *if needed*. The LEO (law enforcement officer) in charge of the detail will ask the Posse Member to leave if the member has not received & *passed* the appropriate training required for any detail. Documented Discipline may be administered by the Liaison Officer.
- Once a Posse Member and their mount(s) **are** certified to attend details, they must sign in & out with the LEO in charge of the detail, receive pertinent information about the detail and must ride with a partner, **never alone**.
 - Posse Members are considered uncompensated employees of the Sheriff's Office and are expected to arrive to training and details in a timely manner. It is imperative to arrive on time to such details as Search & Rescue, Community Rides or Ranch Patrol, because everyone will be leaving the designated parking area at a specific time at these types of details. Arriving late to training means you interrupt the training session and miss important information given at the beginning of each block of instruction.
- Members qualified to ride must volunteer at least 8 hours per quarter for a detail(s) or as ground assistance. (ground assistance outlined below in non-riding members) Jan-Mar; Apr-Jun; Jul-Sep; Oct-Dec

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- Non-riding members also have an obligation to the organization. Each non-riding member must volunteer for at least 8 hours of participation per quarter as ground assistance at training, qualifications or a detail. For example: Set ups at training and qualifications and/or clean up at a detail such as a community ride or demonstration for an event or school. Jan-Mar;Apr-Jun;Jul-Sep;Oct-Dec
- Organized Training Days with the Training Officer (s) will be set up in advance for the benefit of Posse Members to place these dates on their schedules. All organized trainings are structured to prepare member and mount to successfully complete all certification courses and to prepare them for circumstances they may encounter on details. *Members will wear appropriate Posse Training Uniforms, boots with riding heel and a helmet for all training exercises.*
- Maintaining 8 training hours per quarter will assure your certification on your mount. Less than 8 training hours per quarter per qualified mount means you must re-qualify the mount before participating at an event or detail. Each quarter 24 hours of training will be offered at training days. Additional training hours may be credited by attending events on your mount for the PCSMP at the rate of:
 - 1-4 hours = 1 training hour credit
 - 5-8 hours = 2 training hour credits
 - 9-12 hours = 3 training hour credits
- **4 hours** of the **8 hours required** per quarter of training (to remain certified with each mount) will be mandatory on an organized training day and the other 4 hours may be attained at an organized training day or extra credit at details.
- On an organized training day, Posse Members are expected to Sign In and Out with the correct times (this does not include the 1.5 hours before and after training, 3 hours will be awarded on the spreadsheet on the Extra Credit tab everything you attend, except ground help is entered). The Posse Member is also responsible for Sign In and Out for each mount used on an organized training day. This is very important to accurately track your training hours.
 - If a Posse Member arrives to a detail on an uncertified mount or brings a mount to a detail above their certification level, the Liaison Officer, Training Officer or other LEO in charge of the detail will ask the Posse Member to leave and the incident will be documented.

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- **PSMP members are appointed by the Sheriff and can be terminated at any time.**
- **A resignation may be presented to, and accepted by, any member (Executive Director, Liaison, Officer or Board Member) in their official capacity.**
- **PSMP members will follow all applicable General Orders, Directives, Procedures and Guidelines of the Pasco Sheriff's Office.**
- **Clothing with the Pasco Mounted Posse Insignia** will be worn only during an authorized training or details.
- **Magnetic Pasco Mounted Posse vehicle/horse trailer signs** will be used only while traveling to and from an authorized meeting, training or detail.
- **Consumption of alcoholic beverages** is not allowed within 8 hours before an authorized training and/or detail.
- **Inspection** of Member and Mount may be conducted at details. The inspection may be conducted by a member named by the Liaison Officer. The Mounted Deputy in charge of the event or detail may direct you to go home or not participate for gross violations (such as improper uniform or not improving areas marked below standard on previous inspections).
Check your handbook for an inspection sheet and details of how you and your mount will be inspected.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: PSMP members who are unable to meet the minimum mandatory hourly requirements may submit a written request for a temporary leave of absence to the PSMP Board of Directors. The duties, skills, and responsibilities, of a PSMP volunteer are perishable. Members must maintain consistency in their service to be a safe and productive member of the unit.

- A. Leave of absence may be granted to a member for a period of 90 days.
- B. At the conclusion of the 90 days, if the member cannot return to service they must show cause for an extension of the approved leave.
- C. Failure to return to service at the expiration of the approved leave, notwithstanding an approved extension, will be considered as a resignation from volunteer service.
- D. Any PSMP member granted a leave in excess of 90 days will be required to re-qualify their mount, upon their return and prior to returning to full patrol duty.

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E. A member may choose to resign in good standing during, or at the conclusion of, a leave of absence and reapply for PSMP at any time in the future.

F. Leave may or may not be granted to a volunteer. Each request will be evaluated independently and is at the discretion of the PSMP program coordinator in consultation with the Sergeant assigned to the PCSMP.

G. A member on leave of absence is not authorized to participate in specified patrol activities and may be required to return issued property. Members are encouraged to remain in contact whenever possible however, and may attend informational meetings to remain current on news and information associated with the unit.

TERMINATION OF SERVICES:

A. PSMP members are appointed by the Sheriff, and services may be terminated at anytime.

B. A resignation may be presented to, and accepted by, any member of the PSMP Board of Directors.

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