

ANNOUNCER

Hey there, thanks for helping out!

We can't put on shows without all our wonderful volunteers.

- **THE ANNOUNCER SETS THE TONE FOR THE SHOW OR EVENT**
- This seems like a weird thing to say but a monotone or quiet announcer is frustrating and difficult to hear.
- Be upbeat, happy, natural, use lots of inflection and speak clearly
- Don't swallow the mic, keep it a couple inches away from your mouth
- Do a mic check with the far gate, can they hear and understand you?
- Always turn off the mic when you're not using it.
- Do not let kids "help" you announce
- Do not throw any papers away! The office staff will take care of the paperwork, including picking it up from the crows nest or bring it straight to the office at the end of your shift.

FOR PERFORMANCE SHOWS:

- **Calls for classes:**
 - When the gate closes at the start of the class, you may announce to the judge "Judge this is your class"
 - Classes should have 1st, 2nd and 3rd calls
 - Let's say class A has just entered the arena
 - 1st call for class B
 - Class A just reversed, or finished half their riders for a pattern class
 - 2nd call for class B
 - Class A just lined up in front of the Ring Steward, or started their last rider for a pattern class
 - 3rd call for class B
 - This helps kids to be on time and ready for their class

- **Placings:**
 - When announcing placings you'll likely only have the riders number
 - If you have rider and horse names you can announce that as well
 - Start with all the riders that received a danish white and didn't place
 - Then danish reds that didn't place
 - Then danish blues that didn't place

- Then 8th place with what danish ribbon they earned
- Then 7th place with what danish ribbon they earned and so on
- Keep it moving but don't go to fast. You want them to get to the ribbons in order and not overwhelm the person handing out the ribbons
- Novice riders will only receive danish awards (white, red & blue)
 - They will not receive placings (1st -8th)
- High blues may also be awarded in regular classes.
- Use a pencil to make a mark that doesn't interfere with the judges marks by each number as you announce the placing, this helps so you don't lose your way and make sure to announce every rider

Working with the Ring Steward:

- Keep a good eye on the arena
- Watch the Ring Steward for commands from the judge
 - ◆ Walk: palm down hand flat, hand back and forth like your smoothing out sand
 - ◆ Jog or trot: fist shake up and down like the beat of a trot
 - ◆ Lope or canter: hand flat, palm always down and move hand like it's swooping up and down like on a roller coaster
 - ◆ Line up facing ring steward: hold both arms straight out from their sides, like a cross, in the middle of the arena facing away from the main audience, the riders will ride up and face the Ring Steward
 - ◆ They may provide you and the ring steward with walkie talkies
 - ◆ For classes like Discipline Rail the Ring Steward may take the wireless mic.
- Watch the arena! If you see a rider come off or a horse lose control and run away with the rider, calmly ask riders in the class to halt their horses. This helps keep other horses from thinking that it looks like fun to join in and keeps the kids safe.

FOR GAMING SHOWS:

- No announcer is usually needed for Showmanship classes
- For running events you'll announce the riders name **ONLY** after the judge raises their flag

- This is their call to the arena, they have 60 seconds to enter the gate
 - You'll also announce who is up, who is on deck and who is in the hole (the next 2 riders)
- After their run, watch the judge, they will signal to you their decision on the run
 - Check your signal sheet if you aren't sure
- Announce their run, clean then their time or no time depending on the judge
 - If you are AT ALL confused by the judge, ask them to clarify BEFORE you announce
- Read their time directly from the timer box in front of you
- Also watch for when the judge directs their rakers, usually every 5-8 riders or between each age division
- Keep your comments upbeat and positive
- Do not announce any medals qualifications or medals earned till these are confirmed by the secretary or medals chair.
- Music can be played, but keep it neutral like country
- Let the next age division know how long till they are up
- Just like a performance announcer, don't get chatty up there it makes it so much harder and easier to make mistakes