

Script for APHA Kids Intermediate Presentation



Think for a moment:

Would you rather have ice cream, or ice cream with sprinkles?

An “A” on your next test or an “A+”?

A grey car or a red one?

You want sprinkles, you want an A+, and you want a red car, right? Right.

You have the same kind of options when it comes to the horse you ride, and what you do with it.



Hello, I'm _____. I wanted to take a few moments of your time this evening to speak to you about my experience with Paint Horses and the American Paint Horse Association. (Include some personal history)

I have experienced tremendous rewards from my involvement with APHA, and I think that each of you can, too.

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Paint Horses have a long and colorful history.

Spanish explorer Hernando Cortes is thought to have brought the first Paint Horses to the Americas nearly 500 years ago, in 1519.

By the 1800s, the herds of wild horses that roamed the American Plains included flashy, spotted horses. These colorful horses quickly became a favorite of the American Indians.

In fact, the Comanche Indians, who were considered to be the finest horsemen on the Plains, had a special affinity for the Paint Horse.

More recently, a group of horse people organized around the beauty, the Western stock-type body style and athletic abilities of the Paint Horse, and formed what was originally called the American Paint Stock Horse Association. That was 1962.

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Today, the American Paint Horse Association has registered approximately 900,000 horses to owners in 40 nations and territories. The Paint Horse breed is one of the fastest-growing in the world.

Obviously, the most distinctive thing about a Paint Horse is its coat. Did you know that no two Paint Horses have exactly the same markings? It's true. Each Paint Horse has a coat pattern unlike any other.

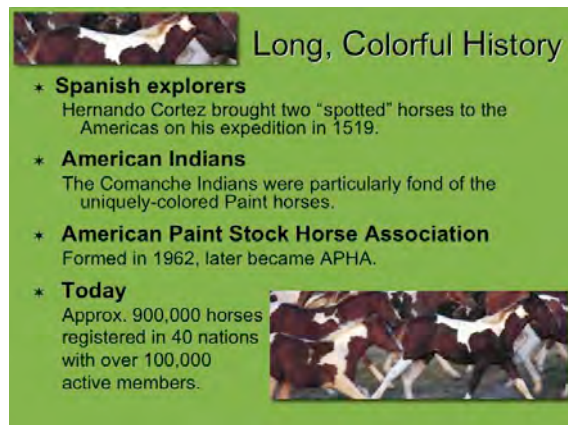
APHA recognizes three basic coat patterns, each of which can be combined with any color horse. They are: tobiano, overo and tovero.

This is a picture of a typical tobiano Paint. With tobianos, dark usually covers the flanks, all four legs are white, their spots are generally oval-shaped, and they have head markings like a solid horse.

The typical overo horse can be recognized as a horse whose white does not cross over its back, has jagged or irregular spotting, and a solid-colored tail.

The tovero coat pattern, then, exhibits characteristics of both tobiano and overo.

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Long, Colorful History

- * **Spanish explorers**
Hernando Cortez brought two "spotted" horses to the Americas on his expedition in 1519.
- * **American Indians**
The Comanche Indians were particularly fond of the uniquely-colored Paint horses.
- * **American Paint Stock Horse Association**
Formed in 1962, later became APHA.
- * **Today**
Approx. 900,000 horses registered in 40 nations with over 100,000 active members.



But it's much more than physical beauty that has made Paints one of the world's favorite horses.

When you ride an American Paint Horse, you get a horse as unique and versatile as you are. The options like custom paint, responsiveness and versatility make Paint Horses the ultimate in style and handling.

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Performance Comes Standard

Paint Horses are:

- * Eye-Catching
- * One-of-a-Kind
- * Versatile
- * Responsive
- * Easy-Handling
- * Stylish



The true value of owning an American Paint Horse is even more evident in the many programs APHA offers to help members fulfill their goals and achieve their dreams.

From APHA youth and amateur competition to outside events and recreational riding, APHA's programs are designed with your interests in mind.

There are loads of benefits to showing at APHA events. Of course, you'll meet lots of new people, and compete at a different level. Don't let that be intimidating. From my own personal experience, the people at APHA shows are some of the nicest and most welcoming folks around.

American JUNIOR Paint Horse Assn.



- ❖ Run **by** youth, **for** youth
- ❖ 38 regional clubs
- ❖ 7,000 members
- ❖ Fun, welcoming place to meet new friends who share an interest in horses

And what's even better is that APHA offers classes designed to let you show with people at your skill level! There's even a junior association—run **by** youth **for** youth—called A-J-P-H-A.

AJPHA regional clubs are a terrific place to meet new friends, make a positive impact on your local community, and, of course, become involved in showing Paint Horses. These regional clubs meet on a regular basis, and foster horsemanship, sportsmanship, leadership and friendship. There are 38 regional AjPHA clubs nationwide, with nearly 7,000 members.

I highly encourage each of you to consider becoming an AJPCHA member. You don't have to own a Paint Horse – or even own a horse at all – to take advantage of the powerful leadership development and scholarship opportunities available to all AJPCHA members.

To date, we have awarded 409 scholarships worth more than \$407,000 to our members.

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When you do own a Paint Horse, though, you are entitled to a world of unbelievable opportunities.

If you like to show, you have lots of ways to be involved, recognized and rewarded! In fact, being involved with APHA is something your whole family can enjoy together.

If you prefer showing in our local Open shows, you can earn recognition and awards from APHA just for showing your Paint Horse! Their Paint Alternative Competition program—called PAC for short—tracks the accomplishments of your horse in over 30 different types of competition.

PAC allows APHA members to earn credits while participating in non-APHA events, so long as they're riding a registered American Paint Horse. In fact, 4-H competition is already a recognized portion of PAC! You could be earning recognition for your horse just for doing what you already love to do! And it's easy to get started.

You might be wondering, "What difference does that make?" Here's your answer. Every point earned at APHA competition, every certificate of achievement awarded to the horse, and even every hour spent riding that Paint Horse is permanently recorded. So when it comes time to get a return on your investment, your horse is even more marketable because it has an official performance record.

Maybe you show once in awhile, but you just truly love spending time riding for pleasure. Whether you ride around in your arena, in your backyard, on the trail, or through your neighbor's pasture, APHA has a way to recognize your dedication to Paint Horses, too.

The Ride America program lets you set your own goals and measure your own success. You simply record each hour you spend riding your Paint Horse. APHA records your accomplishments on your horse's permanent record, and you earn great awards.

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What's In It For Me?



- ❖ Horsemanship
- ❖ Sportsmanship
- ❖ Leadership
- ❖ Friendship
- ❖ Scholarships
- ❖ Fun!

Something For Everyone



- ❖ Be involved, recognized and rewarded
- ❖ Over 1,200 APHA-approved shows annually
- ❖ Paint Alternative Competition (PAC)
- ❖ Ride America®

Of course, you can show at APHA-approved shows. APHA approves over 1,200 shows every year. ***Talk about upcoming APHA shows in your area, provide showbill***

The association has created a variety of competition levels within the Youth division that you can show in, so that your experience is the best it can be, and you can show amongst your peers. Those divisions are Novice Youth, Leadline, Walk-Trot, 13 and under, and 14 to 18.

The Novice Youth division is the perfect place to get your feet wet in APHA showing. So long as you have not earned 20 points per category showing in any other breed association, you are eligible. This ensures that everyone competing in Novice Youth is on a level playing field in terms of experience. Once you graduate out of Novice Youth (which happens after you earn 50 points in one event), you transition into your age division classes. Or you can show in both right from the start!

The Walk-Trot division is for riders age 5 to 9. In addition to letting young riders get used to showing and APHA competition, Walk-Trot has the added benefit in that the child can ride any registered Paint Horse—there are no ownership requirements. Classes for Walk-Trot competitors include showmanship, western pleasure, western horsemanship, trail, hunter under saddle, hunt seat equitation and even working hunter over fences!

Along the same lines, Leadline classes are designed for riders 3 to 8 years old.

I am proud to tell you, also, that APHA dedicates an entire week to Youth competition during their annual World Championship Paint Horse Show every summer. Over 40 classes—including halter, barrel racing, hunt seat equitation, roping, trail, walk-trot classes and more—are offered during the Youth World Show. A World Champion and Reserve World Champion will be named in each one. It could be you!

National officer elections, the annual meeting, a dance, an outstanding horse judging contest, and even a youth team tournament all happen during this special week, too!

Emphasis On Youth

- ❖ Novice Youth
- ❖ Leadline
- ❖ Walk-Trot
- ❖ 13 & Under
- ❖ 14 to 18
- ❖ Youth World Show
- ❖ AjPHA leadership
- ❖ Horse judging contests
- ❖ International competitions



You see, there really is a place for everyone in the American Paint Horse Association! It's a family-friendly organization that offers a little of everything, for beginners all the way up to professionals.

I want to mention, also, that we have a program for adults new to APHA competition, called the Amateur program. Amateurs compete in their own classes, which makes it a great place for Mom or Dad to get started.

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So I ask you ... would you rather have fun, or have the time of your life?



I invite every one of you to have the time of your life with the American Paint Horse Association.