

Our Judge and Clinician, Abby Welch

Abby developed her skills as an instructor and trainer during her many years spent at Happy Horse Riding School. She completed her national level certifications through United States Pony club and then went on to owning and running her own successful riding/training business as a young adult.

Abby is an active coach and competitor, has competed up through fourth level dressage, earning her bronze medal. During her youth she schooled preliminary level and competitively competed at training level eventing. Abby has ridden and audited with many clinicians throughout Washington state. She has participated in the L dressage judging program and has judged at dressage competitions throughout Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

Abby balances a small teaching load with developing and riding her own horses. As an instructor, Abby's approach combines her strong pony club background in safety and good horsemanship along with her experience working with horses and riders of all ages. Abby is a friendly, enthusiastic, and sympathetic instructor who emphasizes a correct foundation. She finds it very important not only to have positive and fun experiences but to understand how the rider can positively influence their horse's way of going. She strives to help each student succeed in their own riding goals and takes joy in sharing their progress.

Outside of riding, Abby has master's in environmental science and works full time as a project manager for Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe in Kingston, WA. She enjoys traveling with her husband and caring for a collection of animals on their small farm in Port Orchard, WA.

