



**THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY of NEW ZEALAND EQUESTRIAN
YOUTH SQUAD CHALLENGE HOSTED BY CANTERBURY A&P SHOW
15-17 NOVEMBER 2017**

APPLICATION INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

RAS of NZ invites applications for positions in the RAS of NZ Equestrian Youth Squad Challenge to be held in Canterbury 15-17 November 2017. This is part of an International Show Challenge in which New Zealand, Australia, and UK teams will participate. To apply for this opportunity you must be a registered financial member of the RAS of NZ or an affiliated member organisation.

- Applicants will be aged between 14 - 25 years inclusive.
- Four positions are offered to make up the NZ team

As part of your application, please submit your CV and a current photo. You must be able to present evidence that supports your show riding and personal qualities to an exceptional standard and be able to meet these additional criteria.

- Current membership of the RAS of NZ or an affiliated organisation
- Your age which is to be from 14– 25 years inclusive at the beginning of the membership year of your nominated society
- Be able to demonstrate outstanding results in high-level shows/events/competitions preferably top include ridden and in hand results.
- The confidence and skills to ride strange horses and or ponies with which you will be unfamiliar
- Excellent communication skills with both adults and other young people
- Co-operative skills relevant to team participation and team building
- Understand conformation of the show horse/pony and have had some tuition or experience in judging
- Know the history of the Riding Pony Breed
- Present a positive image at home and to the hosts officials and fellow competitors
- Confidence in managing appropriately any unexpected or difficult situations that may arise.
- Be an RAS Ambassador

The application process will involve two stages

- 1) The initial application on the application/contact form (RAS Guidelines & Contract) to be submitted, along with any supporting information, including confirmation of age and current membership as stated above.
- 2) A phone conference call will be conducted with all short-listed applicants

Applications close 5pm Friday 12 May 2017

The receipt of applications will be confirmed by email within two days of receiving the application.

The team will be announced to successful applicants on the 16th June and publicly on the 20th June 2017.

The final itinerary will be released after the team has been selected.

The official dates/duration of the Youth Squad Challenge have not been finalised but a tentative programme has been put in place:

- Teams to assemble in Auckland and together, after a City tour go south.
- To visit
 - Cambridge Equestrian Studs
 - A Sheep and Cattle farm of national significance,
 - A Dairy Farm of National significance,
 - Parliament and Government House,
 - A top of the South Island A & P Show and Christchurch City.
- This tour will be costed and organised by the official Travel Agent to the Royal Agricultural Society.

The selection process will have some flexibility to ensure that RAS of NZ has a strong squad that meets the set criteria as closely as possible.

2017 RAS Youth Squad Contract & Application Form

The Rules for RAS Equestrian Youth Squad have been established for your safety and well-being. You are required to read and sign this as part of your application.

Please note if your application is accepted violation of any of these rules may result in dismissal from the programme and your immediate return home, at your own expense.

Please read the Rules for RAS Equestrian Youth Squad very carefully. Sign this contract only if you agree to follow these rules. If you are not prepared to sign this contract and abide by the rules, you should not apply.

RAS of NZ Youth Squad Member’s Contract

I, (name)
..... (address)
..... (address)
..... (phone) (email)
..... (date of birth)
..... (member of)

have read:

1. RAS EQYSC 2017 Introductory Document
2. RAS EQYSC 2017 Guidelines
3. RAS EQYSC 2017 Application & Contract

RAS of NZ, Australian Riding Pony Stud Book Society and National Pony Society of the UK Youth Squad Member’s Contract

I,, agree that:

1. The Royal Agricultural Society of NZ, the National Pony Society (UK) and Riding Pony Stud Book Society (Australia) have established rules and conditions for my safety and wellbeing while I am a participant in the RAS of NZ Youth visit. Violation of any of these rules may result in my dismissal from the program and my immediate return to my home at my own expense.
2. Ambassador:
 - I will serve as an Ambassador for my family, the Society sponsoring me and my country.
 - I will be friendly, and show interest in NZ life, and adjust to and be involved in the activities of my host family and all activities planned in New Zealand.

- I will maintain a good standard of dress, grooming, behavior and personal hygiene at all times.
 - I agree that commitment to the NZ planned activities and host family take precedence over other activities.
3. Laws of the country:
- I will obey the laws of the NZ.
4. Authority:
- I acknowledge that I will be under the authority of the Team Managers and my hosts while I am a home stay visitor and I will abide by these rules and conditions.
 - My parents or legal guardians will not authorise any extra activities directly to me.
 - Any relatives I may have in NZ will have no authority over me while I am a member of the TEAM
5. Drugs:
- I will not use drugs, except for valid medical reasons. Use of illegal drugs will result in my immediate repatriation home.
6. Driving:
- I will not operate any motorised vehicle, including but not limited to cars, quad bikes, trucks, motorcycles, aircraft, all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, boats, and other watercraft.
7. Alcohol:
- I will not drink alcohol except when it is legal and then in moderation in a home or public environment and under the supervision of my host parents or Team Manager.
8. Dating:
- I will not undertake promiscuous sexual activities during my home stay and understand this will result in my immediate return home.
9. Body Piercing:
- If I have piercing (other than ears) before my arrival, I will remove any stud/ring when riding in NZ.
 - I understand that jewellery and body piercing etc. that may cause injury when I am around horses is discouraged in NZ and must not be worn when riding horses/ponies during my home stay.
8. Smoking:
- I understand that NZ has very strict laws governing smoking at horse show venues, stable areas and in public and that smoking is often socially unacceptable, and discouraged. It is the intention of the New Zealand hosts to request that nonsmoking be a prerequisite.
 - I will respect the preferences of my host families
9. Travel:
- I will not travel outside the area of my home stay unless I am accompanied by an adult, and unless I have permission from my host parents and Team Managers with whom I must apply to for permission to travel elsewhere before I leave, and their decision will be final.
 - I understand that excessive travel is not allowed.

- I understand that my host parents are under no obligation to provide local transport for me, and that I should use public transport wherever possible.
 - If I am offered an opportunity to go on a trip or attend an event, I will make sure I understand any costs I must pay and my responsibilities before I go.
 - 10. Insurance:
 - I will be covered by health, medical, accident and travel insurance acceptable to my own country and approved by the RAS of NZ and should provide my host family and Team managers with copies of my insurance policy and passport details
 - I will not participate in dangerous activities such as hang-gliding, parachute jumping, surfing, skydiving, and bungee jumping. I will not travel in a motorized or no motorized glider, or ultra-light plane.
11. Host Families:
- I will respect the members of my host families, and the wishes of my host parents.
 - I will not act as a guest, but make genuine effort to become an integral part of the host family, and assume duties and responsibilities normal for a visitor of my age or for children in the family.
 - I will adapt to the family: I understand that the family is not expected to adapt to me. I will keep my room tidy.
12. Telephone/Internet:
- I will seek permission to make all phone calls. I understand that I must pay for all international calls. I will seek permission to use computers and printers.
13. My Finances:
- I acknowledge that I must have sufficient financial support to assure my well-being during my visit. This may be checked by the Border Agency on arrival in the NZ.
 - My insurance fees MUST be paid in full before I arrive in the NZ.
14. Work: I understand that I am not permitted to do any paid full-time, part-time or casual work while I am with the team.
19. Visits by parents and friends:
- I acknowledge that visits by parents and friends from my home country are discouraged without prior arrangement by the Team Manager and host family.
 - I acknowledge that I must attend all compulsory Team Meetings/activities. I will not be permitted to travel around NZ with my parents during the designated time of the official period of the tour, the billet time and the show without prior permission from my Team Manager.
 - I will not expect my host family to accommodate my family or friends unless previously arranged.
20. Return Travel From the NZ:
- I will return to my home country with my family or as arranged by a route mutually agreeable to my parents & Team Manager. My parents/guardian or myself will pay any costs related to an early return home.

Signed (Youth Squad Member):

Signed (Parent/Guardian if under 18 year old):

Name of Parent/Guardian:

Date:

All material relating to this is available on the RAS of NZ website

www.ras.org.nz – Equestrian - Youth

Further enquiries (contact details below).

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