**What it takes to be a good horseback rider?**

  **By: Lorelai S.**

 “And the winner is… Lorelai” my instructor said while the crowd was going wild. “Yes” I had won the horseback riding competition!! Horseback riding is really fun but really challenging. To be a good horseback rider you need to have these three qualities. Listen to your instructor, have position and putting on TONS of effort.

 To start off, you need to listen to your instructor. Listening to your instructor is a super important quality to have. When your instructor tells you to do something, do it. If you don’t feel comfortable doing what you are told to do tell your instructor and I’m sure they will change it around until you fell OK doing it. These are reasons why you should listen to your instructor.

 As well as listening to your instructor, you need to have good position. If your legs are in the wrong place the horse might respond to it in a bad or different way then you asked them to. Like one time I had my legs on the girth and the horse started to canter when I asked him to trot. You need to keep your leg behind the girth, your hands and the reins on the horses’ withers, and keep you heels down. Those are a few examples of good riding position.

 In addition to having good position, you need to put in a lot of effort. The more effort you put in the more you will achieve. Also, the more effort you put in the more your instructor will see that you really care about the horses and you really like the sport. If you want to do something and you’re just not there yet, work really hard on what you are on and the more you improve then you will get to the thing you want to do that’s why having good position is important.

 In conclusion, horseback riding is a lot of fun but really hard work. If you listen to your instructor, have good position and put a lot of effort in, you’ll be in good shape so you can sign right up and get on that horse!