

EQUESTRIAN UNIT

An Equestrian Unit is a parade entry made up of horses and their riders. Units are made up of individual riders, horse hitches, multi-horse units, or a mix of walkers and riders. These units often wear coordinated outfits or uniforms, and the horses may be groomed and decorated for the event. Depending on the group, the riders might perform formations, carry flags, or simply ride in a line. Equestrian units add tradition, beauty, and movement to a parade, and they often reflect the local equine community, and historical or cultural heritage.

Application Example: The Starlight Riders Equestrian Drill Team

The Starlight Riders are an 8–10-member equestrian drill team performing coordinated arcs, crossovers, and straight-line formations on colorful, well-groomed horses. This year's theme, "Fairy-Tale Cowboys and Cowgirls," features riders in royal-blue embroidered shirts, white hats, and star-accented chaps, with horses decorated in sparkly blue pads, braided ribbons, and silver garlands.

Riders carry bright flags and lightweight star- and moon-shaped props, while soft LED breast collars add a gentle glow. A miniature horse pulls a small wagon filled with fairy-tale decorations for added charm. Throughout the parade, the team performs simple, flowing drill patterns and engages the crowd, creating a magical, kid-friendly visual experience.