

# ISSO Instructor Certification Program

## QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Instructor applicants must be an adult ISSO member in good standing and apply in writing with a \$150.00 nonrefundable fee paid by check, credit card or through PayPal to [payments@sidesaddle.com](mailto:payments@sidesaddle.com). (PayPal link may be found on [www.sidesaddle.com](http://www.sidesaddle.com))

2. Instructor applicants must pass a written test attaining a score of at least 80%. The written test will cover the following items:

- Types of side saddles
- Correct attire and appointments
- Correct method of placing a side saddle on a horse including correct girthing and/or cinching of a side saddle.
- Proper fitting of a side saddle to horse and rider.
- Correct equitation in a sidesaddle.
- Safety equipment and safe riding techniques

3. Instructor applicants must demonstrate ability to ride side saddle. Medical exceptions will be considered if presented to the organizers along with previous side saddle experience. Persons with a medical exemption may demonstrate their side saddle experience with 3 letters of recommendation from people knowledgeable of the candidate, of his or her expertise in equine related activities, and of his or her expertise in side saddle-related activities.

4. Instructor applicants must demonstrate saddle fitting with supplied side saddles and horse 5. Instructor applicants must teach a 20 minute lesson on saddling, mounting and riding at all three gaits. The student or students for this lesson will be provided by ISSO and a panel of judges will supervise the lesson.

Riding skill, presentation, and instructing ability will be subject to approval by a panel of judges supplied by ISSO. Applicants must provide their own side saddle, horse, and any other equipment needed unless prior arrangements have been made.

Show clothes are not required for the riding session. Comfortable riding clothes are recommended. Hard hat/helmet and riding shoes or boots are **REQUIRED** at all times while mounted.

Certified Instructor Levels:

Certified Instructors will be certified as to their level of teaching ability and may repeat their testing at any time during the 5 year period to raise their level of certification.

Level I – Novice Instructor

Level II – Intermediate Instructor

- Level III – Master Instructor

**INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION:**

This certification indicates that the approved applicant is knowledgeable in riding aside and is skillful in giving a private or group lessons. ISSO assumes no responsibility for the instructions given by the certified instructor, but has instructed each candidate on following good safe practices and in using sound judgment and good common sense.

Certified instructors must maintain active membership with ISSO and submit evidence of continuing education and lessons provided OR recertify at least once every five years. An annual Instructor Certification renewal fee of \$25 is due January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year in order to remain qualified and to be able to advertise as an ISSO Certified Instructor.

**STUDENTS:**

Students may come from any level of side saddle riding ability from beginner to advanced.

## ISSO Certified Instructor Application

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**LIST PREVIOUS INSTRUCTING, TRAINING OR CERTIFICATION EXPERIENCE:**

I believe that I am ready to certify for Level \_\_\_\_

Instructor Certification Fee (\$150) Membership (\$35) (if not a current member) Total Due

Amount Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Enclosed \_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_ Money Order

Credit Card Payment: DISCOVER \_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_ MASTERCARD \_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code on rear of card \_

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The International Side Saddle Organization  
5628 Kennett Pike Wilmington, DE 19807