



## Job Feature: Steward

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FAQ about Stewards

Alberta Show Jumpers caught up with a series of show jumping stewards at competitions across Western Canada and asked them a bit about their job as steward, and what it's all about. The following is a summary of these conversations:

Do most stewards come from a riding background?

Although not a requirement, many stewards will have a background in riding, training or judging before starting the process of becoming a steward.

How many shows each year do stewards work?

Stewards normally work somewhere between 15-20 show weeks each year.

What is the process to becoming a steward?

The process is fairly lengthy. Applications must be filled out and accepted from the National federation. Hopeful stewards must attend stewarding clinics to learn skills and regulations. A steward must apprentice with a registered steward for six shows, and evaluations from other licensed officials must be submitted with recommendation letters in order to be officially accredited.

How long does it take to become a steward?

It usually takes at least a year to become a steward for National competitions. In order to become an FEI accredited steward, the process is even longer; the National federation must recommend the stewards and many more applications and courses must be completed, after a substantial time stewarding National competitions.

What is the pay range for a steward?

It is common for stewards to earn between \$250 - \$325 per day, plus expenses, for stewarding at a horse show. It is a hot topic amongst stewards, as they seek higher rates for their long days and extensive responsibilities.

What are the pros and cons to being a steward?

Pros: talking with the exhibitors about improving horse shows and the sport, ensuring fairness and a level playing field.

Cons: low pay rate, difficult and extensive process to keep up to date about rule changes and new rule enforcement.

It was clear after speaking with the great group of stewards that keep horse shows running smoothly and safely that they strongly encourage more people to become stewards!