Poised for Success Freestyle



Guide to the Apple Gala – an Etude Title

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Etude Titles

Etude Titles are "Special Event" Titles that are offered by Poised for Success Freestyle for a limited time.

In music, an "etude" is a short musical composition that is designed to provide practice material for perfecting a particular musical skill in an aesthetically pleasing way.

Likewise, the Etude Titles provide Poised for Success Freestyle teams with the opportunity to create short practice exercises to perfect a particular Freestyle skill in an enjoyable way and to earn titles for performing those exercises.

These are offered through Poised for Success Freestyle at certain times throughout the year, and each one is offered for a limited time.

Anyone is eligible to enter submissions for Etude Titles. No prerequisite titles are necessary. All you need is a Poised for Success Registration number. For information on how to register, see the "Titling in Musical Freestyle" page on the Poised for Success website.

http://www.poisedforsuccessfreestyle.com/titling-in-musical-freestyle

Titling Classes

Three titling classes are offered for the Etude Titles:

- **Debut Class:** Puppies and adult dogs who are not ready for the Performer Class are eligible to enter the Debut Class

- **Laude Class:** Senior dogs and dogs with disabilities are eligible to enter the Laude Class

- **Performer Class:** All dogs are eligible to enter the Performer Class

For teams in the Debut and Laude Classes, treats may be visible to your dog during a performance, and you may treat at any time during the performance. Handlers are encouraged to reinforce in a way that maintains as much flow as possible within the performance, although loss of flow for reinforcement will not cause a team to NQ.

For teams in the Performer Class, treats may not be visible to your dog during a performance, although you can have them in a pocket or bait bag, and you may not treat until after the performance is fully complete.

A team may enter any given Etude event in one titling class only per level for that year's offering of that event. For example, the team can enter Performer Class for the first level of the event, and then enter Debut for Sonata, but cannot enter Debut for the first level of the event and then Performer for first level (in the same year).

However, a team that enters in the Debut Class one year can enter the same event in the Performer Class in another year, once the dog is ready to do so. And a team that enters in the Performer Class in one year can enter the same event in the Laude class in a later year, once eligible to perform in that Class.

Apple Gala – Title Open from October 1st – December 15th

<u>This title is now open at one level:</u>

- First Level – Apple Gala



First Level – Apple Gala

This event is a "free dance"!

You and your dog may create a performance according to any criteria that you like.

You can create a performance to a particular theme and include props and setting, but a theme is not required. Or you can center your performance more on tricks, or you can feature heelwork.

Your performance can tell a story, or it can just be a dance.

Editing is permitted but is not required. A full unedited performance is perfectly fine. Use of a music overlay is permitted but also is not required. However, even if you use a music overlay, you and your dog should perform to music.

Unlimited use of props is permitted, and if you edit your performance, props can change from one "scene" to the next.

In the Debut and Laude classes, use of food and/or lures or target sticks is permitted. In the Performer class, food should be concealed and any physical cue support should be open-hand.

Have fun with this!

The minimum time for the performance is 30 seconds and the maximum time is 1 minute and 30 seconds.

Judging Criteria for the Apple Gala

- Performance is at least 30 seconds, does not exceed 1:30
- Team performs behaviors that flow one into another for at least part of the performance
- Evidence of engagement and rapport between dog and handler

  This does not have to be riveted attention - just a reasonable give and take.
- Dog clearly reads/understands cues and responds readily
- Performance contains a logical opening (Pose or opening move)

Title

PFS – Gala

Award

Each qualifying team will receive a printed certificate and flat ribbon in the mail. If you prefer to have your certificate emailed, please indicate that preference when you submit. I can create an email version of the certificate with a digital image of the ribbon.

Submit Your Entry

The entry fee for each submission is $15.00. One video makes up a single submission for this Title. The Title consists of only this one leg, and teams who qualify on this single submission will earn the Apple Gala Title.

Each qualifying team will receive a printed certificate and flat ribbon in the mail. If you prefer to have your certificate emailed, please indicate that preference when you submit.

To enter, please submit payment of $15.00 to:

pfsfreestyle@gmail.com

Then, fill out the following entry form and submit online:

https://form.jotform.com/253188116592058

Entries – Apple Gala

Entries for the Apple Gala will open on October 1, 2026.

Entries must be received no later than November 15, 2026.

If corrections are needed to the entry, all corrections must be submitted by December 15, 2026.

Enjoy! I look forward to seeing your entries!

