



LESSON & CAMP POLICY AND PROCEDURES

1. The purpose of therapeutic riding lessons shall be to foster positive self-awareness by all participants, increase muscle strength and coordination, and allow for outdoor recreational opportunities for special needs individuals. A "special needs individual" shall be any person, adult or child, who may have any type of disabling condition, including but not limited to, Down syndrome, spina bifida, cerebral palsy, autism, learning disabilities, amputation, emotional and/or behavioral disorders.
2. Every attempt will be made, each session, to provide therapeutic riding lessons to new participants depending upon the availability of the class, disability of the participant and/or competence of the therapeutic riding instructor in that particular field of teaching. A waiting list has been compiled and is updated on a regular basis to incorporate new participants.
3. It is our policy that once a session begins, classes are closed and shall remain so until the next series of lessons is open for registration. To incorporate new participants at various stages during these lessons not only detracts from the progress in that particular class, it does not allow for proper interaction between the new participant and the instructor. New participant orientation will be scheduled prior to every session to introduce new participants to the facility, instructors and horses; however, should there be a scheduling conflict the participant will be introduced to the program on the first lesson.
4. The lesson fees will become due and payable **PRIOR TO** each lesson session to hold the participant's enrollment in the select session. Lesson fees are **NON-REFUNDABLE** and once paid, no make up lessons or refunds will be available. Lesson fees will be provided to existing and new participants/parents prior to each session. Participants who foresee missing a lesson(s) prior to payment of the session are advised to contact the Program Director to request an excused absence. Lesson fees will be determined and individuals notified in person, by telephone call or by the mail, of the class schedules prior to each session.
5. EQUI-KIDS offers full scholarships to a limited number of participants each year who could not otherwise afford to participate in the program. Scholarship information, including the Scholarship Policy and Application is available through the Program Director.
6. Camp fees are due and payable **PRIOR TO** camp to hold the participant's enrollment in summer camp. Camp fees are **NON-REFUNDABLE**.
7. Participants are encouraged to be ready for their lessons and arrive on time. Participants who are ten or more minutes late will not be permitted to take part in the lesson. If you are unable to attend a class, please contact our office or the instructor prior to your lesson day at the number below. Riders who accumulate three (3) unexcused absences in a lesson session will be removed from the program and fees are non-refundable.

EQUI-KIDS Office: 757-721-7350

8. Lessons will be held rain or shine. For severe weather conditions, such as hurricanes, severe lightening, snow, or tornados, participants will be contacted and make-up lessons will be scheduled. It is EQUI-KIDS policy that make-up lessons may only be scheduled due to severe weather conditions, facility disruptions, or other unforeseen events. Make-up lessons will not be provided for missed lessons.
9. Children not enrolled in the program must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
10. Any participant not participating in the riding program for two consecutive sessions will be automatically removed from the active participant roster and they must reapply to participate in future sessions.
11. Due to the nature of therapeutic riding, EQUI-KIDS rider weight limit is 200 lbs., unless otherwise determined acceptable by the Program Director. The limitation has been established to ensure the soundness and well-being of all program horses and ponies. Special considerations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and applicants/participants are encouraged to discuss these considerations with the Program Director.

Date: _____

Participant/Parent/Guardian/Caretaker