

RW Equestrian Riding Lesson Policies 2022

This year we are introducing a new set of policies that will better guide the instructor and riders in forming well-rounded future horsemen and horsewomen. The Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA) has created a set of standards for students to improve their riding, horsemanship and equine knowledge through a series of Levels (1-4). RWE will be using these standards to structure the riding and horsemanship program. Students that are active members of United States Pony Club, 4H Horse Project, or other programs with learning guidelines may use those objectives as an alternative to CHA.

In using these very unique animals, it is our duty to give them the best care that we can. As good horsemen and horsewomen, it is important to learn both how to ride the horses respectfully and to care for them before and after the rides. Many students are interested in ownership and will want to further their education even more. Unmounted lessons are an important part of the lesson program and will be required for students ages 8 and older. They may be incorporated as part of the weekly lesson hour, in place of the hour under inclement weather, or as an additional class and social time with other students.

Ages and Abilities:

Group riding lessons with a single instructor are best suited for children and adults at least 5-6 years old, depending on physical, mental and emotional maturity. Children 5 and under may not have the physical and mental development to ride a horse safely and independently. For younger ages, the riding lesson is similar to a therapeutic riding activity. There should be 2-3 trained individuals involved-1 to lead, 1 to walk beside, and 1 to instruct. A parent can be trained in one of these activities and help. An additional cost will incur if assistance is needed. Children 5 and under should book private 30 min lessons.

RWE is not certified to instruct riders with mental and/or physical disabilities. We don't have the insurance or the staffing to offer therapeutic riding at this time. We can, however, assist in unmounted time with the horses safely. We do not have a wheelchair accessible facility, which may cause limitations with inclement weather and muddy conditions.

Attire:

All students, family members and guests must wear closed toe footwear in the barn and horse areas. Anyone handling or near horses must have boots on. Riders must wear long pants, riding boots with a low heel, and an ASTM/SEI approved riding helmet. If you let us know ahead of time, we may be able to find sizes that fit the student for their first lesson.

Lessons:

Group lessons will be determined based on riders skill level. All students will need to test into each CHA level before moving up to the next lesson group or learning riding maneuvers in the next level. Level testing includes both riding skills and knowledge. Instructor will provide information on testing standards and guide the student in the achievement of skills and knowledge.

Rates and payment:

These rates include lessons on RWE horses at the home barn. Additional rates for hauling to another barn or "barn calls" with student owned/leased horses.

\$40/hr group lesson-includes grooming and tacking for Levels 1-2

\$35/hr 2nd and 3rd group lesson/wk

\$15/hr additional classroom lesson 3-5 students

\$35/ 30 min private lesson

\$55/hr private lesson

Cancellation Policy:

RWE requires a 24-hr cancellation notice to hold your weekly lesson appointment. RWE needs to keep lesson appointments filled and paid to offset costs of horse care and facility maintenance. As of now, we are still operating in a pay per lesson schedule, with a discount for pre-paid 4 lesson in one month bundle. Students do not forfeit money for a missed lesson as long as 24 hr notice is given, and their schedule allows for a makeup lesson within the same month.

Students that regularly cancel within the 24 hour window may lose their desired weekly appointment. They may also lose privileges such as choice of lesson horse, upcoming horse show appointments, and flexibility for make up lessons.

Horse Shows:

This is a preparatory guide for those interested in showing. More information will be given when preparing to show.

Some students may wish to attend a horse show. Horse shows are a lot of work: in developing skills, preparation for the show, hauling horses, horse care at the show, not to mention the actual performance. There are so many benefits to the rider in having this experience, and I encourage everyone to at least try one when they are ready. We have a selection of local venues that we plan to attend, insuring safety as the RWE horses are familiar with the location and atmosphere.

In order to ride at a show, students will be required to have passed the CHA Level 1 test. They will need to be present in the 2 weekly lessons prior to the show, and preferably attend 2 lessons during the one week prior. Students do not need to canter to show, as long as walk-trot options are available at that specific show.

Student should show that they are willing to do the work in preparing for the show, caring for the horse at the show, and cleanup after the show. We don't expect them to do the heavy lifting, but to be present and willing for the entire experience. Students must show in at least 1 rail (pleasure/horsemanship/equitation) class if they want to do a speed class or jumping course. This demonstrates that they can control their horse safely in a group and maintain emotional composure under pressure. The show day starts early and may go late. Students should work together and support each other. We show as a team.

Show Rates:

***All show fees due to the horse show host/club

\$100 fee for horse and coach for a full show day (8am-3pm).

\$50 to drop in for 1-2 show classes, horse already on site for another student (available to younger students walk-trot only)

*Additional fees will be added for "excessive" use of the horse, which includes cantering around show grounds outside of warming up, jerking on reins, kicking. Students will be pulled off of horse with no refund for abuse, unsafe actions, ignoring coach or otherwise not following instructions.

*Added fees for being late or leaving early (instructor packs, loads/unloads horses, grooms, etc.) It is generally advised to schedule time to pack, bathe horse, and prepare trailer the evening before the show.