

## Equest Farm Riding Lessons:

New students must first complete an **Evaluation Lesson**. This half-hour private lesson is designed to allow the instructor to assess riding skills and knowledge for placement in the lesson program. The student may then enroll in private, semi-private or group lessons at the recommendation of the instructor. Please note that while two riders may request an evaluation together, the lesson will not be longer than a half hour.

**Evaluation Lesson.....\$45**

For new riders we offer the **Beginner Rider Package**. This package is designed to jump-start students' riding skills with one-on-one instruction, with the goal of entering group lessons at an appropriate level after completing the package. The Beginner Rider Package includes four half hour private riding lessons and one half hour tack lesson. While this package is perfect for first-time or beginner riders, it may also be ideal for those with riding experience but who are new to Equest Farm, to ease into the lesson program and tune up their existing skills.

**Beginner Rider Package** (four riding lessons, one tack lesson).....**\$180** *Package must be completed within 60 days of first lesson*

**Group lessons** are the optimal and most affordable way to advance rider proficiency. Group lessons are one hour long and include between three and six riders. Riders are placed in groups based on level and age range at the recommendation of the instructors. Riders must at least be able to control their horse at a posting trot to enter a group. We offer a number of groups on different days to accommodate different levels and schedules.

**Group lesson.....\$40 per lesson**

**Package of 10 group lessons.....\$360** *Package must be completed within 90 days of first lesson*

**Private lessons** are ideal for students who are not yet ready for group lessons, learn best in a one-on-one environment, or wish to intensively hone skills (for example, in preparation for a competition). Private lessons are a half hour long.

**Private lesson.....\$65 per lesson**

**Package of 10 private lessons.....\$585** *Package must be completed within 90 days of first lesson*

**Semi-private lessons** offer the advantages of private lessons with the added enjoyment of riding with another student. A great way to spend time with an existing friend or to make a new one. Semi-private lessons are a half hour long.

**Semi-private lesson.....\$45 per lesson**

**Package of 10 semi-private lessons.....\$405** *Package must be completed within 90 days of first lesson*

We also offer **tack lessons** for additional supplementary instruction in haltering and leading, grooming, tacking up, adjusting tack, untacking, and cooling down or bathing your lesson horse. All of these skills are a vitally necessary part of learning to ride, helping you to be safe, confident and self-sufficient with your horse. As students progress in their riding lessons we will begin to expect them to get their horse ready on their own before their lessons and take care of the horse afterwards. Tack lessons are a half hour long.

**Tack lesson.....\$20 per lesson**

For children between the ages of 4 and 6, we have developed the **Lil Bits** program. This program is designed for children who are interested in horses but are not yet old enough for the demands of regular lessons. The eight-week program will teach children the basics of riding as well as caring for their mount. Lessons are held once a week on Saturdays and Sundays for half an hour with a maximum of two children per lesson, and alternate weekly between riding lessons and barn lessons. By the end of the program, students are ready to move on to **Lil Bits Level II**, a Beginner Rider Package, or regular lessons depending on their progress. For more information and a detailed curriculum, visit the Lil Bits page.

**Lil Bits Package (8 lessons).....\$240**

#### Lesson Policies and Procedures

**Cancellation Policy:** In order to keep our lesson program efficient and affordable and to maintain the quality of horses, instruction and lesson time options, we require **at least 24 hours notice for cancellation of a lesson**, without exception. If you do not call the office to cancel your lesson 24 hours or more in advance or if you do not show up for your scheduled lesson, you will be charged for your lesson. If you have package credit, the lesson will be automatically debited from your package; otherwise, you will be charged your regular lesson amount that will need to be paid before you may ride the next time.

We suggest that if you have any doubts about being able to attend the lesson due to illness or conflict, go ahead and cancel 24 hours in advance; in the majority of cases we will be able to put you or your child back on the schedule if the conflict or illness clears up before the lesson time. Our office can also work with you to reschedule.

This policy is in effect because:

- Once you schedule a lesson, you have bought that slot and it is reserved for you. Booked but unused time slots interfere with efficient scheduling and running of lessons.
- An instructor has been hired to teach you and that time slot has been given to

you instead of someone else. It is not fair to the instructor, who may have traveled to the barn specifically for your lesson, to have a no-show.

- A horse has been fed, shod, vetted, groomed and tacked up to provide you with a lesson. Your lesson fee helps pay for the horse's care. The horse has also been taken out of rotation from other students to be assigned to you.

**Attire:** You will need

- Sturdy boots with a ½" to 1" heel, preferably paddock boots or other boots specifically intended for riding. The stable has several pairs in varying sizes that you may borrow for your evaluation lesson, but if you plan on riding regularly we strongly recommend that you purchase riding boots. These may be purchased at our Tack in the Park shop. Please note that tennis shoes, hiking boots or other shoes are not safe for riding and could lead to injury. Open-toed shoes such as sandals and flip-flops may never be worn in the barn due to the danger of injury.

- Riding helmet. You may borrow a helmet from the riding school or purchase one from Tack in the Park. Bicycle or other types of helmets are not safe for riding. Helmets must be worn at all times when mounted.

- Long pants that fit comfortably. Jeans or other pants are acceptable, though if you will be riding regularly we recommend purchasing riding breeches. Specifically designed for riding, breeches will be the most comfortable option and have suede knee patches for added security in the saddle. We carry a variety of breeches at Tack in the Park in varying styles and sizes.

- Optional: half chaps. Half chaps give added security and protection. Half chaps may be purchased from Tack in the Park.

**Lesson Times:** Please arrive early for your lesson. For an evaluation lesson, we ask that you arrive at least 15 minutes early to fill out a waiver, meet your instructor, and be fitted with a helmet and, if necessary, boots. We strive to start and end every lesson on time, and lesson times include time spent leading your horse to and from the barn and adjusting stirrups, girth etc.; if you arrive late, your time in the saddle will be shortened. As you become a more experienced rider, we will begin to expect you to ready your horse before and after the lesson; be prepared to arrive at least 20 minutes early and stay 20 minutes after your lesson time.

In the event that several students in a given group cancel, the hour-long lesson may be shortened to prevent rider and horse fatigue (with fewer riders in a lesson, there is less rest or break time and more continuous, active riding). If three riders remain in the group lesson, the lesson will last for 45 minutes; if only one or two riders remain, the lesson will last 30 minutes. The price of the lesson will not change.

**Inclement weather:** In the event that there are weather conditions that will prevent safe riding, our office will call you to cancel or reschedule your lesson. You will not be charged for lessons cancelled by the riding school due to weather. If you have received a call from the office regarding a weather cancellation, you may assume that lessons will go ahead as planned, but feel free to call with questions. Lil Bits lessons are held rain or

shine; if it is raining on a scheduled riding lesson week, the student(s) will have a barn lesson and will then ride two weeks in a row.

**Horse assignments:** We work hard to assign horses that are appropriate to our students' skill levels and advancement, with safety a priority. We also must maintain the good health of our lesson horses through preventing overuse. For these reasons students are not allowed to choose their lesson mounts or change their assignments, with few exceptions. Students may ride the same horse several times or may ride several different horses. Learning to ride more challenging horses as well as many different horses is a vital part of becoming a good rider.