



**Hanover County Parks & Recreation and
Galloping Acres Foundation, Inc.
Therapeutic Riding Program**

Hanover County Parks & Recreation and Galloping Acres Foundation, Inc. Therapeutic Riding Program will implement the following policies for the riding season. The following policies and procedures are critical to the safety of the participants, volunteers, instructors and horses. These policies are not flexible and will be followed to help promote an environment that will be safe, beneficial and fun for the participants. Please take the time to read and thoroughly understand these policies and procedures. Your signature acknowledges that you fully understand and will abide by all policies and procedures and will help keep the environment as safe as possible. Thank you for your understanding.

Participation In/Discharge From Therapeutic Riding Classes:

- I. Recognizing that equine related activities hold inherent risks all new participants will be evaluated by PATH (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship Intl) Certified Instructors to ensure a safe and beneficial experience. In compliance with PATH guidelines and Galloping Acres Foundation, Inc. policy, participants must be at least 5 years of age; participant/parent/guardian must turn in all liability and medical forms, They must be complete, signed, and dated two weeks prior to the first lesson to give the instructors ample to time to review and plan a fun and safe lesson. Upon reviewing completed paperwork and evaluating prospective participants Galloping Acres Foundation, Inc. will make a determination regarding participation. Returning participants will be re-evaluated annually or as necessary for changes in medical, physical, cognitive and behavioral status. We will assess participant involvement with a risk/benefit analysis taking into consideration PATH Precautions and Contraindications noted in the program accreditation standards manual. Galloping Acres Foundation, Inc. instructors will make final determination for participation based on class availability, volunteer availability, and instructor expertise and horse suitability. Galloping Acres Foundation, Inc. reserves the right to discharge any rider from the program without notice. Reasons for discharge may include, but are not limited to the following: 1) Rider progresses to a level of skill that they may be better served by a riding program for non-disabled students, 2) Rider becomes too large or heavy for the program to serve safely, 3) Rider's condition or behavior becomes a threat to safety, 4) Program does not have suitable mount for rider.

Fee: \$260 per session for a six week program.
Please make checks payable to Hanover County Parks and Recreation

Weight Considerations: Weight is generally limited to 170 pounds, but decisions regarding participation will be based on the availability of a suitable horse relative to the height, cognition, and balance of the participant. The results of a risk/benefit analysis will also be considered.

Riding is contraindicated:

1. If staff and volunteers are unable to safely manage the participant in any situation, including an emergency dismount.
2. If safety or comfort of the horse is compromised, the final determination for participation will be made by Galloping Acres Foundation, Inc..

Financial Assistance: There is a limited amount for full ad partial financial assistance available each session. If you wish to request financial assistance, please contact Shannon Lawson at 883-3003 for more details.

Attendance:

1. If a student is unable to attend a class, you must call Shannon Lawson at 357-4231 three hours prior to the class.
Failure to call and notify your instructor more than twice will result in discharge from the program without refund.
2. If at any time you are unsure if lessons could be cancelled due to weather, please call Shannon Lawson at 883-3003 or 357-4231.
3. Students should arrive 15 minutes prior to their scheduled class time.

Attire:

1. ASTM-SEI approved helmets must be worn while mounted and during non-mounted grooming or barn activities and will be provided if necessary.
 - a. Students are strongly encouraged to purchase their own helmet to help reduce sanitary issues. We recommend the **“Troxel, International or Tipperary Spoilage” Helmets.**
 - b. Local Tack Shop:
Champion Saddlery
15225 Breedens Road
Doswell, VA 23047
804-227-3434
2. Students must wear long pants to protect their legs. Jeans or Sweat pants will work fine. Shorts are permitted only with chaps.
3. Students need to wear sturdy shoes with a heel or riding boots (NO sandals, and sneakers are not recommended).
4. Students may wear gloves during the lesson, to protect their hands from blisters and cold weather. Stretch gloves and leather gloves are most ideal.
5. Students should wear fitted clothes with shirttails tucked in.
6. Students with medium-long hair must their hair tied back in a low ponytail; no clips or barrettes allowed under helmets.
7. Students may not wear large earrings, necklaces, and/or bracelets.

Parking/Observation Area:

- I. Please note the **SPEED LIMIT of 5 MPH**. Please park in designated parking area. This will vary from session to session. Siblings and parents should wait calmly and quietly in areas designated by the instructors so that lessons are not disrupted and to help promote a safe, non-distractive environment for the safety of the rider's, horses, volunteers and instructors. Also, please do not wear open toed shoes. Any participant, parent, sibling, or volunteer who demonstrates behavior deemed inappropriate, disruptive or unsafe by any Galloping Acres Foundation, Inc. Instructor will be asked to leave the premises without warning. No dogs allowed on premises unless they live there.

Late Arrivals: In order to conduct a beneficial and productive riding lesson, students arriving late (after the gate is closed) will not be mounted.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are the backbone of this program! If you or someone you know would like to help out during lessons, or with fund-raising please contact a Galloping Acres Foundation, Inc. representative.

Typical Lesson Format:

- 1. Mount - Usually takes about fifteen minutes to safely mount four students
- 2. Warm-Up will begin after mounting, and will include walking around the ring
- 3. Exercises - 10 minutes
- 4. Body of Lesson (review) - 10 minutes
- 5. Games - 10 minutes
- 6. Closure - 10 minutes
- 7. Dismount - 5 minutes

Please note on the first lesson, it may take longer to begin the lesson due to properly fitting helmets, matching the right size horse to the rider, tack, and student.

****Adjustments to the student or horse may be necessary at any time of the lesson to allow the best possible body alignment and comfort for the horse while riding.****

Please read and sign below.

I have read and understand the policies and procedures of the Hanover County Parks and Recreation Therapeutic Riding Program and Galloping Acres Foundation, Inc. held at Tall Cedars Farm, Inc.

Participant's Full Name _____
(Print Name)

Parent or Guardian _____
(Print Name)

Signature of Parent or Guardian **Date**