

Summer Camp Q & A

Q: What if my child has never ridden a horse before?

A: Not a problem! Each camper is evaluated individually and allowed to progress at his/her own pace. Safety is our first priority and no rider will be allowed or expected to perform beyond their ability. Please see more on our teaching philosophy and procedure in "What and How We Teach." Additionally, we encourage riders to set up a lesson prior to the start of camp so that they will be more comfortable and so that we will further be able plan their instruction.

Q: How are the daily riding times arranged regarding skill level? How many riders are in a lesson?

A: On the first day of camp, each rider will receive a private riding lesson. If riders are capable, they will be allowed to ride in a group lesson of no more than 2 riders per group. However, most of the beginner riders will continue to receive private lessons for the duration of camp to ensure that they receive the attention they need at their stage of riding development.

Q: How many times a day do the campers ride?

A: Typically campers will ride 2 times each day. Lessons are in the morning when the temperature is cooler and in the afternoon campers will participate as a group (beginners will be assisted by camp counselors) in mounted games or quadrille practice. On field trip days, campers will only have their morning lessons.

Q: What do the campers do while they wait for their lesson time?

A: Campers rotate through different hands-on horsemanship lessons. Typically, we have 3-4 groups of campers (2 per group). A sample of what they might be doing is as follows:

Group A – riding lesson

Group B – Horse Colors and Markings Lesson

Group C – Costume Making for End of Camp Demo

Group D – Horse Nutrition Lesson and Horse Treat making

Q: What are some of the "Special Events"?

A: *Weekly Field Trip may be to one of the following: miniature horse farm, carriage horse farm, APD Mounted Patrol, Elgin Large Animal Vet Clinic, Leading Rein Tack Shop

*Tack Cleaning Party – we order pizza and watch horse movies while working on cleaning the tack to prepare for the End of Camp Demo

*"Everybody's Birthday Party" – On Friday at the end of each camp we bake a special treat for the horses and decorate them. Also, the campers are asked to bring a small horse-related gift to exchange.

Q: What about lunch?

A: Campers are asked to bring their own lunch; we do have a refrigerator. Campers are asked to bring \$ to contribute for the pizza on the day of the Tack Cleaning Party. We

will have lunch under the covered porches or in the shade of the trees by the pond. Also, on field trip days, campers are asked to bring \$ to pay for lunch away from the facility.

Q: What else does my child need to bring to camp?

A: Lunch, bottled water, change of clothes (shorts for if they get too hot and want to put them on when not riding), boots or other sturdy shoes, jeans, 3 ring binder for materials, camera.

Please call 673-7476 and talk to Erin if you have ANY other questions!