

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

About Therapeutic Riding

The EquiCenter receives many emails and phone calls each week asking for more information about Therapeutic Riding. We hope that by reading this section, most of your questions will be answered.

Q: How does one get into a therapeutic riding program?

A: On our site, you can print out the “Joining Our Program” application form. Fill out the requested information and send it back to us. You will then receive a pre-qualifying call from one of our staff members to further discuss your therapeutic riding needs. After determining that therapeutic riding may be beneficial, you will then be placed on a waiting list.

Q: What happens once I am accepted?

A: Our staff will contact you once an opening becomes available. You will then be asked to print out the “Participant Registration Form”. There you will need to provide detailed information as well as medical release forms. You will then be asked to come in for a rider evaluation.

Q: What is a rider evaluation?

The initial evaluation is used as a basis for creating an individualized plan for each rider. We first want to make sure that therapeutic riding will work well for the rider. Depending on the needs of the rider, they will then be scheduled into an appropriate lesson.

Q: What is the length of the sessions?

A: Our sessions run anywhere from 7 to 10 weeks. These sessions may also include days or week long breaks due to holiday, school closings, etc. Refer to session calendar.

Q: Can we choose to ride only half of the session times?

A: All sessions are to be paid in full prior to session start date. If you choose to leave the program before the end of the session closing, monies will not be refunded.

Q: What is a “Typical” lesson like?

A: There is no typical lesson. The session will be designed for the specific needs of each rider. Depending on the disabilities, riders can enjoy grooming and tacking their horse. All riders are required to wear ASTM/SEI approved riding helmets while working with the horses.

Q: How often does the student ride?

A: Each student rides once per week during the session period to allow for others to enjoy the EquiCenter programs.

Q: Do you accept and insurance?

A: Therapeutic Riding is not covered by any insurance.

Q: How much can I plan on spending for a riding lesson?

A: Depending on session length, costs can run anywhere from \$210.00 to \$600.00 per session.

Q: Are all your lessons private?

A: All new participants must ride in a private lesson for at least one session. Our staff will establish a short-term objective and long-range goals based on the individual's needs. From there the individual may be asked to join a semi-private or group lesson.

Q: What happens if the participant gets sick?

We ask that you contact us as soon as you know you won't be attending your lesson. We have many volunteers and staff that will need to be contact as well. There are no make ups for missed lessons.

Q: What happens if the weather is extreme?

A: We cancel all lessons if the weather is 20 or below in the winter and 90 degrees or above in the summer. Any lessons that are canceled by the EquiCenter will be made up.

Q: What style of riding is taught at the EquiCenter?

A: We are mainly an English style riding barn with our main focus on a centered well balanced riding.

Q: Can I drop off and leave my child for their lessons?

A: It is required that you stay on the property during their lesson.

Q: Can an able-bodied sibling/parent ride along.

A: We only offer Therapeutic Equine activities at our center. There are several riding stables in the area that would love to accommodate your additional needs.

Q: Where do your instructors get their training?

A: NARHA (North American Riding for the Handicapped Association) accredits programs that provide courses in therapeutic instruction. All of our instructors have meet and maintain the skills and knowledge in areas of Equine Management, Horsemanship, Instruction, Teaching Methodology and Disabilities. All Instructors are NARHA certified.

Q: What types of disabilities are not appropriate for therapeutic riding and are there restrictions?

A: The question is, "Will the benefit of the equine activity outweigh the risk". There are precautions and contraindications to equine activates that are essential. All participants, parents/guardians and the EquiCenter Staff must be comfortable with the final decision to participate or not. Final decisions will be made during the riding evaluation period. Progress and evaluations happen on a continuing basis.