



Program Policy

For

MEYER SHOW HORSES

at Rhapsody in Blue Stables

HORSEMANSHIP

PARTICIPANTS



3695 Georgia Road
Wetumpka, AL 36092
winningarabians@gmail.com or 251-454-2761
www.winningarabians.com



Guidelines for Participants/Parents

Our goal at Rhapsody in Blue Stables (hereafter referred to as RBS) is to provide a safe and beneficial experience for our participants, horses, and staff. With this in mind, we ask your cooperation in adhering to the following requirements.

1. Complete and turn in all required paperwork and payment prior to the first lesson of the horsemanship session. Questions about any forms should be directed to the Program Director, Leigh Meyer.
2. Instructors and Administrators will review all student applications and select all students for the program based on our horses and resources to accommodate the student.. (See "Participant Selection Policy".)
3. Once a student is accepted, on-going evaluations will determine if horsemanship instruction continues to be beneficial and our horses and staff are able to safely and effectively accommodate the student.
4. Properly fitted, ASTM/SEI approved helmets for horseback riding must be worn at all times when riding or working directly with horses. Participants must purchase their own helmets. Please consider helmet use when preparing your hairstyle. (example, no high pony tails; fasten pony tails low at the nape of the neck)
5. If you are allergic to insect bites, it is important that you bring medication each time you come to RBS. For your own safety, be sure to let your teammates know of your sensitivities and the location of your medication in the event a sting occurs.
6. Participants must be dressed in appropriate riding attire. (See Dress Code)
7. RBS reserves the right to cancel classes as outlined in our Cancellation Policy. If you are unable to come to a lesson, please call RBS as soon as possible. Advanced notice is very important to insure proper care of the horses and proper use of our staff.
8. Parents, siblings, and visitors are asked to wait QUIETLY in the designated waiting area during classes to avoid creating distractions for participants and instructors. If participants become distracted or safety becomes a consideration, spectators will be asked to leave the area.
9. All children/siblings who are not participants of our program must remain with and be directly supervised by their parents/guardians while on RBS' property. Designated off-limits areas (including pastures, paddocks, tack room, feed room, tool room, lofts and ladders, aisle and ready racks of barn) must be respected.
10. All tuition fees for the session must be paid in full no less than ten (10) days before the first lesson unless prior arrangements have been made with RBS.
11. Smoking is not allowed in the barn.

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Participant Selection Policy for RBS Horsemanship Program at Rhapsody in Blue Stables

As a process of assuring the benefits of each participant in the RBS program, Rhapsody in Blue Stables reserves the duty to select clients for programs based on their knowledge and experience, horse suitability and availability (including weight carrying limits of the horses), and the age, weight, physical consideration and ability of the student. RBS is designed to meet the needs of each individual; however, there are some precautions and contraindications, limitations, and challenges that may prevent RBS from successfully providing horsemanship activities to some individuals. Also, to ensure the most potential benefits for each student, RBS' instructors are given the right to limit the number of students for each class based on the staff ratio to the students, needs of the students, and/or availability of the horses.

As a method of ensuring a successful program, the instructors must carefully evaluate all factors involved in the implementation of the horsemanship services. The instructors and administrator(s) will review all student applications and select participants for the program.

Industry accepted "Precautions and Contraindications" to horsemanship activities are used in determining the individuals who may benefit from Equine Assisted Activities and who may not. The following guidelines are a few which have guided the professionals of RBS in the process of evaluating the potentials of our services for interested individuals:

1. If the movement activity will cause a decrease in the student's function, an increase in pain, or generally aggravate the medical condition, Equine Assisted Activities may not be the activity of choice.
2. If the interaction is detrimental to the client or the horse, equine activities may be contraindicated.
3. If the program can not accommodate the client's equipment needs, or the environment will aggravate his condition, horsemanship may not be the activity of choice.
4. The possibility of a fall and/or injury when interacting with horses should be given careful consideration and may lead to the informed decision that Equine Assisted Activities are not the activity of choice.
5. Working around horses (i.e.: grooming, leading, etc) involves risk. Horses are large, move quickly, and can be dangerous to the client who is unable to respond appropriately.

Based on one or more of the guidelines above, our staff will determine if Equine Assisted Activities are a beneficial activity for each student.

RBS does not discriminate and will not decline any student without fair assessment based on professional knowledge, accreditation standards, and insurance criteria. All interested individuals must submit completed applications to the instructor to be examined by the RBS staff and/or instructors to determine the possibility of benefits to be expected by participating in horsemanship activities at RBS.



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Dress Code

For safety reasons, all participants should adhere to the following dress code when participating in Equine Activities:

1. All participants **must wear ASTM/SEI approved helmets** while participating in horse related activities. Consider helmets when preparing hairstyles. Long hair should be tied back at the nape of the neck. Avoid large accessories or barrettes and hairstyles that might interfere with helmet fit.
2. **Long jeans, riding pants, or breeches/jodhpurs must be worn** to prevent sliding, chafing or pinching.
3. **Shirts must be fitted, have collars and should be tucked in and jackets should be zipped** so that the instructor can observe the participant's posture. RBS polo shirts are available to order.
4. Proper footwear is mandatory. Absolutely no open-toed shoes, crocks, flip-flops, sandals or shoes with open heels are permitted. Leather boots or sturdy leather shoes with a one-inch heel are suggested for all students and required for all riders using western saddles. Close-toed, hard soled shoes are permitted for riders using English or bareback saddles, which are equipped with approved safety stirrups, and for riders who do not use stirrups.
5. Dress weather appropriate. Jackets and gloves should be worn on cold days. Scarves, earmuffs, and toboggans may be worn under riding helmets only if fit allows.

Cancellation Policy

1. **RBS** reserves the right to cancel lessons based on the availability of instructors and/or horses. Further, any factor or situation considered by RBS staff to be a threat to the safety of students, volunteers, staff, or horses is reason for cancellation. However, every effort will be made to provide make-up lessons for cancellations by RBS.
2. Participants must commit to coming to lessons for the entire duration of the scheduled session. Those unable to attend a scheduled lesson should contact the instructor as early as possible. A minimum of one day's notice is preferred to help ensure proper care of our horses and staff. Make-ups are generally not permitted when a student cancels. Lessons that are cancelled will be made-up as permitted with a doctor's excuse; however, there are no refunds of lesson fees.
3. Cancellations due to weather will be made if RBS staff determines that the following conditions exist one hour prior to class:
 - Winds exceeding 20 MPH
 - Any severe weather watch including, but not limited to: tornado, thunderstorm, icing, etc.
 - Steady, heavy rain
 - Hazardous driving conditions
 - Temperature extremes
4. Make up sessions, if permitted, will be scheduled at the end of the session.

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I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE **PROGRAM POLICY** OF MEYER SHOW HORSES AT RHAPSODY IN BLUE IN WETUMPKA, ALABAMA. I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE THAT AS A CONDITION OF ACCEPTANCE, I

_____, AS ☐ ADULT

PARTICIPANT or ☐ **PARENT/GUARDIAN FOR** _____

WILL ADHERE TO AND ABIDE BY THESE POLICIES DESCRIBED. FURTHERMORE, I UNDERSTAND THAT IF I or MY PARTICIPANT DOES NOT ABIDE BY THESE POLICIES, DISMISSAL FROM THE PROGRAM MAY OCCUR WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE.

PARTICIPANT NAME

DATE

PARENT/GUARDIAN