

HORSEBACK PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Our Horseback Program contains two part lessons that focus on Western riding and Horsemanship skills. This year we will be starting a new schedule and level system that will allow a better experience for our riders and horses. We now have two-hour class blocks and smaller classes so that each of our campers may have a more in-depth lesson. Our levels, while similar to those in the past, are a more defined stepping stone so that campers may progress through the years to achieve a well-rounded Horsemanship education.

Riding

Campers riding ability is assessed by the forms sent in and over the first lesson period in order to place them in the most appropriate level. We have a four level system that we feel best benefits our campers and horses.

Level 1 Walk - This level is for girls who have never ridden, only been led or have only ridden with another person. This class will allow riders who are not confident in controlling a horse on their own to learn all of the basic skills that are the building blocks of riding. The goal of our first level is to allow our campers to build their knowledge of start, stop, steer and alignment and end their session with an introduction to trotting.

Level 2 Trot - This level is for girls who have the basic skill set of start, stop and steer, and who have been introduced to trotting but are not yet confident controlling their horse at a trot. This class will work on continuing our campers' comfort with their basic riding skills and work on improving these skills in the trot.

Level 3 Trot - This level is for girls who have the basic skill set of start, stop and steer, and who are comfortable controlling their horse at a trot. This class will allow the riders to learn and perfect additional riding skills at the trot before moving onto to a higher gait. The campers will be given introduced to the 7-7-7 test and be given opportunities to prove their efficiency at these skills.

Level 4 Canter - This level is for girls who can control their horse at both a walk and a trot, and who have passed the 7-7-7 test (or who possess the skills required - the ability to stand, post, and sit a trot). These riders will be in an advanced class that will work to improve their overall skills, introduce them to new techniques, and give them an opportunity to learn about the different Western riding events, such as an introduction to barrels.

Horsemanship

In addition to riding skills, we give our campers an opportunity to improve their horsemanship knowledge with a short lesson each day on the understanding the communication and care of our horses. They learn about tack, grooming, the horse's body and body language and other horse management skills. This allows the campers to interact with our horses in a series of ground lessons that improves the horse and rider trust and relationship.