

Our Lesson Program

Saddle Seat, Hunt Seat, Western, Driving, Halter...

Winfield Farm & Forge, LLC



Rates: 1 hour lesson - \$50 1/2 hour lesson - \$25 Your horse or ours
****\$20 No-show charge to any student who is a no-show for a lesson and doesn't call prior to lesson****

-Generally, the half hour is usually only best for advanced riders who can do their own warm-up and then get an intense half hour OR for very young children who do not have the strength or attention span for a full hour. This will be decided on a case by case basis after a full evaluation of the skills of the horse and rider.

-I can accommodate two people splitting the hour on the same horse if necessary.

-All lessons include comprehensive and extensive teaching in horsemanship on the ground as well as under saddle.

-Instructor reserves the right to cancel lessons at no charge to student for such reasons as inclement weather and will do her best to contact students with plenty of time to make other arrangements.

Schedule:

Show season is April through October – we will do our best to accommodate the lesson schedule but adjustments can be expected throughout the season if I am out of town for an extended weekend horseshow.

Safety first and a neat, clean appearance is all that we will accept at Winfield Farm!

- **Release and Waiver** must be signed before participating in our lesson program.
- **Helmets**-All riders under the age of 18 **MUST** own and wear a properly fitted, approved riding helmet while mounted. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
All adult riders are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to also wear helmets when mounted. Remember that you don't bounce like the youngsters!
- **Footwear**-Cowboy boots, paddock boots, high boots, jodhpur boots are all acceptable. Boots should be appropriate for riding with little or no tread to grab stirrup, low heel to keep foot from going through stirrup and of stout construction to withstand the occasion horse's hoof stepping on your toes.
- **Pants**-Breeches, jodhpurs, riding jeans, no loose or baggy pants. They must be slim fitting from the knee up in order for you to ride properly. Only Western riders with very good leg position will be allowed to ride in regular jeans. Saddle Seat and Hunt Riders must wear proper pants.
- **Shirts**-Tucked in, no baggy, long or sloppy sweatshirts. I need to see your torso as you ride and loose clothes can get caught on everything, making a safety hazard.
- **Hair**-Long hair must be tied back.
- **Jewelry**-NO big earrings, dangling necklaces, fistfuls of rings, armful of bracelets. All these can pose a hazard to your safety if caught on a halter or broadsided by a wayward horse head. Please limit your jewelry to small earrings, short necklaces, as few rings as possible. Body piercings are worn at rider's own risk. And if you loose a diamond in the barn, it's mine!
- **Horse and tack**-Every lesson will be on a clean, well turned-out horse and safe tack that fits the horse and rider. No shortcuts, no exceptions. Anything less will result in a lesson canceled without refund. No, I am not joking.
- Riding gloves are suggested. Sunglasses are allowed. Sunscreen is encouraged.

What is expected from the student...

- **Be prompt.** Time lost in the beginning of the lesson can not be added on to the end of the lesson. Allow a minimum of fifteen minutes prior to your scheduled lesson time to get your horse tacked up.
- **Be observant.** Enough said.
- **Follow instructions.** My barn, my rules.
- **Be humble.** No one, even your trainer and instructor, will ever know everything there is to know about horses so leave the attitude at the door.
- **Leave life at the door.** Come focused to work on nothing but your lesson.
- **Come prepared.** Keep a bag packed with your riding essentials plus snacks and a drink. Throw in a disposable camera for fun, too.
- **Dress for the weather.** Layer up and be prepared to get dirty.
- **Trust your instructor and trust yourself.** It's okay to be scared or frustrated but never quit on me.
- **Absolutely, positively no intentional abuse** to our horses or your own will be tolerated. Anger and lost tempers will get you removed immediately from your saddle and the barn. Blue ribbons will not be won at the expense of the horse. Riders that are rough with their horses will never represent a Winfield Farm & Forge rider.
- **Respect our facility.** Anyone committing vandalism, stealing, defacing property or just plain sloppiness will face public humiliation.

As an instructor, I take injuries, accidents and falling off very seriously. It takes just a moment to shake a rider's confidence and set my teaching back by months. I will never ask you to do something that I don't think you can do. I will never ask you to do something that will purposefully get you hurt, put you at risk or embarrass you. I will try everything to keep your lesson challenging and fun. If riding were easy, they would have never invented cars but riding is still around because, above all else, it is fun. I teach with a lot of energy and I expect you to return the enthusiasm by trying your best every lesson.

Kevin & Sarah Vas
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