



## Program Eligibility Requirements

The Stable at Lord Stirling Park



Our goal is to provide educational and socialization opportunities to individuals with an interest in horseback riding and equine care. The Stable works to maintain a low ratio of participants to staff which enables each participant to learn in a safe, hands-on, immersive environment.

The eligibility requirements are designed to ensure a successful, positive experience for all program participants. Individuals who fail to meet the eligibility requirements should not register for the program. Enrolled participants who do not meet the eligibility requirements will be removed from the program with a forfeiture of fees paid. Participants must meet the following eligibility requirements (with or without reasonable modifications) to participate.

### Program Registration

- Participants must fall between the minimum and maximum age requirement at the start of the program session.
- Participants must register in advance. Spaces are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. If the program is full, participants will be added to the waitlist.
- Payment must be made at the time of registration.

### Attire

- Sneakers or boots. Must be closed-toe shoes. No flip-flops, sandals, or crocs. The Stable can provide riding boots if needed.
- Weather-appropriate attire.
- ASTM Equestrian-certified helmets must be worn for any activity involving the horses. The stable can provide a helmet if needed.
- Riding attire: Long pants and layered clothing.

*(Please refer to pg. 5 for details)*

### Personal Care

- Independently use the toilet, change clothes, eat, drink, and apply bug spray and sunscreen.
- Must be willing to wear a helmet.

*(Please refer to pg. 5 for details)*

### Required Competency Skills

- Ability to engage as a member of both small groups and large groups to complete challenges, activities & tasks.
- Ability to work independently and self-entertain during free play, bus trips, and van rides.
- Ability to follow multi-step directions that are age-appropriate to the specific program enrolled.
- Ability to traverse uneven terrain in an outdoor, potentially buggy environment, for an extended period, while maintaining the group pace.
- Ability to work successfully within the specific program's participant-to-staff ratio.
- Ability to communicate questions and basic needs to staff.
- Ability to sit quietly during instruction, share equipment and supplies, and participate in activities when appropriate.
- Ability to remain with staff on walks, field trips, and in group settings.
- Ability to transition between activities within a 5-minute window.
- Ability to follow all bus/vehicle safety rules and off-site rules when traveling for field trips.
- Ability to tolerate varying weather conditions.
- Ability to comply with Behavioral Expectations.

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## **Behavioral Expectations**

- Arrive on time. Be picked up on time.
- Dress according to each day's weather and activities; be prepared for inclement weather as needed.
- Be respectful to staff, peers, equipment, and the surrounding environment. This includes keeping hands to oneself and sharing materials/supplies.
- Follow directions and rules as presented by staff.
- Keep cell phones and other electronic devices in backpacks or at home.
- Use appropriate language.
- No screaming or running around the barn.
- Attempt to participate in each activity before saying "can't" or "won't".
- Maintain a positive, safe environment by refraining from placing oneself, or others at risk. Bullying, hitting, and threats will not be tolerated.
- A participant with a Modification Plan is not exempt from following the Behavioral Expectations.

## **Behavioral Management**

The Stable at Lord Stirling Park staff will follow a three-tiered system of warnings designed to address any challenges that arise when a participant fails to meet the Behavioral Expectations.

First offense – gentle redirection from staff.

Second offense – discussion between the participant, staff, and a parent/guardian focusing on a commitment from all parties to re-establish positive behavior.

Third offense – discussion between the participant, staff, and a parent/guardian focusing on whether or not the participant may remain in the program.

There is zero tolerance for verbal or physical bullying, hitting, threats, inappropriate touching, etc. Participants will be sent home and possibly expelled from the program. Police will be called if necessary. Program fees will not be refunded.

Staff may ask for advice or support from a parent/guardian when feeling challenged by a particular behavior. It is helpful when families share strategies that work well for the participant.

Staff welcomes discussions regarding concerns and/or potential behavioral challenges prior to the start of a program.

## **Reasonable Modifications**

The Stable at Lord Stirling Park welcomes everyone to participate in its programs. If you have individualized needs due to a disability, please call 908.722.1200 Ext.5324 and we will be happy to arrange reasonable modifications. Three weeks' notice is required to ensure that appropriate modifications can be provided for all general public programs. Six weeks' notice is required to ensure that appropriate modifications can be provided for all camp and off-site programs.