



**Chariot Riders Inc.
Rider Manual 3/01/24**

Program Descriptions

CHARIOT RIDERS offer different types of programs as outlined below.

Therapeutic Activities

The Therapeutic Riding program is designed to teach individuals with physical and/or mental challenges the skills necessary to ride a horse, as well as the skills necessary to appropriately groom and tack a horse in preparation for riding. Skills taught will vary depending on the rider. Therapeutic riding lessons are offered during all sessions and are taught by PATH certified therapeutic riding instructors. Although Chariot Riders strives to provide all clients with individual, 30-minute lessons, limited scheduling may require that Chariot Riders schedule group lessons on certain days and times. In the event a group lesson is necessary, the lesson time will be extended from 30- minutes to 1 hour. These lessons will be organized to group riders according to age, type of disability and level of riding skill. The maximum class size is four riders.

Horsemanship/Recreational Activities

Chariot Riders also offers recreational riding including hunt seat, dressage, and jumping. In addition to our lesson program, we also offer summer camps, in-house and off-premises horse shows, clinics, year-round riding in our indoor arena and group trips and activities.

Program Policies and Procedures

Age and Weight Requirements

See our website for the most up to date policies.

Individuals must be at least 4 years old before they can participate in any programs. There is no maximum age limit. Participants involved in mounted activities may not exceed 250 lbs. as we do not currently have horses that can safely carry more than that.

Safety Requirements

Individuals may not be allowed to participate in the program if any of the following situations occur:

- Participant's condition is in any way exacerbated by riding
- An appropriate horse is no longer available for the participant
- The participant's behavior poses safety concerns (at the discretion of instructor)
- The available staff does not feel able to safely conduct a lesson or session with the participant
- Any other situation that may have a negative impact on the program in general (at the discretion of the instructor and/or program director)

Annual Update of Paperwork

The following forms must be completed on an **annual basis** and submitted to the CHARIOT RIDERS office **by the stated deadline** in order for individuals to participate in our programs.

- Participant's Application and Health History
- Participant's Medical History and Physician's Statement
- Participant's Consent for Release of Information
- Authorization for Emergency Medical Treatment
- Release of Liability
- Receipt of Rider Manual

Submission of other paperwork such as IEPs and therapy evaluations are encouraged, as these assessments are a beneficial part of lesson planning. Riders with outdated forms will not be allowed to participate.

Scheduling Policy and Fees

See our website for the most up to date policies.

Registration and session dates are available by appointment. The current fee schedule is posted on our website. Visit our website at www.chariotriders.org to fill out our Registration forms for each session. If you have any difficulty filling out the forms from the website, please contact the barn office at 732-657-2710. Registrations will not be considered if the paperwork has not been received. Riders who receive payment for lessons through a community agency must secure that payment as part of the registration process. Riding days and times will be confirmed by phone and/or e-mail.

Attire

All riders must wear ASTM-SEI approved headgear while mounted. Long pants are preferred; shorts are **Not** permitted. Nylon pants (such as warm-up pants or ski pants) are not permitted because they are too slippery against the saddle or pad. Hard soled shoes or boots with a heel are ideal for riding, but sneakers are acceptable. Sandals or open toed shoes are not permitted. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum.

Riders should dress appropriately for the weather conditions so they can be comfortable during lessons. Remember to layer clothing during cold weather and to wear warm coats, heavy socks, long underwear or tights, gloves, and ear protection that will fit under the riding helmet. In warm weather, please remember to wear light-colored clothing and apply sunscreen before riding. Riders may also want to bring their own water bottles.

Cancellation Policy and Make-ups

See our website for the most up to date policies.

Refunds or make-ups will not be provided when riders cancel, due to the complicated nature of rescheduling rider, horse usage and volunteers. Every attempt will be made to avoid cancellations. However, there are situations that are unavoidable at times, such as, equinehealth related issues, dangerous weather, and staffing. We appreciate your understanding and support regarding our cancellation policy.

1. **Cancellations by Riders: Payment for each month's lessons is due on the first day of the month.**
THERE WILL NO LONGER BE ANY CANCELLATIONS OR MAKEUPS.
Please remember that even if you didn't show up for your lesson, your instructor and horse did.
2. **Cancellations by CHARIOT RIDERS:** Our lessons are held rain or shine. Lessons will be cancelled in severe weather These classes will be re-scheduled. If your lesson must be cancelled due to inclement weather, we will attempt to contact you before the lesson at the number you have provided. Please make sure that your instructor has your current contact information. If you don't hear from us, you should assume that your lesson is going to take place. Remember that weather conditions at the barn may be different from weather in your area at any certain time.

Late Arrivals

See our website for the most up to date policies.

If you arrive late to your scheduled lesson, your lesson will end at the regularly scheduled time. Students who arrive more than 15 minutes late will be unable to ride as this is disruptive to the rest of the class. In addition, the abbreviated time schedule will not allow for a regular lesson to take place. This lesson will not be rescheduled or refunded.

Parking

Dedicated rider parking is available near the arenas. Please note that the speed limit on the farm is 5 m.p.h.

Designated Waiting Area and Observation Area

Upon arrival for lessons, riders and family members/caregivers should gather outside their assigned mounting area. Instructors will meet riders at this location to select helmets and prepare for the lesson. Family members/caregivers and guests should use the observation areas outside the arenas for observation of lessons.

Children must be under the supervision of a parent or adult caregiver at all times.

The barn is a busy place during lesson times. For your safety and the safety of others, please do not congregate in the barn, in front of the barn, or in the pathway leading from the barn to the mounting area. This area needs to remain clear for the horses. Only staff and volunteers are permitted in the barn, paddocks, and arenas.

General Barn and Farm Rules

1. **Treats must not be offered to the horses by anyone at any time.** If you wish to donate carrots or apples, please bring them to the main office. No other types of treats will be accepted. It is important for the horse's health that these guidelines are followed. **Volunteers, however, are allowed all forms of treats such as cookies, chips, etc. Donations of treats for our hardworking volunteers are always welcome and appreciated and may also be delivered to the main office.**
2. For safety reasons, several areas around the farm are posted "Authorized Personnel Only". Please observe these signs during your visits. **Only staff and volunteers are permitted in the barn.**
3. There is no smoking allowed in the barn.
4. The speed limit on the farm is 5 m.p.h. Please drive carefully.
5. Dogs are not permitted on the property, this includes your car.
6. Parents, guardians, or caregivers must remain on the premises during lessons if:
 - The participant is under the age of 14, or;
 - The participant is in the care of or under the supervision of a parent, guardian, or caregiver.
7. **Please supervise children at all times to ensure that they do not enter any restricted areas.** No running or fence climbing is allowed. Please encourage quiet play in the designated waiting and observation areas. This is for the safety of the children and to ensure that no horses are startled during lessons.
8. Photography is permitted as long as it is not interfering with the lesson in any way or startling the horses and sharing of images on Social Media of any Equines or Chariot Riders property must be approved by the Instructor or Director.

Fee Schedule

See our website for the most up to date Fee Schedules.

CHARIOT RIDERS maintain a listing of community resources that may assist with full or partial payment for riding. A good starting place for accessing resources is to submit an application to the Developmental Disabilities Administration. To obtain more information, contact the regional office for your county listed on their web page at <http://www.njcdd.org/>

******* See our website for the most up to date Riders Manual *******