



## Lesson Programs, Policies and Procedures

Thank you for your interest in our Lesson Program and services at C.M. Four Winds Stable and Riding Center.

**OUR FACILITY:** Our programs offer instruction for all ages and standards in our large sand arena. The lessons include all aspects of horsemanship. In addition to learning riding skills, students are instructed in safe horse handling, grooming, saddling & bridling, and general horse care. Lessons are available as one-to-one or small group sessions. Our aim is to make the lessons a positive learning experience for both horse and rider through a clear and positive teaching style. We put strong emphasis on supplying you with solid basics that you can build on. Highly individualized instruction will help you to ride with increased confidence, body awareness and enjoyment. We cater to children and adults of all riding abilities.

**SAFETY FIRST:** We will continue to teach safe lessons in small group and private sessions. These are generally 45 to 60 minutes long, made up of 1 to 3 students of similar age, riding experience and ability. New riders are always carefully assessed as to their capabilities. Lessons, horses, and instructors are assigned, accordingly. We cannot accommodate riders weighing in excess of 300 pounds, due to safety issues and the moderate size of our horses. **All riders must have a current, signed Permission & Liability Release Form and a Medical Care & Treatment Form on file with us.** Students under 18 years of age must sign the form, as well as a legal parent or guardian. Please be sure you understand the information in these forms before signing. Contact the office for clarification, if necessary.

**Parents and students should park in the designated parking areas.** Parents may watch the lessons while sitting in the spectator area. Visitors or young children should not enter the barn without supervision. For their own safety, as well as that of the riders, parents and siblings may not be in the arena during a lesson. For the safety of the riders who are taking lessons, guests are asked to refrain from activities, games or noises which might startle a student's horse.

**Students must always wear boots** which come up over the ankle, have a 3/4" distinct heel, and be smooth soled. They should not have large tread, or hiking boot type soles. Students need to wear **long pants**, and an **approved riding helmet**, which they may furnish, or use one of ours. Large, loose, baggy clothing, short tee shirts, tank tops, halter tops or spaghetti strap shirts, dangling jewelry, as well as sun glasses which do not have safety lenses, are not appropriate or safe to ride in. Students should not wear clothing with suggestive wording or graphics. Those dressed in unsafe or inappropriate attire will not be allowed to ride, nor make up the lesson.

**SCHEDULES & FEES:** Lessons will be taught every day except Sunday. Lesson schedules will be different in the summer, due to our Horsemanship Camp Program. Our summer schedule will be posted in advance to allow time for changes to the current lesson schedules. **A lesson package is always scheduled and paid for in advance. If a lesson is not paid for in advance or at the time of the lesson, a \$5 late fee will be charged.** Lessons can be purchased in packages of 6, 12 or on an individual basis. Students usually take 1 or 2 lessons a week. A \$25 annual registration fee per family will apply for any riding lessons or camp program.

Students, (depending on age, ability and experience, and when arranged for in advance,) may be given the choice of arriving 30 minutes prior to lesson time, and grooming and tacking up their own horse. This time will be supervised, but not charged for, and will not be included in lesson time. **However, the instructor will need to start the lesson at the designated time, and if the student's horse is not ready by the time to start the lesson, they will be charged for that time. (If a student chooses the option of coming early, that commitment will be for an entire set of lessons, and they will be held responsible for the horse being ready by each lesson time.)** Instructors will evaluate individual students as to their ability to tack up independently.

**LESSON PROGRAMS:**

**Option I:** Includes six (6) consecutive (1 hour) weekly lessons - **\$210 – (\$35 per lesson)**

**Option II:** Includes twelve (12) consecutive (1 hour) lessons to be taken twice a week or weekly.- **\$384 (\$32 per lesson)**

**Option III:** Pay as you go lessons can be taken either weekly or bi-weekly. This is appealing to people who may miss more than a lesson or two in a 6 week period. Heavy work schedules and other commitments sometimes get in the way. – **\$40 per lesson (1 hour)**

**Option IV:** Wee Riders Lessons - Available to youth ages 4 – 6 yrs old. An introductory program offered to young children just starting to work around horses. Includes ¼ hour of grooming and ½ hour of instructional riding - **\$25**

**\*\* Please note when purchasing a lesson package you are expected to complete the lessons purchased within the program term and no refunds will be given if program is not completed.**

**MISSED LESSON POLICY:** We take our roles as instructors in a Riding School seriously. We cannot teach students who do not come for lessons. We hope that you will take your role as a student, or a parent of a student, seriously as well. **Lessons missed, without at least twenty-four (24) hour prior notification, will be paid for.** It is the rider’s (or responsible guardian’s) responsibility to confirm, cancel, and/or reschedule their lesson. If we do not receive notice at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to your lesson that you will not be here, we will assume that you are coming, will have an instructor waiting, your horse will be reserved, and you will be charged for the lesson.

It is also the rider’s or parent’s responsibility to schedule “Make Up” times, for missed lessons. All make up lessons need to be rescheduled with the office or the student’s instructor. If a student knows they will miss a lesson due to other activities, such as vacations, etc, a make-up lesson can be scheduled prior to the missed lesson, and taken within three weeks before or after, the missed lesson. “Make Ups” for those lessons missed due to illness, etc. must be scheduled within a week of the missed lesson, and taken within three weeks. Students will be charged for cancelled lessons, which are not made up. All students and instructors should have each other’s telephone numbers, so that good communication is assured.

**OUR RIDING PROGRAM:** At C.M. Four Winds Stable and Riding Center, we teach horsemanship, not just riding. Our lessons are taught in a progressive manner, and the level of a rider’s ability is evaluated each lesson, so that new skills may be offered. There are many interesting subjects to cover in learning horsemanship, which would not necessarily be taught while riding. For this reason, you have the option of having your lesson, **regardless of temperature, rain or shine.** On selected days, often in bad weather, in place of riding, we may be covering informative, fun topics and activities, which all good horsemen (and women) need to know. Learning “age appropriate” knowledge of good horsemanship procedures is an important part of our lesson program. In case of inclement weather, your instructor will give you the option of taking an indoor horsemanship lesson or rescheduling your riding lesson.

Riders will progress in a structured manner through classes as they demonstrate their riding ability, horsemanship knowledge, and skills. When they are ready to progress to a higher level, they may have a riding and written evaluation. A certificate can be awarded to students as they complete each level, and they will then be permitted to ride at a higher level. Level One is the introductory level, Level Two is the intermediate level, Level Three is an advanced level, and Level Four is the highest level. Established students will be evaluated at a pre-arranged time in order to determine their current level.

I have read, understand and agree to the terms of the lesson policies of this stable as listed above.

(Rider) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_\_