



*Celebrating 45 years of
service to children and
youth!*

To: Parents/Guardians of Horsemanship Campers
From: Jessie Bosse, Equestrian Program Director
Re: Horsemanship Program Requirements

Thank you for enrolling your child in the Camp Ketcha Summer Horsemanship Program. Our horsemanship staff is looking forward to a great time at the barn this summer.

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Drop Off & Pick Up

Parents should drop off and pick up their children at opening circle near the main building. Please check in with the staff member who is with the Horsemanship group. Please remember to bring a photo ID when picking up your child.

If someone else will be picking up your child, you must send a note in writing with your child. If an emergency arises, please call the camp's main office at 883-8977 before 3:30 p.m.

Daily Activities

For the half day Horsemanship Programs, participants will most likely not participate in mounted riding activities on Monday. We typically use the first day with the campers to introduce them to our horses, review and practice barn safety and horse handling skills, learn the basics of grooming and tacking-up and this time also allows Horsemanship Staff to place campers into riding groups. The rest of the week at the barn will consist of learning activities, stable management, practicing new skills learned and mounted riding activities which will include lessons, a trail ride and a class on mounted riding games. All horsemanship programs, with the exception of our Horsemanship Mini-Camps, also include swimming each day (weather permitting).

Please send a lunch, snacks, a water bottle and sunscreen with your child each day. Re-applying sunscreen is scheduled into our daily activities at the following times: mid-morning, after swim and mid-afternoon. For additional sun protection, you may also wish to send your child with a hat.

Permission Slip

The Equine Activity Release Form **MUST BE SIGNED AND RETURNED BEFORE YOUR CHILD WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY EQUESTRIAN ACTIVITY**. If there is a signed form currently on file for your child for 2010, then you will not receive another release form with this letter.

Inclement Weather/Cancellations

This is a Horsemanship Program, not just a riding camp. Therefore if it is raining, campers should still plan on spending the day at the barn and spending more time inside. We will do our best to get campers on horses riding while the weather stays nice. **No credits or refunds will be issued due to inclement weather, and the periods will not be rescheduled in their entirety.**

Helmets

We require the use of ASTM/SEI certified Equestrian Riding Helmets for all mounted equestrian activities. Children who have their own horseback riding helmets are encouraged to bring them

to the barn. However, we do not require or expect campers to have their own helmets and therefore, we do provide them for all riders. *Bicycle helmets are not acceptable for horseback riding as the testing standards for safety gear differ between the two activities.* If you are interested in purchasing your own riding helmet and are not sure where to look, please let me know and I can share several of my favorite websites with you. Basic riding helmets with adjustable dials can be purchased for as little as \$30 from several different locations and are a great investment should your child wish to continue riding.

Clothing

Horsemanship campers are required to wear helmets, proper footwear and long pants when mounted. Wearing shorts, skirts or Capri pants in the saddle may cause sores on riders' legs. Any sort of long pants are acceptable, but keep in mind that "wind pants" may be slippery in the saddle.

Children are required to wear boots or sturdy shoes with a ½ to 1-inch heel. *Sneakers and other flat-soled shoes are not acceptable as they may slide through the stirrup.* High-heeled boots are also unsafe as the stirrup can get caught behind the heel. Paddock boots are ideal; however, many hiking boots and rain boots work fine as well. We do have some footwear in several different sizes available at the barn for camper use, so please call or email if you are interested in checking the available sizes. *For safety reasons we cannot allow campers to wear sandal, flip flops or crocs in the barn or when working around the horses.*

When the weather is warm, campers may choose to change into shorts and sneakers when they are not riding. If the weather is cooler or rainy, please remember to send your child with a sweater or jacket.

This list of requirements was developed to ensure the safety of your child and our staff. We understand that it may be difficult to supply everything on the list for your child so if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us. You may either email Jessie at jbosse@campketcha.org or call the Barn at 883-8977, ext. 110. Any of our horsemanship staff will be able to assist you.

Camp Horse Show

Our camp horse show will be held on Saturday, August 21st. This year, we will have Pleasure (judged on the performance of the horse) and Equitation (judged on how well the rider rides) classes in the following divisions: Lead-line Walking only, Lead-line Walk/Trot and Independent Walk/Trot and Walk/Trot/Canter. Information and registration forms will be posted on our website, www.campketcha.org by mid-July. Please call the barn and ask for Whitney or Nicole should you have any questions or would like more information about the horse show.

We look forward to working with your child this summer!



Thank you,
Jessie Bosse
Equestrian Program Director
Camp Ketcha
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