

EQUINE ACTIVITY FAQ SHEET

How and when do I schedule an appointment for an equine activity?

We have visitors all year. You need to call our office to schedule with us at 507-657-2540. Please call within a day or two because of our availability.

Who needs a completed form to be on our farm site?

Everyone! Because of the unpredictable nature of horses and farm life, you and each person you bring is required to have our current release form on file or completed first thing on arrival. Release forms must be renewed at the start of every year.

Do I need to stay on the property during my child's session?

Yes, unless arrangements have been made. Though parents are free to rest at the picnic table, in the barn, in the gardens, or in their car. We require that you please let the staff know so we can locate you quickly in case of emergency. It is also helpful to let your child know where you are as well.

Where do I park when I come to the farm?

We ask that you park in the parking area near the house or along the driveway. Please keep the area near the barn open for our horses to come and go.

Will activities include riding horses?

We aim to offer coaching/mentoring for family members, farm style activities, healthy friendships and involvement to parents and youth in our community. Guests may take part in any number of activities during their session. These activities include farm chores, games, toad catching etc. Though one of our goals is for people to become knowledgeable horsemen, our main goal is not to produce "accomplished" riders. If this is your hope we recommend scheduling your child for riding lessons at a traditional stable.

What attire is required for activities?

Due to the unpredictable weather in Minnesota, we recommend modest garments and layers for rapid weather changes. Jeans are most comfortable and safe for riding. Sturdy shoes with closed toes and closed heels or riding boots are a **MUST**. Remember to bring water, sunscreen and snacks.

How often can I expect to be scheduled for activities?

If there is available in the schedule, it is our goal to start the month with every person scheduled twice per month. In addition to this, if we have cancellations and/or a low sign up rate, appointments may be added. Groups are scheduled independently.

What happens if something comes up and I cannot make it to the session?

We would appreciate a call at least 3 days in advance to allow us enough time to give another person and the volunteer an opportunity to adjust their schedule for that appointment. However, we understand unexpected schedule changes do occur last minute. If this is the case, please call us as soon as possible.

Can I bring my children's friends to the farm to play and watch while I wait for my family member?

Your child's friends are welcome to visit the farm. However, you must bring a completed release form to us before the child will be allowed to be involved in ANY activities at the farm. Remember that a legal guardian MUST be the person to complete the form.

While the visiting child is here, please be considerate of the children that are currently taking part in the Equine activities by allowing our volunteers attention and guidance to be focused only on the child they are working with. As the adult bringing additional children, you are responsible for them during their visit.