



# Equestrian Program

## FAQs

**COVID-19 Precaution:** COVID-19 is an extremely contagious virus that spreads easily through person-to-person contact. As with any social activity, participation in Girl Scouts could present the risk of contracting COVID-19. While Girl Scouts of West Central Florida takes every safety and preventative precaution, Girl Scouts of West Central Florida can in no way warrant that COVID-19 infection will not occur through participation in council programs.

### **How do I request Equestrian Programing?**

To request a private program for your troop/group, please visit our Camp Reservation website to submit a date request. Search for the date you are interested in using the browse facilities button. Request the time you are interested in and continue to check out. Once you program is approved a deposit of \$99.99 is due within 7 days. Final numbers and final payment will be due 30 prior to program date.

### **How many girls can participate in an Equestrian Program session?**

The barn staff will determine the group size limits on a case-by-case basis. The maximum riding group size is 14. We base this decision on girl age and ability, safety of the girls, staff, and horses, weather conditions, and related reservations made prior to yours. Troops may bring a larger group, up to 20 girls, if riding is not requested.

## How much does Equestrian Program Cost? What kinds of programs do you offer?

**Half Day Program:** 10 person minimum & 14 person max– 3 hours session

- \$70 per person (\$80 out of council)
- These are offered on select Saturdays and Sundays either from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Includes approximately 45 min of riding time.
- Troops may choose from the following program options:
  - Beginner/First-time Rider: learn the parts of the horse, how to groom and tack your horse, arena riding lesson, learn to care for tack
  - English Focus: learn the tack and basics of English riding, groom and tack your horse, arena riding lesson, learn to care for tack, learn about competitive riding in the discipline
  - Western Focus: learn the tack and basics of Western riding, groom and tack your horse, arena riding lesson, learn to care for tack, learn about competitive riding in the discipline
  - Intermediate (Juniors+; **must** have completed one troop reservation with GSWCF previously): Learn more about horse health, daily care, and barn operations, groom and tack your horse for an arena ride with obstacles, care for your tack and more.
  - Grooming (no riding, reduced cost to \$35 per participant in-council and \$45 per participant out-of-council): You'll learn all about grooming your horse, then practice those skills with a partner. Plus, help care for and bathe your horse before turning them out to pasture. You'll learn about the importance of hoof health, too!
  - Trail Riding: Cadettes and older with horseback riding experience (have attended at least one beginner riding program with GSWCF or takes lessons privately) can join in on a day of learning about trail ride safety, preparing for a trail ride, and then setting out on one! Troops larger than 12 riders may be asked to divide into two separate sessions. We reserve the right to not allow anyone on a trail ride who cannot demonstrate the ability to steer and control their horse in the arena. *One adult may be asked to ride with their group(s) to support safety ratios.*

**Daisy Experience:** 20 Daisy max – 2 hours

- \$35 per Daisy (\$45 out of council)
- These are offered select Saturdays and Sundays at either 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. *or* 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Includes 15-20 min of pony ride time, leaders/adults are required to help lead horses
- Grooming lessons, adults are required to assist girls in reaching the tops of their horses during grooming

**Add-ons:**

- Painting with your horse - \$7/person
- Feeding horse treats (treats provided) - \$4/person

**PLEASE NOTE:** Smaller groups will be asked to make a minimum payment to reserve a spot, minus the deposit. These are \$300 for the Daisy Experience or Grooming, and \$500 for any riding programs

**Is a deposit required to reserve equestrian programming?**

For troop reservations a deposit of \$100 is due, **in full**, at the time of booking. This deposit is NON-REFUNDABLE.

**When is the final payment due?**

Final payment is due 30 days prior to the date of your encampment or troop reservation. If full payment is not received by this date, we reserve the right to cancel your reservation.

**Who may ride?**

We strive to provide riding opportunities to all our members; however, horses have varying capabilities in workload.

**WE ARE CURRENTLY UNABLE TO ACCEPT ADULT RIDERS FOR NON-RATIO NEEDS.**

**We strictly enforce a maximum weight of 200 lbs.**

Our riders are important to us, as is their privacy. Riders should expect to be weighed in a private and confidential setting if staff or volunteers have any fears that a rider may be above their weight limit for riding.

The Camp Wildwood Equestrian Center is not equipped or staffed for riders who require special needs accommodations. Please refer to our Approved Equestrian Vendors list for alternative specialty providers.

### **Can we bring treats for the horses?**

All our horses are on individual diets based on their age, health, and more. We ask that if you want to bring treats for our horses you discuss appropriate options to bring. We keep specialty treats in our feed room that we prefer to give our horses, as they support healthy weight and joints. Any and all feeding of the horses will be done using small bowls. We do not allow hand-feeding of our horses due to the strength of their jaws.

### **What is the cancelation policy?**

All cancellations are subject to our cancellation policy below.

In order to receive a full or partial refund you must email a cancellation notice to [campreservations@gswcf.org](mailto:campreservations@gswcf.org). Deposits are non-refundable. If your email is sent:

- 30 days or more prior to program reservation date, you'll receive a full refund (minus deposit)
- Less than 30 days to program reservation date you will not receive a refund

A staff member will follow up with cancellation requests. Cancellation requests include, but are not limited to lowering the number of participants, total cancellations, or anything that affects the cost of program delivery.

If *the Barn Staff* cancels your program due to extreme weather, you will be offered another program date or be fully refunded.

### **Can I change my group size?**

Yes, we will work with you to accommodate slight changes in group size up to 1 week prior to your reservation. In the event that you need to lower the number of participants after you have paid for your reservation, our cancellation policy will be enforced (please review the cancelation policy above).

### **When will I receive final confirmation of my reservation?**

You will receive a confirmation email directly from the GSWCF Staff two weeks prior to your reservation date at the email address in your reservation request through our Camp Reservation website. The confirmation email will contain everything you need to know about your equestrian program (including logistics, packing lists and activities). You are more than welcome to reach out to the GSWCF Staff prior to the 2-week mark to inquire about your program plans.

### **Do you have to have a waiver?**

***Every individual who will be riding is required to turn in a signed (by a parent or guardian) original hard copy of the current [equestrian waiver](#) AND [COVID waiver](#) at the time of their program.*** If a signed waiver is not turned in the individual will not be able to participate in the equestrian program. Electronic copies of signed waivers are not accepted, unless the COVID waiver can be verified ahead of time through your account with GSWCF.

### **What if a girl does not have a signed waiver on the day of program?**

Any girl that does not have a signed hard copy of the equestrian and COVID waivers to hand in on the day of your programming will not be able to participate in any programming directly involving a horse. However, they may observe. No refunds will be issued due to the lack of a signed waiver. Blank copies are kept on hand for emergencies; however, the adult signing for the girl must be 18 years or older and a parent or legal guardian to the girl participants. No exceptions will be made.

### **What if a participant is late?**

Late arrivals are highly discouraged as safety and barn rules are the first thing girls do in the program. Being late to the program may shorten your active time with the horses either on the ground or riding, as the safety orientation is required by Safety Activity Checkpoints. Should a rider miss this entirely, they will not be able to ride.

### **What if a participant needs to leave early?**

Please inform the Equestrian Manager or Lead Equestrian Facilitator of any early departures ASAP. Plans can be made to accommodate the participant being able to ride in the first group, if the group is riding. However, this is not always the case with all programs. Please discuss early departures with the Equestrian Manager prior to your program date.

### **What do the girls do when they are not riding?**

Normally, girls are split into two groups, with one group riding while the other group is participating in a ground-based learning activity. Specifics can be found in the menu descriptions above.

### **What do the girls need to bring with them when attending equestrian program?**

Girls must wear **pants**. Cotton yoga pant style are recommended but jeans are accepted (**NO** low-rise jeans). Loose fitting sweat pants or sleep pants are discouraged. Pants must cover from waist to foot, capris are not acceptable.

Girls are welcome to bring their own **boots** if they have them. Acceptable boots have a 1-inch heel without a treaded sole and are not rubber material. Boots that are not acceptable include rubber rain boots, hiking boots, and Uggs. If you do not have boots of your own, we have a selection of loaner boots available.

Personal Equestrian **helmets** may be brought; however, they must have all factory stickers in place, be in good repair and may not have suffered an impact. Bike or other sport helmets are not acceptable. Helmets are available to borrow and are sanitized and sprayed between each use.

### **Where should we park?**

Please park in the main parking lot at 9583 Co Rd 223 Wildwood FL 34785. Driving in camp is **strictly prohibited**. Once you have parked follow, the light purple trail blazes to the Equestrian Center. You will have to pass by a large white concrete building (Horseshoe Meadows) to get to the barn. Should you need ADA accommodations, please contact the Camp Ranger no less than two weeks prior to your arrival to discuss your needs.

The Camp Ranger can be reached at (813) 417-5467.

### **What is the Fly Spray system in your facility?**

As of November 2020, we have an automatic fly spray system installed and operating in our equestrian center. [Pyranha](#) has sponsored our equestrian programs, and a part of this includes the afore mentioned system. The SprayMaster® system automatically sprays an insect repellent throughout the day. This spray's active ingredient is Pyrethrin, but you can read the product Safety Data Sheet [HERE](#). The concentrate is secured in a locked area with no access possible to members and girls. If you have any allergy concerns or questions, please contact the email or phone number below.

### **Have more questions?**

Please contact us at [campreservations@gswcf.org](mailto:campreservations@gswcf.org) or call **813.417.9583**