



877 Long Level Rd  
Ridgway PA 15853  
814-335-0804  
[bmfntinc@gmail.com](mailto:bmfntinc@gmail.com)  
[www.bigmaplefarmnt.net](http://www.bigmaplefarmnt.net)

Dear Friend

If you can believe it, this is our 8th Season!!! We are so grateful to God that he was able to put this organization together and continues to provide the needs each and every year. So, Thank you for your interest in Big Maple Farm's Natural Therapies, Inc. and we hope that you choose to become a participant. It is necessary to have the enclosed forms completed and returned to us as soon as possible. There may be a waiting period to get a scheduled session time depending on openings. We will be in touch with you. The enclosed forms are to be returned at least seven days prior to the start of lessons.

**At the end of the Packet you will find a letter to provide to your health care provider. Please note that no lessons can commence without this form on file.** Please know that all information is treated as highly confidential.

**A registration fee of \$35.00** is payable **once per calendar year**. The fee is to be submitted with the participant's application in order to participate in lessons, and it is indicated on that form. The registration fee is used to supplement current administrative costs and program insurance.

We ask that you please read this form closely as several changes have been made in order to ensure the continued health of our horses. Additional programs, layout of programming, and payment has all changed as well for the 2024 season. These changes will help with the flow of programming, bookkeeping, and the continuation of services provided by Big Maple Farm's Natural Therapies. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to Amanda.

**If you have not visited the program or are new to the program, please call for an appointment at 814-335-0804. Please do not wait for us to call you. We look forward to meeting and working with you.**

Sincerely,

*Amanda Balon*

Executive Director



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### THERAPEUTIC RIDER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School or Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian (If under 18) : \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\$35 Registration FEE Paid by (REGISTRATION IS NOT VALID WITHOUT FEE):

Check  Cash

### PHOTO RELEASE

**Please Check One:** I DO  DO NOT

Consent to and authorize the use of reproduction by Big Maple Farm's Natural Therapies, Inc. of any and all photographs and any other audio/visual material taken of me/my child/my ward for promotional materials, educational activities, exhibitions, or for any other use for the benefit of the organization .

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Parent/guardian signature if under 18)

Date



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## ***Assumption of Risk, Release of Liability and Indemnification Agreement for 2024***

**BIG MAPLE FARM'S NATURAL THERAPIES, INC.** (BMFNT) is in the business of organizing, conducting and providing horses, equipment, and facilities for equestrian activities, which activities include but are not limited to, providing open rides clinics and related equestrian training referred to herein as the "activities." The undersigned desires to participate in the activities.

**NOW THEREFORE AND IN CONSIDERATION** of being allowed to participate in any way in one or more of the activities as the context requires, I acknowledge, appreciate and agree that:

- 1. GENERAL.** Risks of activities include, but are not limited to, death, personal injury, loss of income or the enjoyment of life, and pain, and scarring or disfigurement. The causes of possible injury are many, including but not limited to; injury from bodily contact, incidental or inherent in the nature of the activities, slipping and falling or tripping on surfaces, regardless of physical or environmental conditions, injury from equestrian activities or horseback riding; injury due to supervision or lack of supervision by Big Maple Farm's Natural Therapies' employees or agents, including trainers or instructors, or rules or regulations and instructions (or lack thereof) regarding the use of equipment or to the nature of the activity itself, or injury caused by other participants' and malicious acts of other participants, regardless of whether Big Maple Farm's Natural Therapies had or should have had knowledge of the likelihood of malicious acts by such participant.
- 2. ASSUMPTION OF RISK.** I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL RISKS RELATED TO OR ARISING OUT OF ANY ACTIVITIES, both known and unknown, including any injury or action caused by that harms or injuries in any way a pedestrian or nonparticipant, or action caused by me that harms or injures in any way a pedestrian or nonparticipant, or others, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE< GROSS NEGLIGENCE OR RECKLESS DISREGARD OF THE RELEASES (as defined in the next paragraph) or others and assume full responsibility for my participation.
- 3. RELEASES FROM LIABILITY.** I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and whomever else may have an interest either at common law or by operation of statute, HEREBY RELEASE, WAIVE, RELINQUISH, DISCHARGE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE BMFNT, its' employees, volunteers, other participants, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises use to conduct the activities ("Releases"), FROM LIABILITY FROM ANY AND ALL CLAIMS OR LIABILITIES FOR ALL AND ANY INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, OR LOSS OF DAMAGE TO MYSELF, ANY PERSON OR PROPERTY, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE, GROSS NEGLIGENCE OR RELECKLESS DISREGARD OF THE RELEASES OR OTHERWISE, SUSTAINED AS A RESULT OF ARISING OUT OF, OR RELATED TO ANY ACTIVITIES, to the fullest extent permitted by law.
- 4. REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES.** I represent and warrant I am in good physical condition and able to safely participate in any activities. I acknowledge that BMFNT has made no recommendations or determinations as to my fitness or ability to participate in any activities. I further agree that I will not participate in any activities or use any equipment unless and until I determine that I have thoroughly familiarized myself with the correct use and operation thereof.
- 5. SEVERABILITY.** I expressly agree that this agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the international laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and that if any portion thereof is invalid, it is [agreed that the balance shall, not withstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.](#)
- 6. MISCELLANEOUS.** This agreement is entered into Elk County, Pennsylvania and shall be constructed under the internal law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in Elk county, Pennsylvania. I HAVE READ THIS ASSUMPTION OF RISK, RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERM, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO SUE, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY AND INTEND TO COMPLETELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY RELEASE BIG MAPLE FARM'S NATURAL THERAPIES, INC. FROM ALL LIABILITY IN CONNECTION WITH MY PARTICIPATION IN, OR ATTENDANCE OF AND ACTIVITIES.



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### **PARTICIPANTS OVER THE AGE OF 18**

This is to certify that I do consent and agree to assumption of risk, release from liability and indemnification as provided herein with all the Releases, and , for myself, my heirs, assigns, and next of kin. I release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the RELEASES from all and any liabilities incident to my involvement or participation in any Activities as provided herein, EVEN IF ARISING FROM NEGLIGENCE, GROSS NEGLIGENCE OR RECKLESS DISREGARD OF THE RELEASES, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

- Accepted and agreed effective as of \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
- Signature of Participant \_\_\_\_\_
- Print Name of Participant \_\_\_\_\_
- Participant Address \_\_\_\_\_

### **PARTICIPANTS UNDER THE AGE OF 18**

This is to certify that I, as parent/guardian with legal responsibility for this participant, do consent and agree to his/her assumption of risk, release from liability and indemnification as provided above with all the Releases, and, for myself, my heirs, assigns, and next of kin, I release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the RELEASES from all and any liabilities incident to my minor child's involvement or participation in any Activities as provided above, EVEN IF ARISING FROM NEGLIGENCE, GROSS NEGLIGENCE OR RECKLESS DISREGARD OF THE RELEASES, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

- Accepted and agreed effective as of \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
- PRINT Name of Participant \_\_\_\_\_
- SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT \_\_\_\_\_
- PRINT Name of Parent/Guardian and Relationship \_\_\_\_\_
- SIGNATURE of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_
- Address of Participants Parent/or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_



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## CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

It is the policy of Big Maple Farm's Natural Therapies, Inc. to keep confidential all medical, social, referral, personal, and financial information regarding participants, volunteers, and staff. This information will not be shared or disclosed to individuals outside the operation of the center without the express written permission given by the individual concerned.

It is understood by all the individuals working or volunteering at this center that this confidentiality code will be maintained and adhered to in order to protect the privacy and personal dignity of all individuals associated with the day-to-day operations of this center. Confidential information may be shared between center staff in cases where it will assist planning for the equestrian lesson.

Violation of this policy by anyone at Big Maple Farm's Natural Therapies, Inc. can result in immediate expulsion from all activities at the center, as determined by the program director and the board of directors.

I understand and will observe the confidentiality policy of Big Maple Farm's Natural Therapies, Inc.

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Signature (Parent/Guardian if Under 18)

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Date



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## ***Programming Changes for Health of Horses***

2022/2023 was a rough year for our horses and their health and over the last several months we have worked with other centers and looked at different ways to continue to provide quality services to participants, yet continue to care for our current horses. We ask that all participants read and understand the following changes that are being put in place. Should our horse situations change we can always revisit this policy.

### **Acknowledgment of reading is required by signature.**

**Due to the age and health of our horses, Big Maple Farm's Natural Therapies is implementing a weight limit policy. At this time participants weighing over 125 pounds are not able to ride. Big Maple Farm's Natural Therapies realizes the benefits of horses and therefore is implementing a new horsemanship on the ground program & horse powered reading where participants will be able to still have many of the benefits of horses, yet challenge the horse and participate through Liberty horse lessons. (Liberty horse lessons help the participant and the horse build a trusting relationship through connection. Horses and participants work together freely to accomplish skills such as walking, backing up, laying down, making circles, etc as a team. We will be showing some videos on our social media as examples. Be sure to stay tuned)**

**Participants can also work with mini horses as well instead of large horses in the liberty programming. Mini horses are able to learn to jump, liberty skills, trail courses, and more.**

Please know this decision has not been made lightly, but in order to continue to provide for our aging horses and our participants in the best way we needed to visit new options. We hope that you understand and we are excited to offer this type of programming and are looking forward to all the new things many of our participants learn.

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Participant \_\_\_\_\_



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## DAY AND TIME PREFERENCE

**Please see our Hours of operation for the 2024 season! We are offering some daytime hours that are perfect for those who are homeschooled, in preschool, or adults. If any of these times are not suited for your family please reach out to see if an adjustment can be made. Please Indicate times in which you are available for lessons. Label your order of preference as 1 as most desired and 3 as least desired.**

Wednesday:

- After school - till 4:30pm (Horse Powered Reading afterschool program)
- 4:30p-6:30p Therapeutic riding/liberty/mini horse lessons/horse powered reading

Thursday:

- After school - till 4:30pm (Horse Powered Reading after school program)
- 4:30-6:30p (Therapeutic Riding/Liberty/mini horse Lesson Times/horse powered reading).

Friday:

- 4:00-5:30p (Therapeutic Riding/Liberty/mini horse Lesson Times/horse powered reading)

Saturday:

- 9a-12pm (Therapeutic Riding/Liberty/mini horse Lesson Times/horse powered reading times)



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## ***Season Schedule and Payment Options***

This year Big Maple Farm's Natural Therapies, Inc. will be working in lesson groups. This type of scheduling will allow for breaks for our horses to regroup and rest as well as give our volunteers and staff a chance to catch up and prepare for the next session group.

Sessions will be grouped as follows:

Spring: April 3rd - June 15th

Summer: July 11th - August 24th

Fall: September 11th - November 2nd

These dates are subject to change based on weather but we tried to break them down as best we could into 8 Week long sessions. We are hoping we could start earlier than April 3rd but we will keep all our participants in the loop as to what we think we can do based on weather. We greatly appreciate your understanding in this matter.

Due to this new scheduling we would also like to run our payments differently. Many times we are at the arena and it's hard to remember who is paying and who is not, so things get missed. Sessions must be paid in full before they start. So if you are participating in our Spring session you must have payment by April 1st. Payment will depend on the length of lesson and type of lesson. If this is an issue due to financial concerns please reach out to Amanda as Scholarship opportunities are available.

Cost of lessons for the 2024 season will be as follows for all lesson types as they are all therapeutic in nature (Mini horse, liberty, or therapeutic riding):

½ hour = \$30

1 hour = \$40

Books in the barn = \$5

Horsepowered Reading = \$40 for the hour (only hour sessions)

We know that weather is going to be a factor as it always is, we continue to pray that someday we have a solution to where we won't have to worry about weather and services can always be provided consistently. In time things will happen but we are thankful that you are here ready to enhance your quality of life through positive interactions with equines.





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## BARN RULES

1. Come into the session with a positive attitude and always remember to use a calm voice while around the animals!
2. Please be sure you have the proper foot ware! Hard soles are a must!
3. EVERYONE!!!!!! Must wear a helmet while mounted on a horse.
4. Check the Bulletin board to see your assigned horse and volunteers.
5. Be Alert
6. Be relaxed
7. Do not enter the stalls without a volunteer.
8. Always wait for assistance.
9. Be sure to ask questions.
10. Do not bring the horse into the lesson area until the lesson ahead of you is complete.
11. Enjoy yourself and build a connection with the horse.
12. At the end of the lesson be sure to reward the horse with their treat from the buckets not your hands!!!!



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Dear Healthcare Provider,

Your patient is interested in supervised equine activities. In order to safely provide this service, Big Maple Farm's Natural Therapies, Inc. requests that you complete the attached form.

Please note that the following conditions may suggest precautions and contraindication to therapeutic horseback riding/mini horse lessons/liberty horse lessons. Therefore, when completing the form, please note whether these conditions are present, and to what degree.

**Orthopedic**

Atlantoaxial Instability  
Coxa Arthrosis  
Cranial Defects  
Heterotopic Ossification  
Myositis Ossificans  
Joint Subluxation/Dislocation  
Osteoporosis  
Pathologic Fractures  
Spinal Fusion/Fixation  
Spinal Instability/Abnormalities

**Psychological**

Substance Abuse  
Thought Control Disorders  
Weight Control Disorders  
Animal Abuse  
Physically Abusive  
Sexually Abusive  
Emotionally Abusive

**Other**

Age – Under 4 Years

**Medical**

Allergies  
Blood Pressure Control  
Heart Conditions  
Hemophilia  
Medical Instability  
Migraines  
Peripheral Vascular Disease  
Respiratory Compromise  
Recent Surgeries  
Indwelling Catheters  
Medications- i.e. Photosensitivity  
Poor Endurance  
Skin Breakdown

**Neurological**

Hydrocephalus/Shunt  
Seizure  
Spina Bifida  
Chiari II Malformation  
Tethered Cord  
Hydromyelia

Thank you very much for your assistance. If you have any further questions or concerns regarding the patient's participation in equine activities, please feel free to contact us at the address above, or call 814-335-0804.

Sincerely,

*Amanda Balon*

Executive Director



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## Participant Medical History

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Height \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_

Diagnosis \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Onset \_\_\_\_\_

Past/Prospective Surgeries \_\_\_\_\_

Medications \_\_\_\_\_

Seizures  Yes  No Type \_\_\_\_\_ Last Seizure Date \_\_\_\_\_

Shunt Present  Yes  No Date of Last Revision \_\_\_\_\_

Special Precautions/Needs

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Areas	Yes	No	Comments
Auditory			
Visual			
Tactile Sensation			
Speech			
Cardiac			
Circulatory			
Pulmonary			
Neurological			
Muscular			
Balance			
Orthopedic			
Allergies			
Learning Disability			
Mental Impairment			
Emotional/Psychological			
Other:			



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Mobility (Check One):

- Independent Ambulation       Assisted Ambulation       Wheelchair

Braces/Assistive Devices

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\*For Persons with Down Syndrome:

- Negative X-Ray for Atlantoaxial Instability      Date \_\_\_\_\_
- Negative for Clinical Symptoms of Atlantoaxial Instability

**To my knowledge there is no reason why this person cannot participate in supervised equestrian activities.**

Physician's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ License/UPIN Number \_\_\_\_\_