



Horsemanship Lessons

What is horsemanship? Good horsemanship is more than just sitting in the saddle - it is the art of handling, caring for, riding, and training horses. It involves the development of empathy, feel, and intuition about the needs of the horses, and an ability to act accordingly.

For the instructors at Oak Lane, it's important to us that we share this art. A love of horses is far more than just learning to ride the horse, it's a joy and passion for all aspects of their stewardship.

At Oak Lane, we strive for excellence and we pride ourselves in creating educated horsemen and horsewomen – those who not only love their horses, but are well-versed in their care and safety.

Like everything in life, education is the key for success.

Want to learn more? Join us for lessons!

Horsemanship lessons at our farm include lesson both on-horse and off-horse horsemanship classes. On-horse classes teach riding skills. Off-horse lessons include:

- Equine first aid
- Learning the parts of the tack and how to care for them
- Stable management (stall maintenance, pasture safety, nutrition)
- Ground work (longeing, obstacle work, body language, leadership skills)
- Horse show preparation (bathing, braiding, arena etiquette)

How often do classes meet? Lessons are booked in monthly sessions of four weeks each. Each lesson lasts one hour, and meets one day a week.

- All students begin in private lessons.
- As skills grow, they may join semi-private or small group classes to work on more complex principles.

Please plan to arrive 5 to 10 minutes before your scheduled class and meet your instructor in the lobby of the barn.

What equipment do I need to get started?

- Helmets: We offer helmets that meet industry safety regulations. Students are able to borrow a riding helmet for their first three months, after which we encourage them to purchase their own. Our helmets are ASTM / SEI certified, and replaced every five years in accordance with CHA and PATH regulations.
- Attire: For safe riding, wear shoes with a flat sole or low heel. Please, NO inside zippers (placement of zippers on the inside of the calf). No shorts, sandals, or crocs.

What can I expect?

- Expect to have fun! Expect to learn!
- New students can expect to groom their horses, saddle their horse, and often ride, with their instructor's guidance during their classes.
- Advanced students – those who are deemed by their instructor to be independent in their grooming and tacking skills – may arrive 20 minutes early to get their horse ready on for their lesson.
- You can expect your lessons to begin and end on time, barring any emergencies. There are other lessons after you. Students arriving after their scheduled start time for their class will not be accommodated.
- For those students wishing to participate in our show team, twice weekly lessons are encouraged and riders should consider a lease or half lease.

What are the costs involved?

- Each four-week session costs \$240 and includes four one-hour lessons. An invoice will be emailed prior to the start of your session. Payment is due in full at the start of the session via check or cash. If payment in full is not received, you may be at risk of losing your reserved lesson slot.
- Additional lessons are available at \$60 each.

What are the cancellation and refund policies?

- It is the student's responsibility to be on time and present at each scheduled lesson; no refunds will be issued for missed classes without prior notice.
- If you need to be absent from a class, please send a text message to Megan directly at 716.997.2019 so we can notify your instructor of any changes in plans for the day. You must notify Megan more than twelve hours before your scheduled class time in order for a credit or make-up class to be offered.
- In the event that Oak Lane needs to cancel a class (equine / medical emergency, severe weather emergency), we will offer a make-up class during your monthly session, or a credit for the next month's session.

How do I get started?

- Visit the website: www.oaklanequestrian.com/lessons
- Submit a New Rider Enrollment Application and Waiver via email to Info@OakLaneEquestrian.com.
- Please note in your email your first and second choice for lesson times
- We will confirm your session and send an invoice via email. Please watch your email and make sure we're on your safe-sender list so we don't get sent to spam. Thank you!

Questions? Call directly or text Megan Smits at 716.997.2019, or email Info@OakLaneEquestrian.com

We look forward to seeing you!