



# *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?** You can choose which package works best for you and your family. We offer:

- 12-lesson package option
  - You may participate in up to three lessons per week at agreed-upon days and times
  - Lessons must be used during a quarter (consecutive three-month period), unused classes do not roll-over into the next quarter.
  - One excused absence will be granted a makeup within the quarter, given 24 hours advance notice or a doctor's note.
  - Tuition is due within 5 days prior to the beginning of classes, cost for this package is \$680 (approx. \$56 per class)
- 4-lesson package option

- You may participate once weekly, at an agreed-upon day and time each week for the month
- Lessons must be used within the month and do not roll-over into the next month
- Tuition is due within 5 days prior to the beginning of classes, cost for the package is \$240 (\$60 per class)
- If you prefer to pay weekly instead of at the beginning of the month, classes are \$75 each and payable upon arrival at the farm for each class
- Single-lesson option
  - These lessons are appropriate for riders who want to try out riding without committing to a package
  - The cost of \$100 is payable upon arrival at the farm
- All lessons last one hour
- All students begin in private lessons
- As skills grow, students will graduate to 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 wait to 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 for their lesson.
- You can expect your lessons to start on time, barring 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?

- *What if I only want to try it out for one lesson, to see if it's for me?*
  - We do offer trial lessons at \$100 for a 60-minute lesson.
  - These single-time lessons are designed to assess your skill level and interest, to see where you may best fit into our program.
  - If accepted into the riding program, you will be eligible for the discounted rate of \$60 per lesson.
- *I'm at a more advanced skill level, meaning I'm ready to ride in a small group setting, but I don't like riding with other people. Can I still take private lessons?*
  - Yes, you may opt for private lessons. Please note that private lesson slots are limited, so if you are a rider who is capable of riding in a group but chooses not to do so, you will pay a premium for a private class. Private lessons in this case are \$75 per lesson.

## 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 or makeup classes will be issued for missed classes, unless you have purchased a 12-lesson package when one excused absence may be rescheduled within the quarter. Excused absences are at the instructor's discretion, and are typically reserved for emergency situations. Students arriving late for their class may not be able to participate, and will not receive a refund or credit. Much like a gym membership, dance classes, or swim instruction, if you sign up it's up to you to attend.
- If there is an emergency and 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, or email [info@oaklanequestrian.com](mailto:info@oaklanequestrian.com)
- 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](http://www.oaklanequestrian.com/lessons)
- Submit a New Rider Enrollment Application and Waiver via email to [Info@OakLaneEquestrian.com](mailto: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](mailto:Info@OakLaneEquestrian.com)

We look forward to seeing you!