



Recreational Riding at Ironstone Farm

Thank you for your interest in our programs and services. Ironstone Farm is the home of Challenge Unlimited and Ironstone Therapy. The Challenge Unlimited Program offers a variety of therapeutic and recreational riding programs.

Our focus is to help each individual achieve their potential through the benefits of horseback riding and the experience of a working farm environment. Our programs are adapted for riders. We incorporate therapeutic measures that strengthen muscles, improve balance, coordination and endurance, as well as lengthen attention span, and increase determination and ambition. Our recreational riding program strives to create well rounded riders while developing horsemanship skills.

Recreational riding at Ironstone Farm encourages riders to learn a variety of horsemanship skills, from brushing and tacking, to riding in various disciplines, such as western and english.

The enclosed information describes our programs, policies and procedures. Individuals enrolling in Ironstone Farm programs must complete all paperwork included in this packet before registering for lessons. Once completed and returned, the office will reach out to you.

If you have any additional questions or would like to schedule a visit, please email us at lessons@ironstonefarm.org. We look forward to meeting you soon.

Warm Regards,

Ashley Caggiano

Program Manager



Recreational Riding

Ironstone Farm offers riding lessons at all levels to riders starting at age six. Our recreational riding program is designed to encourage well-rounded horse handling, riding, and horsemanship skills. We teach all riders to learn how to properly brush, tack and bridle their own horse for each lesson. This is available only in 1 hour private, 1 hour semi-private and 1 hour group lessons. **All new riders must start in a 30 minute private or 1 hour private lesson.**

What to know before scheduling

Our goal at Ironstone Farm is to provide safe, enjoyable, and engaging therapeutic and recreational riding lessons for every rider at all levels. We strive for a safe environment at all times for riders, their families, caregivers, aides, volunteers, staff and our horses.

For riders under 13 years of age without a diagnosis, we highly encourage that the families, caregivers, and aides stay on the property for the duration of the lesson.

Importance of proper clothing

Ensuring safety is a top priority and riders will not be allowed on the horse unless properly dressed. An equestrian helmet (ASTM/SEI approved), long pants, and closed shoes or boots are required for all riders. Sneakers are appropriate for participants in our vaulting and in-hand lessons only. A boot or shoe with a small flat heel with a distinct separation from the sole of the shoe is required for riders in saddles. Open toed shoes, crocs, mules and ballet style shoes are some common examples of **inappropriate** footwear.

Helpful Websites for Clothing: www.DoverSaddlery.com & www.SmartpakEquine.com



LESSON FORMAT

The Evaluation: Every client enrolling will begin with a 30 minute evaluation lesson. You can expect to spend about 20 minutes on the horse and 10 minutes talking with the instructor. The instructor will then recommend to the office what lesson plan will be appropriate for the rider. Please understand, we will need to receive the required registration forms before scheduling an evaluation.

Below is a list of all lesson formats provided within Challenge Unlimited:

1. **Private Lessons:** A one-on-one approach in either a half hour or hour-long format. This is the lesson format that can be most adjusted to the client's individual needs and interests. These lessons are available on the lunge line, in hand, or independent under saddle. In hour-long private lessons the rider will brush and tack their own horse with the guidance of the instructor. **This is the required lesson format for all riders who start with us.**
2. **Semi-Private Lessons:** An hour long lesson with two riders. These lessons are great for riders who are learning how to brush and tack up their horses, as well as basic riding and social skills.
3. **Vaulting Lessons:** The vaulting lesson is a 30 minute private lesson on the lunge line. The program allows the rider to develop balance, rhythm, and confidence while the instructor maintains control over the horse. This is an excellent lesson program for children and many adults who are beginners.
4. **Group Lessons:** Our group lesson can accommodate riders at varying riding levels: from therapeutic riders to the independent beginner, riders just progressing out of a private or semi-private lesson, or to those riding at an advanced level. The rider may move into a one-hour group lesson when the riding instructor determines the rider is ready. The rider must be able to steer independently at the walk and trot before moving into a group. We may ask that riders arrive approximately 15 minutes before their lesson begins, which will allow the time needed for students to prepare their horse before they ride each week. They are expected to stay 10- 15 minutes after their lesson to care for their horse and put equipment away.

HOW TO SCHEDULE RECREATIONAL RIDING LESSONS

Lessons are available Monday-Friday from 10am–8pm as instructor availability allows.

If you wish to change (or end) your riding time at any point you must email lessons@ironstonefarm.org 14 days in advance of your end date.

All scheduled lessons within the 14 day window will require full payment.

BILLING

Billing is sent monthly through our online system by email. Payment may be made online or sent by check. Checks can be mailed to 450 Lowell Street, Andover MA, 01810. **Please, no in person payments.**

Previous months lesson dues must be paid in full for the rider to continue into the next month.

Lesson Pricing

30 Minute Private.....\$55	1 Hour Group.....\$45
1 Hour Private.....\$75	1 Hour Semi-Private.....\$60

PRE-CANCELLATION POLICY

Pre-cancellation requests must be in email to lessons@ironstonefarm.org 48 hours in advance in order to receive a make-up lesson. **Lessons canceled within the 48 hour window will require full payment and will not be eligible for a make up lesson.**

If a rider becomes sick or injured in that 48 hour window you may qualify for a make-up lesson if you can provide a signed medical note stating the reason for the missed lesson (*ex. broken bone, the flu*)

Covid Policy - Please refer to the 2021 COVID-19 pledge you have signed. No rider is penalized for missing lessons due to COVID-19.

MAKE-UP LESSON POLICY

Make-up lessons are offered to riders as the following options, and will be based on the availability of our lesson schedule:

LESSON FORMAT	MAKEUP OPTIONS			
30-Minute Private	30-Minute Private		1-Hour Group*	
1-Hour Private	Two 30-Minute Privates	1-Hour Group*	1-Hour Semi-Private*	1-Hour Private
1-Hour Group	30-Minute Private		1-Hour Group*	
1-Hour Semi-Private	30-Minute Private	1-Hour Group*	1-Hour Semi-Private*	

**Dependent on the rider's ability to safely ride in a group/semi-private lesson*



IRONSTONE FARM SAFETY REGULATIONS

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

The following regulations have been established for your safety and the safety of all involved in the activities at Ironstone Farm. Please make every effort to abide by them during your time on the premises.

SMOKING: There is **NO SMOKING** allowed on the property of Ironstone Farm.

CHILDREN: Ironstone is a working farm. We must insist that all children, when not involved in a lesson, remain beside their accompanying adult. Running, yelling, or unaccompanied children can create hazardous situations – for themselves, riders, handlers, staff and other visitors at the farm. Please observe (or ask about) designated areas for viewing lessons. If children behave in an unsafe manner, we may ask you to remove them from the premises.

PETS & SERVICE ANIMALS: The animals at Ironstone Farm live in harmony with one another and the introduction of a new animal is handled very carefully. Visiting pets will upset this harmony and can be very disruptive, creating an unsafe situation. Please leave your pet(s) at home. With regards to service animals, please check with the office before visiting the farm.

TREATS: Our animals are on a routine feeding schedule. Their daily intake is carefully monitored. Treats may be harmful to some animals, and hand feeding encourages the animals to bite in search of treats and can be dangerous. Please do not feed the animals. If you would like to bring treats for your favorite Ironstone critter, you may label the treat and it will be included in his/her dinner or breakfast.

PARKING: Please park in designated areas only. Observe the “No Parking” signs and spaces allotted for pick up and drop-off of clients. Please do not sound your horn/set car alarms while on Ironstone Farm property! Sudden loud noises may frighten the animals residing at the farm as well as clients participating in therapy.

UMBRELLAS: Please do not use umbrellas on the property. The odd shape and sudden movement of opening/closing an umbrella can startle our horses.

THE BARN: The upper barn is a staff-only area. If you need to reach someone in the barn office, please call us at 978-475-4056, or ask the Welcome Center to contact us for you.

OBSERVATION: Our instructors and therapists are trained professionals. Please remain outside the teaching area during lessons. You are invited to watch from designated areas.

PADDOCK: Only Staff, Working Students and Feeders (all of whom must have Paddock Privileges) are allowed in the Paddocks. *Volunteers and visitors are not allowed to enter the Paddocks for any reason.*

We appreciate your patronage. We pledge to offer you the best in quality, horse-related and therapeutic programming. During your time spent with us, we ask that you have respect for the property, the animals and the staff. – Thank you!

**Assumption Of Risks & Liability Release Agreement
Ironstone Farm; Challenge Unlimited, Inc.; & Ironstone Therapy, Inc.**

**PLEASE READ BOTH SIDES OF THIS AGREEMENT
SIGNATURE REQUIRED ON THE REVERSE**

*Client Name: _____ *Gender: M __ F __ *DOB: _____ *Height: _____ *Weight: _____

The Client (myself, child/ward) DOES __ or DOES NOT __ have a (physical or other) diagnosis or disability. *Required Fields

Client Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

*Best Phone: _____

*Best Email: _____ CC Email: _____

Parent/Spouse/Guardian 1 Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Parent/Spouse/Guardian 2 Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Group Home Contact Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Name & Phone# of Employer (Client): _____

Name & Phone# of Employer (Parent/Spouse 1): _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone #: _____

Primary Care Physician Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Person(s) responsible for payment arrangements: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Third party payer contact name: _____ Phone#: _____

Describe any medical condition or allergy requiring special precautions, and any medication and dosage:

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING THREE PARAGRAPHS CAREFULLY

Inherent Risk/Assumption of Risks. I/We acknowledge that: Risks, conditions and dangers are inherent in (meaning an integral part of) horse/equine/animal activities, regardless of all feasible safety measures which can be taken, and I agree to assume them. The inherent risks include, but are not limited to any of the following: the propensity of an animal to behave in ways that may result in injury, harm, death or loss to persons on or around the animal; the unpredictability of an equine's reaction to sounds, sudden movement, unfamiliar objects, persons or other animals; hazards, including but not limited to, surface or subsurface conditions, a collision, encounter and/or confrontation with another equine, another animal, a person or an object; the potential of an equine activity participant to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury, harm, death, or loss to the participant or to other persons, including but not limited to, failing to maintain control over an equine and or failing to act within the ability of the participant. If a horse is frightened or provoked it may divert from its training and act according to its natural survival instincts which may include, but are not limited to, stopping short; spinning around; changing directions and or speed at will; shifting its weight; bucking; rearing; kicking; biting; and or running from danger. I/We also acknowledge that these are just some of the risks

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and I/We agree to assume others not mentioned above. I/We am (are) not relying on Challenge Unlimited, Inc., Ironstone Therapy, Inc. and/or Ironstone Farm to list all possible risks for me.

Liability Release. I/We agree that: in consideration of allowing my participation in the activities of Challenge Unlimited, Ironstone Therapy and/or Ironstone Farm, I, the student, client or volunteer, for myself and on behalf of my child and/or legal ward, heirs, administrators, personal representatives or assigns, do agree to release, hold harmless, and discharge Challenge Unlimited, Inc., Ironstone Therapy, Inc. and Ironstone Farm, its employees, agents, independent contractors, officers, directors, claims, demands, causes of action and legal liability, whether the same be known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, due to ordinary negligence or legal liability; and I do agree to release any claims, demands, legal actions and causes of action, against Challenge Unlimited, Inc., Ironstone Therapy, Inc. or Ironstone Farm, and its employees, agents, independent contractors, officers, directors, representatives, assigns, members, and insurers, for any damages due to bodily injury and/or death and/or property damage, sustained by me and or my minor child or legal ward in relation to the premises and operations herein, including, but not limited to, riding, driving, training, handling or otherwise being near or around horses owned, leased or boarded by Challenge Unlimited, Inc., Ironstone Therapy, Inc., or Ironstone Farm.

WARNING

Under Massachusetts law, an equine professional is not liable for injury to, or death of, a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities, pursuant to Section 2D of Chapter 128 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

In case of a medical emergency, efforts will be made to notify parent(s)/guardian(s). In the event that parent(s)/guardian(s) cannot be reached, the undersigned authorizes Challenge Unlimited, Inc., Ironstone Therapy, Inc., and/or Ironstone Farm, to provide such medical assistance as they determine to be necessary.

The undersigned authorizes any licensed physician and/or medical facility to provide any medical/surgical care and/or hospitalization for the client, including anesthetic, which they determine necessary or advisable, pending a receipt of specific consent from the undersigned.

Weight Limits. Weight limits are important for the safety and well-being of both horses and riders. Please be accurate when disclosing the client's current weight on our registration form. Limits are: 200 lbs. for ponies and smaller horses and 225 lbs. for larger horses. Notwithstanding the above, Management reserves the right to adjust program options and/or to restrict client participation based on weight and weight distribution.

Photo Release: I hereby consent to and authorize the use and reproduction by Challenge Unlimited, Inc., Ironstone Therapy, Inc., and/or Ironstone Farm of any and all photographs and any other audiovisual materials taken of me/my child/my ward for promotional material, educational activities, and exhibitions or for any other use for the benefit of the program.

➡ Opt out: **No, I do not consent.** _____

I would ___ would not ___ be willing/able to assist with my child's/ward's lesson if additional staff/volunteers are not available.
(Please check one)

<p>I/We represent that I/We have read this entire agreement (consisting of two pages) and in particular the sections labeled Inherent Risk/Assumption of Risks, Liability Release and Warning. I/We also represent that I/We have read and understand the Policies, Procedures and Safety Regulations for the Programs held at Ironstone Farm.</p>

Signature

(Parent/Guardian must sign for all clients under the age of 18)

Print name

Date: ___ / ___ / ___



RECREATIONAL RIDER EVALUATION

Parent/Guardian or Student: Please complete the entire first half of this page. Do not leave any information blank. Unless otherwise noted, payment needs to be made at the time of Evaluation (\$55.00). Thank you!

Client Name (Print): _____ **Age:** _____ **Phone:** _____

In order to assist us with creating an appropriate lesson plan for all riders, please answer the following questions:

- 1. Is the rider comfortable with and around horses? **Yes** ___ **No** ___
- 2. Has the rider taken more than 10 weeks of therapeutic lessons at another facility? **Yes** ___ **No** ___
- 3. If you answered yes to question 2; What has the rider been working on in their previous lessons?

----- ****Instructor completes this section**** -----

Instructor Name: _____ **Name of Horse:** _____ **Date:** ___ / ___ / ___

Rider Level (Circle One): Walk W/Trot WTC

Lungeline? (Circle One): Yes No

Type of Lesson (Circle One): Group Semi-Private ½ hour Private 1 Hour Private

Equipment/Tack: _____

Mounting Requirements: _____

Evaluation Notes: _____

