



Welcome!

PATH International

The Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International is the national non-profit association that promotes and supports equine-facilitated activities for individuals with disabilities. PATH International sets the safety guidelines and teaching standards for the industry. Boots to Grasses Therapeutic Riding Program is a premier accredited member of Path International and Boots to Grasses Therapeutic Riding Program Instructors are certified by PATH International.

Our Mission

Boots to Grasses Therapeutic Horsemanship Program is a volunteer-based, 501c-3 non-profit organization which provides the opportunity for personal growth to children/adults and military veterans facing challenges through the horsemanship experience. Our mission is to provide a recreational and therapeutic equine experience which develops physical, cognitive, and emotional capabilities and enhances self-esteem. Our program strives to provide a state of peace and accomplishment to our students.

Bringing hope, joy and unlimited possibilities through the healing power of the horse.

EQUINE LIABILITY LAW

According to Ohio House Bill 564 which became effective March 3, 1997: Equine (Horse) Activity Sponsor, Equine And/Or Property Owner Is Not Liable for Any Damages Suffered During An Equine Activity On These Premises. A Horse Is A Large Animal And May Be Unpredictable And Dangerous At Times. Extreme Caution Should Be Taken In Their Presence. Participants Assume The Inherent Risk Of Equine Activities.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Boots to Grasses Therapeutic Riding Program accepts riders regardless of race, color, nationality or ethnic origin, and economic status.

What is Therapeutic Riding?

Overview

Horseback riding can be an instructional technique in specialized programming for the physically handicapped, mentally retarded, emotionally disturbed, learning disabled, deaf and visually impaired. The therapy utilizes a multi-sensory approach to developing and facilitating psychomotor, language, mathematics, social and emotional skills. This approach has demonstrated its effectiveness in inducing a positive change in a participant's attitude toward self, peers and ability, which has promoted a sense of accomplishment and increased self-confidence. Children and adults have become more confident in their own abilities to master and control themselves and their environment and also to have confidence in others who can help them master skills.

Participants of horseback riding learn basic skills through planned interactional experiences with the horses. They learn not only riding skills, but also the structure, needs, personality and environment of a horse. They develop sensitivity to the needs and learn all the activities involved in the grooming, feeding, caring for and riding these animals. Through these activities, the participant develops an awareness of his own care and needs and sensitivity to the needs and care of all things, living and inanimate, which he or she can apply to everyday learning.

Major Concept & Skill Development

- Body Localization - Participant develops the ability to locate and identify parts of the horse's body. This activity aids in developing awareness and understanding of one's own body.
- Body Abstraction - Participant develops the ability to generalize and transfer body localization to himself/herself and others.
- Muscular Strength - Participant develops the ability to use his muscles to perform physical tasks with the horse.
- Health & Hygiene - Participant develops an understanding of the principles of health and hygiene. In caring for the horses, participants are led to understand the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.
- Balance & Rhythm - Participant develops the ability to maintain gross and fine motor balance and to move rhythmically with the horse. Participant is continuously involved in interpreting and reacting to the horse's movements.
- Body Spatial Organization - Participant develops the ability to move in space. The majority of the activities require the participant to direct and move the horse within a given area.
- Directionality & Laterality - Participant develops the ability to know and respond to right, left, up, down, forward, backward, and directional orientation. Activities focusing on directing the horse in a specific direction are used to aid the participant in developing sensitivity to directionality of his/her body and space.
- Time Orientation - Participant develops an awareness of time concepts, by involving him/her in determining feeding time, exercise time, and resting time for the horse; participants develop an awareness of the effect of weather and seasonal changes on horseback riding activities. They learn to anticipate riding activities based on weather conditions.

- Visual Acuity - Participant develops the ability to see objects in his visual field and to differentiate them meaningfully and accurately. Activities, which require the participant to direct and move his/her horse around objects or through objects in the riding, ring aid in developing this skill.
- Visual-Form Discrimination - Participant develops the ability to differentiate visually the forms and symbols in the horse's environment. Activities in and around the stable aid in developing this skill. A participant identifies equipment, stall, food and the name of "his/her" horse.
- Anticipatory Response - Participant develops the ability to anticipate the probable outcome of his behavior with the horse. If he/she yells or kicks the horse, he/she knows the horse will probably become frightened or run. This aids the participant in predicting the consequences of his/her own behavior and that of others in a given situation.
- Comprehension - Participant develops the ability to use judgment and reasoning in riding and working with the horse. This enhances his/her ability to use judgment and reasoning when interacting with other forces in his/her environment.

Rider Placement Process

Intake Assessment

All riders are assessed prior to placement in Boots to Grasses Therapeutic Riding Program's program. An intake assessment serves to orient the rider and parents and/or caregivers to the facility, the program and the various services offered. This assessment is completed by Boots to Grasses Therapeutic Riding Program staff to determine a rider's functional ability, overall behavior, educational goals, communication needs, and appropriate placement into a program. The fee for an assessment of an incoming private rider is non-refundable.

Eligibility Criteria

Safety and maximizing the therapeutic benefits of equine activities are primary concerns of a successful program. Due to the capacities of volunteer sidewalkers and current program horses, insurance requirements and industry standards, Boots to Grasses Therapeutic Riding Program is limited to accepting riders who:

- 4 years old minimum
- negotiable maximum weight
- ambulate with min assist (ex. can climb 2 stairs)
- Are able to be effectively supported by sidewalkers
- Do not exhibit conditions that are contraindicated
- Committed attendance
- Have current signed and dated paperwork
- Benefit physically, emotionally, socially and/or cognitively from a therapeutic riding
- Complete an intake assessment where it is determined that eligibility criteria are met
- Do not threaten the health or well-being of other participants, horses, volunteers or staff

Acceptance

A potential rider is not a candidate for equine programming if conditions exist that contraindicate equestrian participation as determined by PATH International, or if a rider is unable to adhere to

Boots to Grasses Therapeutic Riding Program policies as set forth in this Student Handbook. Eligibility will be re-evaluated as necessary.

Waiting List and Placement

Upon completion of all required paperwork, payment of assessment fee, and an intake assessment, prospective riders will be added to the primary Waiting List. It is the student's responsibility to notify Boots to Grasses Therapeutic Riding Program of any changes in contact information. Failure to do so may impact notification of lesson openings.

Rules

Attire

For student safety, appropriate footwear for horseback riding is important. This includes a sturdy-soled, ankle-high boot with a heel. The heel should be no greater than one inch. Shoes with bulky rubber soles do not move easily into and out of the stirrup and are therefore unsafe for horseback riding. Footwear for students with special physical needs will be considered on an individual basis.

Appropriate trousers/pants for horseback riding include jeans, heavy cotton trousers, riding breeches or chaps over trousers. Shorts are prohibited. Stretch pants, snow pants, satiny leggings and other loose fitting or stretchy materials are not recommended.

Safety Rules

Boots to Grasses Therapeutic Riding Program strives to provide the safest possible environment for students, volunteers, staff and visitors. Horses, however docile, are capable of reacting in panic to unforeseeable stimuli. Working around, and riding, horses is a risk activity. All riders must wear an ASTM/SEI approved riding helmet with the chin harness secured when riding or working around the horses.

The following rules must be followed at all times:

- No smoking anywhere on the premises.
- No pets allowed on the grounds.
- All minors (including siblings) must be supervised.
- Closed shoes are required in the barn area. No sandals or Crocs™ permitted.
- Riders, parents and visitors must be escorted by a Boots to Grasses Therapeutic Riding Program volunteer or staff member when visiting the working areas of the barn. During lessons, parents and visitors must stay in the observation lobby.
- No running, pushing, yelling or other actions that might frighten a horse.

Code of Conduct

Thoughtful conduct and self-control factor into the safety and enjoyment of all participants. All persons at Boots to Grasses Therapeutic Riding Program will be expected to adhere to the following code of conduct:

- Respect all persons—no abusive language or actions
- Respect all property
- Refrain from loud, abrupt noises, actions or behaviors which may startle horses

Payment

As agreed upon by student and instructor.

General Information

Cancellation Policy

Notification by phone or text 24hours before scheduled lesson.

Makeup Policy

As agreed upon by student and instructor.

Weather Policy

Boots to Grasses Therapeutic Riding Program will offer ground lessons if the weather is extremely hot or extremely cold. In extreme weather, some or all of a lesson may include horsemanship education. We try to maximize riding time when the weather is perfect and save the equally important grounded lessons for when the weather doesn't cooperate. We know that some of our riders thrive on keeping to a set of structured activities and coming to Boots to Grasses Therapeutic Riding Program but not riding may be difficult for them. If you are concerned about this possibility, please talk with your instructor to make a plan. Make-up lessons are not to be scheduled in lieu of ground lessons.

Confidentiality

Rider medical histories, diagnoses and related information are used by the Instructor to develop goal-oriented lesson plans. General information, as it relates to the success of the riding experience, is shared with volunteers on a need-to-know basis. Specific information relating to riders' diagnosis or personal situations is *absolutely confidential*.

I have read and understand Boots to Grasses Therapeutic Riding Program's Therapeutic Riding Program Rider Handbook and agree to abide by same.

Signature

Date

Print Name

Date

Cell phone number