**Hidden Creek Stables**

**RIDING LESSON CONTRACT**

 **Riding lesson packages are due on the 25th for the upcoming month. If payment is not received before the start of each month, the rider will be dropped from the reserved lesson times. No refunds on lesson.**

I understand that it is my responsibility prior to entering the lesson area to inform the riding instructor of any new medical, physical or emotional problems which may impact my safety or ability to perform correctly during my scheduled riding lesson.

I understand that lesson times are planned and that I need to be on time. If I am late more than 15 minutes from my scheduled time, my mount will be reassigned, unless I have made prior arrangements. I further understand that even if I am late the time for ending the lesson will remain as scheduled. The only condition for extending my lesson time is if the riding instructor is not present at the scheduled lesson beginning time.

I understand that proper attire must be worn for riding lessons which is to be helmet, pants, shirt, boots with at least a half inch heel. NO shorts, sweatpants or tennis shoes.

Rider’s information files will be held in confidentiality and only shared when necessary to assure the safety of a rider in the lesson or during an official incident review.

**“WARNING” Under Virginia Law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting exclusively from the inherent risks of equine activities.**

I am aware of the inherent risks of horseback riding. I further understand that I must be careful and follow the Barn Rules while on the property of Hidden Creek Stables and particularly while horses are being handled. Pine Haven cannot and does not assume any liability for accidents, injury, or death to person or persons. I further have reviewed and understand the content of Virginia Liability Law which is posted in the lesson barn. Likewise I accept full responsibility for friends and visitors accompanying myself on Hidden Creek Stables property.

**Lesson Policy Standard:**

A lesson is approximately 60 minutes for group and 45 minutes for private in length and is to consist of grooming, mounting, tack adjustments, exercises while mounted, untacking and cool down of horse. The riding instructor additionally has the responsibility of safety for riders, volunteers, and horses at all times, so therefore, the instructor has the right to deviate from the above lesson outline when safety is a concern.

**Example:** the lesson could consist of barn management-classroom activities, grooming, tacking up, types of tack, tack cleaning, etc.

**Cancellation** Policy:

Hidden Creek Stables requires a 24 hour advanced notice of lesson cancelation. Lesson that are cancelled with less than 24 hours’ notice or are missed with no notification will be forfeited. For lessons that are cancelled in advance, students will be allowed one makeup lesson per month. The makeup lesson must be scheduled in advance with the instructor.

If a Hidden Creek Stables instructor has to cancel lessons, an alternative instructor will be asked to cover lessons. In the event that the lesson cannot be covered at the set time, a makeup lesson will be offered at the earliest possible time.

**Show Team:**

In order to be eligible to participate in shows, students must be in weekly lessons. The Show Team participates in monthly shows from April thru November. The Show Team members must also participate in 4H activities. When needed the Show Team will have extra practice lessons at a reduced rate.

**Inclement Weather Statement:**

Hidden Creek Stables reserves the right to cancel lessons in the event of inclement weather. Examples of inclement weather may be below freezing temperatures, heavy rain storms, snow/ice, and dangerous high heat temperatures. All lessons cancelled because of inclement weather will be offered a makeup time at the earliest possible convenience. Horsemanship lessons will be given on the days weather does not allow for riding, unless we deem that travel to our facility could be hazardous. If more than 2 lessons in a month are replaced with horsemanship classes because of inclement weather, a rescheduled riding time will be offered for any further weather related cancelations in that month

**General Conduct Policy for Parents, Riders, and Guests at Hidden Creek:**

Parent waiting area is located by end of the arena.

If a lesson is in progress or dismounting stay in car.

All riders are to wait by car until instructor comes to escort them.

***The only people who are to be in the arena are the instructors and riders that are getting ready to ride in current******lesson.***

If you need to talk to the riding instructors about medical or physical problems which may have a safety implication for the current lesson, please do so before the mounting phase of the lesson gets started.

**During lesson**

While a riding lesson is in progress all parents, family members, and guests must sit quietly at end of arena.

NO loud noises (clapping, door slamming on cars, loud talking/ laughing, calling to riders, etc.)

NO smoking, umbrellas, dogs or flash camera.

NO ball playing, tag games, or fast type movement games allowed before, during or after lesson scheduled times.

**General Barn Rules:**

No driving in barn area, all parking, drop offs and pick ups are from parking area unless directed otherwise.

All gates and stall doors to be kept closed.

No feeding horses without permission.

No entry into any horse areas or feed/hay storage areas without permission.

No climbing, sitting, or standing on stall doors, fences, or gates (this includes ring).

Smoking is prohibited AT ALL TIMES

You are responsible for your friends and visitors conduct and safety while on the property.

No running around horses or riding areas.

Always respect others when speaking or socializing.

I, the undersigned, have read and understand the above contract. I further understand that if any of the Hidden Creek policies or rules are not followed Hidden Creek has the right to cancel this contract in full without any refund of moneys remaining for this session.

Attorney Fees

In any litigation, arbitration, or other proceeding by which one party either seeks to

enforce its rights under this Agreement (whether in contract, tort, or both) or seeks a declaration of any rights or obligations under this Agreement, the prevailing party shall be awarded its reasonable attorney fees, and costs and expenses incurred.

ACCEPTED BY:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Riders Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Parent or Guardian\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_