

Apex Riding Academy LLC

Guidelines



Beginner riders start the learning process in private lessons which are 45 minutes long which includes saddling time and basic horsemanship skills. As our riders learn and advance, they will move into Level Two of our program. From there, those wishing to advance to Academy Shows or Class A shows may set up an informational meeting with ARA's head trainer to discuss Level Three options.

Apex Riding Academy (ARA) requires approved appropriate riding attire. That attire includes riding jodhpurs, paddock boots, helmet and riding gloves (optional). ARA offers an informational pamphlet with pictures and examples of approved attire. ARA has riding pants, riding gloves and ARA apparel for sale always, so please ask your instructor for more information.

An initial lesson will be included with your package before you are required to purchase approved riding attire. For that first lesson, students must have long pants and riding boots with a one-inch heel and ARA will have helmets available- no tennis shoes, shorts, or unapproved footwear is allowed. Please do not bring personal or purchased brushes, saddle pads, or any other grooming equipment as it is a liability issue for ARA horses. If a student desires to purchase their own saddle, please ask for guidance and guidelines from your ARA Instructor.

What you can expect:

- All lessons are 45 minutes. Students may arrive or be dropped off for their lesson five minutes prior to their scheduled riding time.
- Lessons are given by appointment only and must be scheduled in advance with your instructor.
- A two-hour cancellation notice is required. If the cancellation is less than the two hours before your scheduled time, a full lesson will be deducted from your package.
- Any unused lessons in a package may be rolled over but must be used within three months of the purchase date of lesson package.
- Unused lessons at the end of a cancellation period will not be honored.
- Apex Students are required to sign a liability release.
- Apex Students are also strongly encouraged to sign a model release; this release gives ARA the right to use pictures of our students on and around our horses for advertising and social media avenues.

ARA Leveling Guidelines

At Apex, we want our riders to excel to the best of their abilities. Our academy offers a variety of riding levels as follows.

Level One- Beginner:

When you start with ARA, you will be instructed by our expert beginner instructor Kari Brooks. Kari has over 20 years of experience providing youth and adult riders with basic riding skills and horsemanship. Kari provides our riders with a strong foundation that gives riders the skills they utilize their entire riding career. This level teaches our riders how to tack and care for the horse as well as learning to walk, trot, and canter comfortably, correctly and safely. As a member of the Level One group, you are encouraged to compete at our Silver Stirrup Shows held on site.

Our **Silver Stirrup Tournaments** are held on the farm and are geared toward our beginner and intermediate students. This learning experience is great for all types of riders. It helps teach students confidence, awareness, team building, courage and so much more. Participation in Silver Stirrup Learner Shows provides an experience for the rider and horse in an environment that is different from regular lessons and very fun. These shows act as an initial stepping stone in the event you decide to continue competing.

Level Two- Intermediate to Advanced:

Once riders have a solid foundation and Kari has decided it is time for the student to advance, the student then moves into the next level of our academy. Working with our Level Two instructor, you will take the basic horsemanship skills you have learned and apply them to the next chapter of your riding career. This will include pattern work, balanced riding, Silver Stirrup Learner Shows and Academy Shows. At this level you also have the option to lease a horse.

- **Academy Show:** Academy Shows are off property and are bigger than Silver Stirrup Shows, however, they still offer classes for all ages and skill categories. The Academy shows are designed as an introduction for the new rider and their family without the commitment of owning a show horse.

- **Horse Leasing:** Leasing a horse is a great option for those students that are thinking of the possibility of owning their own horse or students wanting first option of the lesson horse they are working with for Academy or Class A shows. Additional details regarding our horse lease program is available from Julie.

Level Three - Advanced:

Once you have experienced the opportunities Level Two offers, we encourage you to explore more exciting adventures within the horse world. These adventures include but not limited to larger academy shows, horse leasing, horse ownership, Class A shows, and the option of expanding to the regional or national competitions as your skill level develops. We have pamphlets available with additional detail regarding horse leasing and ownership options.

- **Class A Shows:** This category of show is for those looking to start a career in the horse competition world.

- **Regional Shows:** This category of show is for those riders who have competed successfully at the Class A level and have qualified to compete at a Regional show.

- **National Shows:** This category of show is for those riders who have competed successfully at the Regional level and have qualified to compete at the National show.

As questions arise, don't hesitate to speak with any member of our staff. We also encourage you to speak with Kari, Kasey or Julie regarding opportunities to expand your experience at Apex Riding Academy.