



# WELCOME

## Welcome to Windwalker Farms!

We're so blessed and excited to share our passion and knowledge of horses with you! Our mission at Windwalker Farms is to use the horses God has blessed us with to serve and bless others!

Our lesson program isn't about teaching competitive equitation, we're here to teach people how to achieve their personal best!

Horses are excellent teachers, they provide people with plenty of opportunities to regulate their emotions and learn about themselves. A horse is very often going to be stubborn, confused, have anxiety, or become irritated. Being able to coach students through helping the horse overcome these tendencies is the primary focus of our lessons. When a horse is struggling you have to be able to confidently step in and help the horse overcome their challenges by becoming the calm voice of reason. We strive to teach our students how to become good leaders for their horse by being as gentle as possible but firm as necessary, while also being fair and providing clear communication. These life lessons from the horse will go on to benefit the students throughout their lives in a wide variety of areas.



# DIRECTIONS + PARKING

## Our Address:

Windwalker Farms  
9204 Valley View Dr.  
Fenton MI 48430

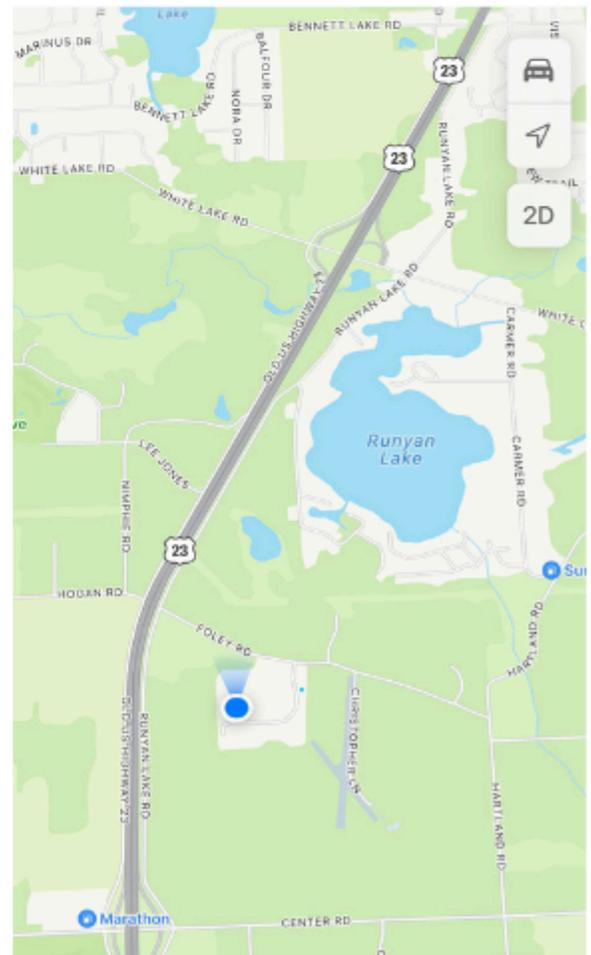
## Contact Information:

(810)922-9055  
windwalkeroffice@gmail.com



## Parking:

Once you drive under the Windwalker Farms archway, keep going up the driveway past all the tan apartment buildings. You will come to a white sign on your right pointing you down to the main barn. Park wherever you would like and walk into the main center barn doors.





# WHAT TO BRING

## What Do We Need To Bring To Lessons:

- We require riders to wear long pants, long leggings, or full seat riding pants. No shorts are allowed.
- Riding Boots. We prefer riding boots but a boot alternative (fashion boots, rain boots, muck boots, or winter boots) or old tennis shoes will work to get you started. No crocs, flats, sandals, or open toed shoes.
- Thin garden gloves or riding gloves are recommended but not required.
- Helmet (we provide helmets if you wish to use one of ours). For students under 18 helmets are mandatory. Helmets are optional but never discouraged for students over 18.
- You can pay at the end of your first lesson.

## Winter Riding:

- Winter: Please bring warm layers (snow pants, gloves, coat) and dress for the weather. We recommend wearing fleece lined leggings under pants or snow pants. Our indoor arenas are heated & insulated (around 45-50 degrees).

## Trail Riding:

- Students must be wearing close toed shoes and long pants or they will not be permitted to trail ride.
- We strongly discourage students from riding in crop tops, jeans with big holes, tank tops, hoop/long earrings, belly button rings, long necklaces, or anything that could get caught on the saddle or a tree branch.
- We strongly encourage students riding on the trails to wear gardening gloves or riding gloves.
- If the student is sensitive to bugs, bug spray is recommended.
- Jacket or Hoodie in the Spring/Fall as it will be colder in the shaded woods.



# PAYMENT + BOOKING

## **Scheduling:**

You can call or text Windwalker Farms at (810)922-9055 or email us at [windwalkeroffice@gmail.com](mailto:windwalkeroffice@gmail.com)

We offer lessons by appointment M-TH 10am-8pm & Saturdays 11am-5pm.

We're closed every Friday & Sunday.

**New Students:** We book 1-2 weeks out and will only hold an empty slot for 2 weeks. Contact us (text is easiest) with your general availability 1-2 weeks prior to when you are looking to get started and we can send over current availability for you to choose from.

## **Single, Occasional, Bi-Weekly, Or Monthly Lessons:**

Single Hour Lesson: \$70

Single Mini Rider Lesson (Ages 3-5): \$50 (*half hour lesson*)

## **Weekly Lesson Packages:**

4 Week Lesson Pack: \$220 | Price breaks down to \$55 per lesson

10 Week Lesson Pack: \$500 | Price breaks down to \$50 per lesson

Mini Rider 4 Week Lesson Pack: \$150 | \$37.50 lesson (1/2 hr lesson for ages 3-5)

Mini Rider 10 Week Lesson Pack: \$375 | \$37.50 lesson (1/2 hr lesson for ages 3-5)

**\*Weekly Lesson Packs are only available to students enrolled in a standing weekly lesson slot and must be paid in full upon starting the lesson package. The time slot is yours for as long as you'd like to continue with lessons.\***

## **Payment Methods:**

**Cash, Check, Venmo** (send via: with goods and service toggle off "grey" or include fee), **PayPal** (send via: friends and family or include fee) or **Credit Card** (additional 3% fee applies for using a credit card). Venmo is under number: (810)922-9055 | PayPal is under [windwalkeroffice@gmail.com](mailto:windwalkeroffice@gmail.com)

Tristan Scarberry | Windwalker Farms is the name that is on our Paypal & Venmo accounts.



# LESSON POLICIES

## **Single, Occasional, Bi-Weekly, & Monthly Lesson Cancellation Policy:**

Lessons require pre-payment at time of booking and have a firm one week cancellation/reschedule policy. Cancellations with less than a week notice will receive a pre-recorded virtual lesson instead!

## **Weekly Lesson Package Expiration:**

- A **4-Week Lesson Package** is valid for 4 consecutive weeks (same day/time weekly).
- A **10-Week Lesson Package** is valid for 10 consecutive weeks (same day/time weekly).

## **Rescheduling:**

We understand that scheduling conflicts happen. Each package is allowed **one rescheduled lesson** (for vacations, school events, work trips, etc.).

- **A firm one week's notice is required to use the reschedule option** this allows us time to offer your unused time slot to an occasional rider or another student rescheduling a lesson.
- The make-up lesson must be scheduled within your active 4 or 10 week package and will be added as a second lesson during an already scheduled week. The package expiration date will NOT be extended.

## **Illness, Emergencies, Bad Roads, or Last-Minute Cancellations:**

With three instructors living on-site, we do not close for snow-covered roads. However, if you or your child must miss a lesson due to illness, poor road conditions, or an unexpected conflict, we will provide a **virtual lesson** instead!

- Older students and adults will receive a private link (Youtube) to one of our prerecorded horse training seminars.
- Mini Riders (ages 3-5) will receive a private link (Youtube) to one of our prerecorded age-appropriate horse knowledge videos created by one of our instructors.

## **Holiday Closures:**

If the barn closes for a major holiday, your lesson package expiration will automatically be extended by one week.

## **Why These Policies Matter:**

It allows us to budget responsibly, support our instructors (who are paid regardless of attendance), carefully manage our horses schedules, and continue building a strong, thriving program—while keeping lessons as affordable as possible.



# LESSON CURRICULUM

## **Our Lesson Curriculum:**

We have our own curriculum that we use for lessons. Every student progresses through the levels at their own pace. Every skill must be obtained before advancing to the next level.

- Mini Rider: Building Confidence (Ages 3-5) *Half Hour Lessons*
- Adult Fast Track (Combination of Level Intro & Zero)
  
- Intro: Laying The Foundation
- Level Zero: Begin Building
- Level 1: Prep For Trails
- Level 2: Introduction To Trails & Obstacles
- Level 3: Trails & Obstacles
- Level 4: Learning The Buttons
- Level 5: Putting It All Together
- Level 6: Finesse

## **Trails:**

We begin introducing a few trail lessons into the mix at the end of Level 1.

Levels 2-6 have both a trail & indoor arena component, we'll bounce back-and-forth between trails and arena depending on the season/weather.

## **Trails During Hunting Season:**

Firearm Season: (November 15th - January 1st) Trails will be closed.

Trails are open during daylight hours January 2nd - November 14th

## **Speed:**

We begin teaching students speed (gaiting) at Level 3 and (cantering) at Level 4.

We introduce some gaiting on a lead line towards the end of Level 2.





# LESSON CURRICULUM

The reasoning behind the levels is for the instructors to be able to evaluate the student and progress them accordingly. We lightly touch on the levels with our students but we want our students focused on living in the moment, achieving their personal best, and we also don't want to create a competitive atmosphere. Our goal is to cultivate a supportive community among our students who share a passion for horses. Our student's progress is meticulously tracked after each lesson for instructors to knowledgeably, safely, and efficiently teach and progress our students. Parents, you are welcome to ask your child's instructor about their progress through our curriculum.

Horsemanship is a life skill that will take 100+ hours to become proficient at and 10,000+ hours to become an expert at and even then the learning will never stop.

If you bought yourself or your child a guitar and signed up for guitar lessons you wouldn't be going on tour in 6 months. Each of our lesson levels contains 31 lesson plans. Once a student becomes fluid in those plans and passes the level evaluation, they can move on to the next level. We can coach our students into Level 2 through teaching them the mechanics of riding. Level 2-6 will require the student to gain and start tuning and honing in on their own timing, feel, and style.

Each horse is unique and has a different skill & nugget of insight they have to offer. Most of the time the horse the student likes the least amount has the most to offer them!

We kindly ask that in kid lessons, parents allow us to teach and don't try and coach their child. At times we may take a step back and allow your child to work something out between themselves and their horse and we ask that you please refrain from coaching your child and allow your student this time to learn and grow.

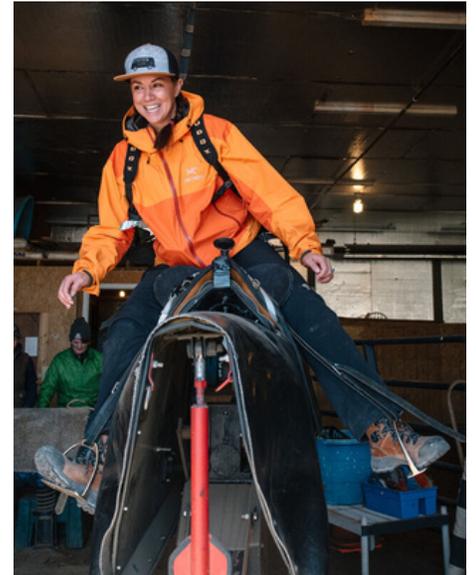




# RIDE SIMULATOR

We know the simulator can be a little scary at first but it is the most effective and safest way to teach foundational riding skills. The ride simulator is a key part of our lesson program and will be a tool we use at the beginning of every lesson.

The ride simulator allows us to teach you or your child what to do when they experience turbulence on a horse. It allows the rider to work through their natural instinct of locking up, shutting down, or completely panicking, and allows them to gain the skills needed to calmly think through difficult situations while, also growing the students confidence!



What if my child (or myself) is too scared to ride the simulator?

Our instructors all remember their first time on the simulator and know how nervous students can be their first few times! We're all very patient and willing to meet students where they're at and help them achieve their personal best each session!

If the student can't get past being overwhelmed by the simulator getting on a living breathing horse greatly increases their risk of potential injury and it's a risk we're not willing to take when we have a tool in place to help them be safe and successful. Sometimes younger kiddos just aren't ready and we can try again down the line as they get older. If younger students are willing to get on the blue balance barrel we will allow them to ride but on a lead line as they continue to work towards the simulator. We will not allow students off of a line until they can confidently do the lowest level on the simulator.



# SEMINARS: UNDERSTANDING HORSE BEHAVIOR

We **STRONGLY** encourage our students to attend training seminars (or watch on YouTube) as much as possible to expand their knowledge on horse psychology. The education gained from these seminars will lay the foundation needed for advancing into Levels 2+ in our lesson curriculum. There is no charge for seminars and students families and friends are welcome to attend as well. Seminars will really drive home the lessons students are learning and go into depth on the whys behind what we do.

The first step in learning the language of the horse is being able to both read and understand the horse's behavior. Until you have a firm grasp on those 2 things you can't expect yourself to be able to convey the language because you don't know the language.

Join us as we explain their language to you as we build a horse's trust and confidence in our leadership, and learn how you can do the same.

Training Seminars are held most Saturdays from 10am-11am. Please visit our website (under tab: Understanding Horses) for the current schedule and any cancellations.





# SPEED LESSONS

## GAITING + CANTERING

**When will my child or myself begin to learn how to run (trot, gait, canter) their horse?**

We teach our students gaiting and cantering in the safest way possible, which often times doesn't line up with how "normal" barns teach. We start introducing short speed lessons at Level 3. You can go to a dozen other barns today that will get yourself or child started with speed right of the bat, but when speed is introduced to prematurely it greatly increases their risk of falling off or shaking their confidence.

Horses are bigger than you, faster than you, and stronger than you! When riders begin to add speed, their reaction time and tools needed to stay safe greatly increases. The rider could have a split second to react and needs to know what to do with very little coaching because in those moments it will come down to muscle memory.

We want our students to have a firm understanding of the tools needed to be successful and most importantly to remain as safe as possible. Once that level of understanding is achieved adding speed just comes naturally and at a much smaller risk!

**What skills are needed for my child (myself) to be able to begin learning to go faster (trot, gait, canter)?**

- Effectively riding their horse at a walk without coaching. If the student isn't effective at riding their horse at a walk without coaching they won't safely be able to ride effectively when speed is adding.
- Effectively following through on task without reminders or coaching.
- Effectively providing their horse leadership and "driving" their horse instead of sitting back as a passenger and reacting to the horse.
- Be able to ride the simulator confidently at high levels (Level 7+).
- Be able to maintain a quiet walk on all the hills in the trails.
- Handy at riding on the obstacle course.
- Actively attending Understanding Horse Behavior Seminars (or watching on YouTube).



# BARN SAFETY

**Safety is our #1 priority!**

**Please read through the safety standards below and go over them with your child.**

**Please do not hand feed our horses.**

We don't want our horses to develop any bad habits and begin to associate hands with food. All food and treats must be placed in designated buckets or trays.

**NO dogs permitted.**

Our Aussiedoodles (Lucy & Sammie) are very affectionate and enjoy being around kids & people. They can also be very protective of the farm and may not do well with other dogs.

**Only pet and approach horses you are familiar with & have permission to touch.**

Some horses are still in training and learning how to mind their manners around humans.

We kindly ask that you don't approach any horses that are on the training poles (located to the west of the parking lot) or hitching post (located in the back of the barn) these horses are undergoing training.

The horses located in the silver metal training paddocks (in the front west of the parking lot) are in for training and for their training and your safety we ask that you **DO NOT TOUCH** them. Some of these horses may have dangerous behaviors and could bite or kick.

**Please don't climb on the gates or fencing in the petting farm area or in arenas.**

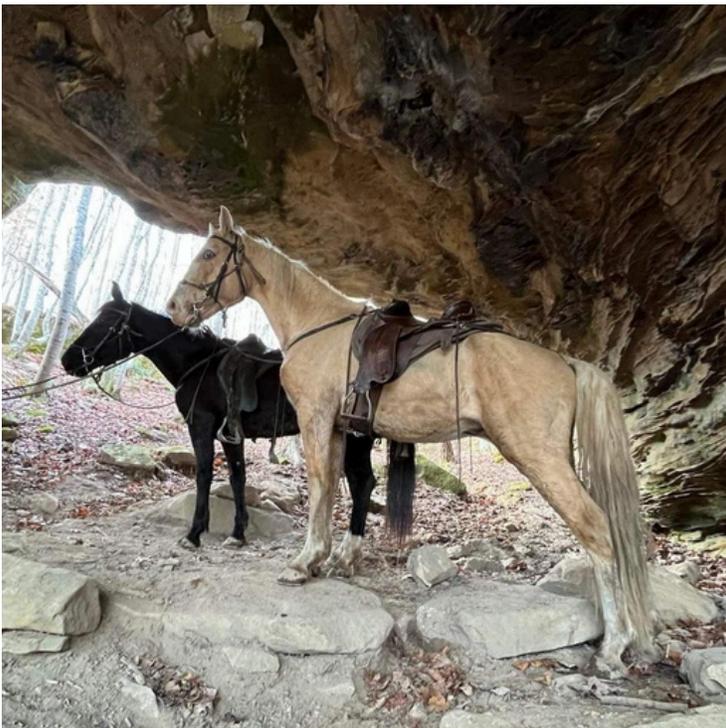
**Treat all animals you encounter at the farm with kindness and careful hands.**



# WHAT DISCIPLINE?

## Is Windwalker Farms an English or Western Riding Facility?

Windwalker training isn't a discipline (English or Western) it's more of a philosophy. We go deep into understanding the horse's mind. We teach horsemanship through education and adventure! The equipment we use is the best we can find from all disciplines plus some that we have custom-made. We chose to ride in Australian saddles, over a lifetime of trail riding and starting colts we find they offer the most comfort and security available.





# PETTING FARM

Welcome To Our Petting Farm!



**Windwalker students are invited to come early before their lesson or stay after to enjoy our petting farm animals! Siblings can pass the lesson time petting and interacting with our goats, mini horse, cow, chickens, and bunnies!**

Please follow the following guidelines:

- Only feed the animals food or treats that have been approved by a Windwalker team member.
- Please park strollers outside.
- Please don't open the gates to the shed.
- Please don't climb on gates or fencing.
- Please don't climb or lay on the backs of any of our petting farm animals, including, cow, goats, or mini horse.
- Our goats love head massages and back scratches, so feel free to pamper them!