

Windwalker Academy Training Program



*We develop horsemanship through
education and adventure!*

We're striving to create a team of trainers & instructors that have higher expectations of horses by developing better understanding of the horses mind and how they communicate.

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Introduction to Windwalker Academy

What does Windwalker Academy consist of:

- Introduction to natural horsemanship.
- Groundwork seminars.
- Trail riding & groundwork lessons.
- Introduction to teaching lessons.
- Day to day life with us on the farm.
- Help with the daily operation of the farm which includes feeding and chores.

To gain the understanding required to be successful with a horse will require a lot of work and commitment from the rider. Because of all the hard work required in caring for the horse in-turn this will raise the rider's level of expectations of horse behavior because they know how much work they put into the horse care.

If you just step out of your car to a prepared horse, while your riding or working with said horse, what may be viewed to you as minor misbehavior such as grabbing a bite of grass or not standing still and walking out of a bend won't seem like the disrespect it truly is because you don't have any skin in the game for preparing and caring for that horse. Minor misbehavior left unchecked will begin to unravel all the hard work put into preparing that horse. When you put in the hard work required to make a good horse the level of your expectations on how the horse

should behave is much higher. Our Windwalker Academy program is here to provide you with higher expectations through better understanding of what goes into a successful partnership with a horse.

Next Step

Please take time to thoroughly read through this guide. If under 18 please read over it with your parents. Complete the checklist below.

Checklist:

- Fill out the schedule on page 6-7 for the current season.
- Signatures needed on page 22.
- Complete and return waiver on page 23-24.
- Return this binder. We will keep it at the barn for goal setting and training purposes.

You're Schedule

We're closed on Fridays and Sundays. The earliest you can come in is 8:45am and the latest you can stay is 8pm.

Spring schedule is due by February 1st.

Summer schedule is due by May 1st.

Fall schedule is due by August 1st.

Winter schedule is due November 1st.

Spring 2022

March:

April:

May:

Summer 2022

June:

July:

August:

Fall 2022

September:

October:

November:

Winter 2022

December:

January:

February:

Spring 2023

March:

April:

May:

What to Bring

We have a locker room where Academy students can keep their belongings .

- Tote to put in a locker to store your belongings in.
- At least 2 pairs of work/garden gloves.
- Winter: At least 2 pairs of winter gloves.
- Extra change of clothes including socks.
- Refillable water bottle.
- Extra snacks. We have a fridge and microwave.
- Muck / rain boots for chores.
- Boots to ride in.
- Lunch if you will be here the majority of the day.
- Coat / Jacket that's season appropriate.
- Summer: Sunscreen & Bugspray
- Helmet if under 18 or we have helmets available to borrow.

We also recommend getting:

- Rain coat
- Rain pants
- Insulated Overalls or Coveralls for winter.

Assistant Instructor Guide

Below is a list of some of the skills you will be trained on regarding lessons.

- Greet each student and take a moment to get to know them.
- Instructors will catch and bridle all horses until you achieve the level needed in your horsemanship to do so.
- Helping lesson students tack their horses.
- Have the kids not on the simulator practice on the barrel, set their feet and coach them.
- Help kids get their harness on.
- Set stirrups on the simulator.
- Learn to run the simulator and tie the lesson student up correctly.
- Help lesson students get on their horses and set their feet.
- Learn how to take notes and update each student's google sheet.

- Help instructors set up lesson patterns.
- Make sure lesson students are pushing in their feet, have quiet hands and are following through.
- Clean up pee/poop in the arena during and after the lesson.
- Take notes for personal reference.
- Ask instructors questions during lessons regarding that lesson.
- Help with chores if not needed in a lesson. Refer to instructors and chore list.
- Clean up lesson material at the end of each lesson.
- Learn the details of the programs that we offer. (All the info is listed on our website).

Lessons Shadowing In:

Below is a schedule you will fill out with an instructor on what lessons you will be shadowing and training in.

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday: Closed

Saturday:

Sunday: Closed

Farm Chores

Below is a list of some of the chores you will be trained on and be responsible for doing.

Lesson Barn

- Fill grain bin
- Fill supplement bins
- Leaf blow out barn
- Organize feed room
- Clean out back of food truck
- Clean inside of food truck
- Clean stalls
- Take out all garbage
- Sweeping cobwebs
- Sweep around the bull
- Dust rails and gate panels
- Clean out brush bin
- Rake arenas
- Clean up lesson supplies
- Organize & clean helmets
- Update waiver clipboards and binders
- Sweep and dust observation deck
- Tidy up observation deck
- Clean office
- Clean locker room
- Small animal care

Training Barn

- Fill grain bin in
- Leaf blow out barn
- Clean stalls
- Tidy up the barn
- Fill stall horses waters

Property

- Water flowers
- Pull weeds in flower beds and rock wall
- Trash walk of property
- Muck paddocks
- Muck around hitching post and poles
- Rake up hay where hay is fed out
- Rake up hay in the driveway and behind the barn

Horse Care

- AM + PM Feeding
- Lunch Feeding
- Check field #1 stream
- Check / fill water troughs and buckets
- Walk paddocks for trash and rocks
- Walk and repair fences
- Clean water buckets and troughs
- Clean up poop in driveway and around property
- Stack hay in side lofts when needed

Horsemanship Level

An instructor will help you evaluate your current horsemanship level and track your progress.

Spring 2022

Lesson level:

Skills to improve:

Skills accomplished:

Simulator:

Current Horse's:

Summer 2022

Lesson level:

Skills to improve:

Skills accomplished:

Simulator:

Current Horse's:

Fall 2022

Lesson level:

Skills to improve:

Skills accomplished:

Simulator:

Current Horse's:

Winter 2022

Lesson level:

Skills to improve:

Skills accomplished:

Simulator:

Current Horse's:

Spring 2023

Riding level:

Skills to improve:

Skills accomplished:

Simulator:

Current Horse's:

Seasonal Goals

An instructor will help you pick seasonal goals. We love working as a team to help each other set and achieve goals. Each season pick a few goals and list out an action plan on how you're going to set out to achieve the goals you set in place.

Spring 2022 Goals:

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-
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-

Summer 2022 Goals:

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Fall 2022 Goals:

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-

Winter 2022 Goals:

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-

Spring 2023 Goals:

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-
-
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Loving Our Students

Each month every Windwalker team member picks a student they would like to pour into. This may look like: writing them a letter, taking extra time to get to know them, or going out of your way to find a way to help them.

We want our students first and foremost to be heard, seen, and loved. Teaching horsemanship comes second.

- May:
- June:
- July:
- August:

- September:
- October:
- November:
- December:

- January:
- February:
- March:
- April:

- May:
- June:
- July:
- August:

Groundwork Seminars

We expect Windwalker Academy students to attend a minimum of 1 seminar per month. Seminars are where you will start to learn horse philosophy and connect the dots. After each seminar jot down a few key points below. Seminars are held most Saturdays 10am-11am. We keep the seminar schedule updated on the website.

Date:

Key Points:

Date:

Key Points:

Date:

Key Points:

Date:

Key Points:

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Date:
Key Points:

Expectations

Below is a list of our expectations for Windwalker Academy students.

- Attend at least 1 seminar per month.
- Many hands make light work. If you find yourself with nothing to do check the chore sheet or ask an instructor for a task. Sitting around is frowned upon.
- We expect to have a clean and welcoming farm/barn. Please pick up and put away all personal belongings before leaving the farm.
- Dress appropriate for the weather.
- Pack a lunch/snacks. Farm work is hard work and requires you to properly fuel and hydrate your body.
- Always have loving, respectful responses to students and other team members. If there is ever an issue come talk to me. If the issue is with a student let them know respectfully that they can bring all questions and concerns to my attention (810)922-9055 also notify me on the situation.
- In lessons, don't be on the phone or socializing. We want to focus on the students and the lesson taking place.
- We correct our horses by disengaging their hip or getting bigger energy not by verbally yelling or scolding the horse.
- We expect you to show up when you say you will be here. If you're not going to make it please notify me asap so we can get proper coverage. Large amounts of cancellations may result in termination from the program.
- Windwalker Academy is not offered to anybody currently taking lessons, camps, or programs at other facilities and students may not do so well attending this program.

Expectations Continued

- At any point in the program you realize this isn't for you (it's a lot of work and not everyone's cup of tea) please let me know right away. If there are any problems please bring them to my attention asap.
- We hire lessons instructors/trainers out of the pool of students attending Windwalker Academy that have; achieved a high level of horsemanship, have a heart for kids and people, has a loving, kind, and friendly personality, has a great work ethic, self driven, and is committed to learning and teaching this program.

By signing below I have read the expectations listed above and understand what is expected of me in the Windwalker Academy Training Program. I understand that failure to adhere to the expectations listed above could lead to termination.

Windwalker Academy Students Name (Printed):

Signature:

Parents Name (Printed) (if under 18):

Parents Signature (if under 18):

Windwalker Farms Release of Liability Form
WAIVER, AGREEMENT AND LIABILITY RELEASE
Please carefully read each paragraph before signing.

I, (NAME) _____

am fully aware and fully understand that all horses are unpredictable and dangerous. I realize that placing my children, or, myself in a stable environment is creating a hazardous situation.

I understand that riding horses or ponies is a dangerous sport. I am aware that riders must expect to be injured from time to time. I understand that death of people from equestrian accidents is possible.

I understand that trail riding horses or ponies on trails, on and around obstacles is a particularly dangerous activity and that serious injury or death of riders or horses is possible.

I realize that professional instructions cannot prevent serious injury or death from working around, handling, or riding horses, ponies, and ride simulator.

I am aware that serious injury or death of my mount is possible when it is handled, trained, or in a lesson.

I release Windwalker Farms, it's owners, trainers, employees, volunteers, and associates from all liability for damage to my property, injuries or death of my children, my animals, or myself.

Windwalker Farms, it's owners, employees, volunteers and associates, have my permission to initiate emergency first aid treatment for my children, my animals, and myself in case of an accident and/or emergency. They also have my permission to authorize emergency medical treatment by a qualified medical professional for my children or myself, and veterinary treatment by a qualified veterinary personnel for my animals.

I understand that I am fully responsible for any guest that I may have on the property. I understand that I am fully responsible for fully informing the guest of all risks related to the handling or riding of horses, ponies, and ride simulator. I understand that I am fully responsible for informing guests about horses temperament, training, habits, and for determining that the guest is sufficiently experienced to handle and ride the horse.

WARNING: Under the Michigan Equine Activity Liability Act, an equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in an equine activity resulting from an inherent risk of the equine activity.

It is mutually understood and agreed that the waiver, agreement and liability release in this document is a waiver of liability beyond the provisions of the Michigan Equine Activity Liability Act, 1994 P.A. 351. By signing this waiver, agreement, and liability release, I agree not to bring any claim or suit against the released parties under any exception in that law. In particular, I agree not to bring a claim or suit for: (1) Faulty tack or equipment; (2) Failure to make reasonable and prudent efforts to determine an equine activity participant's ability to safely manage an equine; (3) A dangerous latent condition of any part of the land; and/or (4) any act or omission that may constitute ordinary negligence by stable or by those affiliated with stable.

Indemnification: To the fullest extent permitted by law, I also agree to indemnify and hold harmless The Released Parties against all claims, demands, or lawsuits that are brought against the Released Parties by any third person(s) or brought against any of the Released Parties by my minor child/children and which are in any way connected with my/our participation in any of the activities at any time and at any location, including claims that allege acts or omissions of The Released Parties that are negligent or in violation of an Equine Activity Liability Act. This indemnification shall also include reimbursement of Stable's reasonable attorney fees.

ASTM/SEI Headgear: Stable has advised me that, for my own protection, I should purchase and wear properly fitted secured ASTM-standard/SEI-certified protective equestrian headgear that is designed for use when riding or near equines. I am not relying on Stable to provide a helmet for me, to check my helmet or helmet strap I may wear, or to monitor my compliance at any time. HELMETS ARE MANDATORY FOR PARTICIPANTS UNDER 18.

I grant Windwalker Farms [Party Receiving Permission] my permission to use the photographs and videos taken at lessons and events at Windwalker Farms for any legal use, including but not limited to: publicity, copyright purposes, illustration, advertising, and web content. Furthermore, I understand that no royalty, fee or other compensation shall become payable to me by reason of such use.

Lesson Package Experations: Our 4 Pack Lesson Punch Cards expire after 6 months of purchase and our 10 Pack Lesson Punch Cards expire after 1 year of purchase.

CANCELLATION POLICY: We require a 24 hour notice to cancel or reschedule a lesson. Less than then 24 hr notice and the lesson must be paid in full or a punch taken off your punch card before rescheduling.

Name:

Child's Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Emergency Contact Name:

Emergency Contact Number:

How Did You Hear About Us:

By signing below I agree that I have (1) Fully read and understand the Waiver, Agreement and Liability Release; (2) I intend for this Waiver, Agreement and Liability Release to be valid and binding today and at all times in the future; (3) I am of sound mind and am not suffering from shock or under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or intoxicants; and (4) I am voluntarily signing the Waiver, Agreement and Liability Release.

Signature:

Date:

Notes

Notes