



ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Hero Horse Therapeutic Center's programs are based on an individual's ability to participate safely, provided the necessary resources are available including: an appropriate horse, volunteers and class availability which meet the individual's needs. Hero Horse follows the Precautions and Contraindications as recommended by the Medical Committee of PATH Intl. as well as Professional Standards. Our professional staff will provide initial and ongoing evaluations for all prospective and active participants.

Hero Horse Therapeutic Center reserves the right to decide we are unable to serve an applicant due to unavailable resource(s) and/or safety concerns including PATH Intl. guidelines relating to contraindications for participation.

Minimum Age: Therapeutic Riding: 5 years old

There is no maximum age limit.

Weight Maximums: Hero Horse implements weight limits for our mounted program that are based on the advice of our veterinarians and our professional judgment about what is safe for each instructor/horse/rider combination. Each horse has an assigned maximum weight limit, and in addition to weight, a rider's other characteristics (such as skill level, muscle tone, balance, or behavior) are considered when making horse/rider matches. Weight limits help to ensure that our riders, volunteers, and instructors are safe during mounts, dismounts, and emergency procedures. Additionally, these limits help our horses stay fit and healthy and able to perform their jobs. Participants may be weighed at the time of assessment, or periodically for reassessment, in order to be sure we are making safe and appropriate horse/rider matches. If a participant is over the weight limit for the horses available, we may recommend alternative equine activities that provide safer, more effective ways of experiencing the therapeutic value of the horses.

New Rider Assessments: All riders new to Hero Horse must have an assessment before being scheduled in a lesson spot. Once your application has been processed and an appropriate spot on the schedule has been identified, you will be called to schedule an assessment.

Scheduling: Clients currently riding at Hero Horse will be given priority when scheduling. Others will be scheduled as appropriate spots become available. If we are unable to schedule your rider, he/she will be put on a waiting list. When a suitable spot becomes open, you will be contacted.

Absences: It is very important to make sure that riders attend their assigned riding times, not only to maintain the rider's progress but also to ensure we can serve as many riders as we are able and that volunteers are not wasting their valuable time and needlessly tacking horses.

We understand that illnesses, doctor's appointments, work, traffic or other situations arise, but ask that you contact Hero Horse at 318-575-0024 as soon as you are aware that a rider is going to miss or be late for a lesson.

- For group classes there are no make-ups or refunds for non-weather related absences. For private lessons missed, make-ups may be scheduled depending on volunteer, horse and instructor availability
- Arrival time: Riders need to arrive 10 minutes prior to the lessons scheduled starting time. Repeated lateness will result in consideration for being dropped from the program. For the safety of all, riders arriving after the lesson has begun (all other riders are mounted and the arena gates are closed) will not be allowed to ride.
- 24-hour notification: If a rider cannot attend a scheduled lesson, please notify ManeGait 24 hours in advance if at all possible.
- No shows: Riders having three no-show/no-notification occurrences within a session (6 week) period will be notified that they are being dropped from the program. Repeated cancellations with notification: Riders who continually cancel attendance will be considered for dismissal from the program. Extenuating rider circumstances will be considered in the decision.
- Extended Absences: Hero Horse requires advance notification of absences longer than two weeks. Depending on a rider's circumstances, Hero Horse may reserve a rider's spot during the absence, temporarily fill it with a new rider or permanently fill the spot and place the rider on the waitlist.

Attire and Equipment: Appropriate clothes for riding are long pants and hard soled boots with a low heel. Dress for comfort and according to the weather. Undergarments that provide adequate support and comfort are necessary. Wear close-fitting clothing for safety as well as comfort. Loose or baggy clothing can get caught and tangled in equipment. No dangling jewelry is permitted. All riders are required to wear an ASTM/SEI approved Equestrian Helmet. Hero Horse will provide a new helmet for a fee of \$30 or you can choose to purchase your own helmet separately. Riders may also bring their own English stirrups and stirrup leathers providing the stirrups are safety stirrups and in good condition. Having your own stirrups helps save time in the adjustment of stirrups.

Volunteers: Hero Horse instructors are assisted by an incredible team of volunteers. They groom and tack the horses, assist with mounting and dismounting and, when needed, help the riders during class. Many volunteers help in other aspects of the organization, from facility maintenance, to office work, to fund-raising. Please make an effort to show your appreciation to our volunteers who are the lifeblood of Hero Horse. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please have them contact the Hero Horse Volunteer Coordinator at 318-575-0024. Volunteer registration forms are available on our website at www.herohorse.org. All potential volunteers must attend a one day volunteer training.

Fee Schedule and Policies: There are five sessions (blocks of lessons) per year from January – June and August – December. Each session is six weeks long.

Therapeutic Riding- Group lessons:	\$270.00 (per 6 week session) or \$1,350.00 (Annually)
Therapeutic Riding- Private Lessons:	\$330.00 (per 6 week session) or \$1,650.00 (Annually)

If riders are added to the schedule after the session has begun, the fee will be pro-rated. Payment balances must be received in full prior to your rider's first lesson.

Financial Assistance: It is Hero Horse's philosophy to accept riders in the program regardless of financial means. Financial assistance up to 50% of the session fee is available for those who feel they cannot pay the full fee. Please download a Financial Assistance Application Form or call the Hero Horse office at 318-575-0024 and request one.