

Welcome New Student!

What To Expect In Your Lesson:

- I. **Arrival-** Please arrive to your scheduled lesson on time. Pull into the driveway and park on the grass to your left. At your first lesson you will be asked to sign a release waiver. We will also go over the rules.
- II. **Catching Your Horse-** Check the student white board or ask the instructor which horse you are assigned to today. You will be responsible for taking care of the horse you are riding from beginning to end (with help of course). You will first need to catch your horse in the pasture or their stall. You will learn how to put the halter on & lead them to the tack up area.
- III. **Grooming & Tacking Up-** Over the course of your lessons you will learn to tie, brush, hoof pick, saddle & bridle your horse. Check the tack charts (posted on the inside of the tack room door) to help guide you as to which equipment to use with which horse.
- IV. **Getting Ready To Mount-** Once your horse is tacked up you can grab a helmet & lead your horse over to the arena. Before mounting there will be a brief tack check. You should be in the habit of checking your cinch every time you go to mount. Depending on the lesson plan for that day you may do some ground work exercises before getting on. Once you are ready, you will mount from the mounting block with assistance from the instructor. Your stirrup length will be adjusted as needed.
- V. **Riding-** In your first lesson you will learn to ask your horse to walk, turn & stop. We will also begin to work on the basic riding position. As you progress in your lessons you will learn to have a greater level of control of your horse, to trot, canter, post, jump, & many other exciting things!

It is important for the health of the horses that at the beginning & end of every riding session they have several minutes of walking to warm up & cool down their muscles.

- VI. **Finishing Up with Your Horse-** When the riding portion of your lesson is over you will be asked to dismount with the help of the instructor. We will take the horses back to the tack up area & untack them (remove equipment). They will then get brushed down again or, if it is hot, hosed off. They can be rewarded for a job well done with a carrot or apple and put back into their pasture or stall.
- VII. **Cleaning Up-** When you have finished taking care of your horse you are not quite done! Check around the tack up area to make sure that all equipment has been put away properly. Then, grab a rake to check the arena, tack up area & walkways for any piles left.

What To Wear

DO -Wear long pants (jeans, leggings or breeches) & close toed shoes with a small heel.

-Dress appropriately for the time of year. Wind breakers, raincoats, jackets, personal fans, cooling towels, gloves, hats, etc. can all be good additions depending on the weather.

-Long hair should be pulled back in a low braid or ponytail.

-Consider buying your own helmet. We do have helmets available for use when you start out. However, if you plan to stick with riding, we strongly recommend that you purchase your own helmet (that fits you well) & proper riding boots. There are many brands of riding helmets available, what is most important is to make sure that it is ASTM/SEI certified.

DON'T -Wear dangling jewelry (it can catch on things creating a potentially dangerous situation).

-Have hair in a high bun or ponytail that will interfere with helmet fit.

-Wear sandals or inappropriate footwear.

-Wear jeans with blingy decoration on the back that will scratch the saddle.

Also Bring: Make sure you have plenty of water with you! Snacks and/or an electrolyte drink can also be a good addition.

Scheduling: We do all our booking through the Vagaro calendar on our website. Available times are adjusted with the season. Scheduling on the Vagaro calendar are on a first come, first serve basis. You can book up to 30 days in advance. If you would like to keep a regular weekly time slot, then you can request to have your lesson put on auto-repeat for 8 weeks.

Cancellation Policy: We adhere to a standard 24-hour cancellation policy. Any lessons that are not cancelled before the 24-hour mark will be charged in full. The only exception to this rule is for sudden & extreme inclement weather.

Visitor Policy: Family & friends are welcome to come out to watch your lesson. We ask that everyone coming to the ranch wear close toed shoes & follow all posted rules. Anyone wanting to come into contact with the animals will need to sign a release waiver.

Lightning Policy: No one will be allowed on a horse when lightning has been spotted. Anyone who is riding must immediately dismount. Lessons who have not yet begun may reschedule without any cancellation fees. Lessons that have already begun will be charged in full and will shift to either a groundwork or a “barn aisle” knowledge lesson.

Payment: At Valkyrie Ranch we accept cash, check & credit/debit card.

Additional Cautions: The ranch is an exciting place full of all different kinds of farm animals! While we love to give guests the opportunity to learn about & interact with the other farm animals, we do ask that you use caution. Do not enter any animals pen without permission! “Hot wire” (electric fence) is in use on some parts of the property! Always keep children (especially the little ones) under your direct supervision!

Volunteering: Some students have a desire to get more hands-on experience in caring for the horses. If you are interested in volunteering around the barn, please speak to your instructor & ask if you can stay 30 minutes after your lesson (or come 30 minutes early) to help feed & clean stalls.

Where to Buy Supplies: When you are ready to buy your own helmet, boots, & anything else you may need, you have several good shopping options available.

Local- Tractor Supply, The Horse Barn (Stafford), Mad Tack (Madison), Champion Saddlery (Doswell), Double L Tack Shop (Fredricksburg).

Online- statelinetack.com, horse.com, doversaddlery.com, smartpakequine.com

Stay Connected: To stay up to date on everything going on at Valkyrie Ranch please be sure to sign up for our e-newsletter & follow us on social media. We are on Facebook, Youtube & Instagram.

www.ValkyrieRanchllc.com

Facebook.com/valkyrieranchllc

Phone: 951-566-7217

Instagram- valkyrieranchllc

Email: valkyrieranchllc@gmail.com

BARN RULES

Please...

- All guests must sign a waiver
 - Throw away ALL trash
- Clean up horse poop in arena & tack up area
 - Make sure all tack/equipment is put away
- If you don't know where something belongs, just ask
 - No running in/around the barn & tack up area
- Do not write/draw/erase on the white boards/calendar
- If it was shut then shut it. If it was open leave it open
 - Do not enter animal pens without permission
 - No smoking!
- Pole barn is strictly off limits

Thank you for helping to keep the ranch clean & running smoothly!