



Student Application Information Packet

RIDE FOR JOY THERAPEUTIC RIDING PROGRAM

Thank you for your interest in Ride for Joy! Please read carefully through the information provided in this packet before completing the application forms.

Please note that if your child has participated in Ride for Joy within the last 12 months, you may use the new RETURNING STUDENT application form.

ABOUT RIDE FOR JOY

Ride for Joy is an exclusively pediatric program, with the mission of bringing the joy of horses to Treasure Valley children with special needs. Our vision is to become the Treasure Valley's premier center of excellence for equine assisted activities for children with special needs and to embrace and celebrate our students, families, staff, volunteers, donors and the community as our partners in achieving this vision.

Ride for Joy is a member center of the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA). All instructors are either certified by NARHA or in the process of becoming certified by NARHA while working under the supervision of a certified instructor.

LOCATION

Ride for Joy currently conducts lessons at Pierce Park Stables in Boise, on Pierce Park between Hill Road and Cartwright. Pierce Park Stables is a horse boarding facility and Ride for Joy does not have administrative offices on site, so participants should not enter Pierce Park Stables' property unless you have a confirmed appointment with Ride for Joy.

WHO MAY PARTICIPATE

Ride for Joy applicants must meet the following minimum criteria:

- Age between 4 and 19 for new students (returning students accepted through age 21)
- Under our weight limit of 175 pounds
- Physically able to sit with torso vertical and legs astride the horse
- Physically able to maintain head and neck position without assistance

All applicants are evaluated before being admitted to the program to ensure that riding lessons can be safely provided and benefit the child.

STUDENT ADMISSION AND SCHEDULING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Our goal is to provide high quality therapeutic riding services to children with special needs and to do so as efficiently as possible. Although we understand that unforeseen circumstances and scheduling conflicts will arise from time to time, it takes considerable administrative resources for our staff to finalize, confirm and bill for each session's lessons. Therefore, we have implemented the following policies and procedures with regard to admission, scheduling, and tuition refunds:

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APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

All admission and student scheduling decisions are made at the sole discretion of the Ride for Joy staff. For both new and returning students, all required application forms must be fully complete and received by Ride for Joy before admission to the program will be considered. Ride for Joy student applications are only accepted by mail (faxed forms not accepted) and they are date stamped and processed in the order in which they are received. All Ride for Joy student applications must be renewed annually for returning students.

Following receipt of an application, the application is screened to determine if there are any physical or mental contraindications that would make equine assisted activities inappropriate for the student. If there do not appear to be any contraindications for therapeutic riding and there is room for new students on the current schedule an evaluation will be scheduled. An evaluation is also required for returning students who have not participated in Ride for Joy for more than 12 months, and may be required for other returning students, at the sole discretion of the Ride for Joy staff.

Factors considered in Ride for Joy's admission decisions include, but are not limited to:

- whether, given the student's needs and abilities, Ride for Joy staff is able to provide a safe experience for the student, staff, volunteers and horses;
- whether, given the student's needs and abilities, the student is eligible for equine-assisted activities; and
- whether appropriate staff, horses, equipment, volunteers, and facilities are available to Ride for Joy to meet the needs of the student during the equine-assisted activities the student is eligible for.

SCHEDULING OF LESSONS AND WAITING LIST

If a lesson time offered on the schedule is not accepted, it will be offered to the next available student on our waiting list that is an appropriate match for that lesson, as determined by Ride for Joy staff in its sole discretion. Our staff will make every effort to find an alternative time on the schedule for the student declining the original lesson time, but if an appropriate lesson day/time is not available on the current schedule the student will be placed on the waiting list according to the priority levels below:

First Priority Waiting List	Students participating in the current or most recent session receive first priority in scheduling for the subsequent session, provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• there is an appropriate lesson time open and available on the schedule for that student; and• all current (within last 12 months) application forms (including the physician form) have been completed and received by Ride for Joy before the current session's schedule is finalized.
Second Priority Waiting List	Students who participated in a session within the last 12 months but not in the most recent session receive second priority in scheduling, provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• there is an appropriate lesson open and available on the schedule for that student; and• all current (within last 12 months) application forms (including the physician form) have been completed and received by Ride for Joy before the current session's schedule is finalized.

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Third Priority Waiting List	<p>New applicants for whom current (within last 12 months) application forms (including physician's form) have been completed and received by Ride for Joy will be scheduled for an evaluation if there are openings on the current schedule not filled by first and second level priority waiting list students.</p> <p>If, upon evaluation, the Ride for Joy staff deem that the student will be accepted to the program, the student will be scheduled for the next available session in which there is an open and appropriate lesson available on the schedule for that student, which may or may not be the current session being scheduled.</p>
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Students who have not participated in Ride for Joy in over 12 months will be considered as new applicants.

Ride for Joy reserves the right to make exceptions to the Scheduling Policy based on circumstances existing at the time not contemplated by the Policy as set forth herein.

MAKE-UP CLASSES AND REFUNDS

Because our schedule is very full and considerable resources are required to make our services available (facility, horses, staff, volunteers, etc.), Ride for Joy charges by the session (not by the lesson) and does not offer make-up lessons or refunds for lessons that a rider is unable to attend. Ride for Joy only offers make-up classes or refunds for lessons that are cancelled by Ride for Joy.

All session fees must be paid prior to the first day of a session, or the student will not be able to participate.

If a student cancels for the entire session before classes have begun, the full tuition less a \$25 administrative fee will be refunded.

If a student cancels during the first week of a session, the full tuition less a \$50 administrative fee will be refunded.

No refunds will be given after the first full week of a session.

Ride for Joy offers tuition assistance and payment plans if needed. Arrangements must be made with the Executive Director prior to the first week of a session.

Ride for Joy reserves the right to make exceptions to the Make-Up Classes and Refunds Policy based on circumstances existing at the time not contemplated by the Policy as set forth herein.

STUDENT ABSENCE NOTIFICATION

We ask that notification of any absence be given as soon as possible, preferably 24 hours or more before the scheduled lesson time, so we can be respectful of the many volunteers who generously give their time each week and let them know in advance if they will not be needed for a class.

If three lessons are missed with no notification to Ride for Joy in advance of the absence, the student will be canceled for the rest of the session and moved to third priority waiting list for all subsequent sessions.

Ride for Joy reserves the right to make exceptions to the Student Absence Notification Policy based on circumstances existing at the time not contemplated by the Policy as set forth herein.

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RIDE FOR JOY THERAPEUTIC RIDING PROGRAM RULES FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. All required forms must be fully completed, signed, and submitted before an applicant will be considered for the Ride for Joy program.
2. A rider's parent or other designated adult caregiver must remain in the Ride for Joy area at all times while the student is on Ride for Joy property.
3. Ride for Joy is located on the premises of a working horse farm. Only staff and volunteers are allowed beyond designated Ride for Joy visitor areas. All guests accompanying a student must remain in the waiting area located near the Ride for Joy arena. Participants and guests may not approach or touch horses anywhere on the premises.
4. All children must be supervised at all times while at Ride for Joy.
5. A parent or guardian accompanying the student must remain in the immediate area at all times while the student is participating in Ride for Joy.
6. If a Ride for Joy staff member deems that anyone on the premises who accompanied a student is creating an unsafe environment for the students, horses, volunteers and/or staff, they will be asked to leave the property and the Ride for Joy student they accompanied will forfeit all or part of his/her ride time.
7. All participants and visitors must walk at all times on the premises and not bring items that may be distracting such as balloons or noise-making toys.
8. Students should be punctual for classes so everyone can ride for his or her allotted time. Students arriving more than 10 minutes late may not be able to ride.
9. Students must be dressed appropriately for horse related activities or they will not be permitted to ride. This should include, but is not limited to:
 - Comfortable, closed-toe and closed-heel shoes and socks
 - Long pants
 - Weather appropriate attire (jacket, gloves, etc.)
10. All students must wear an ASTM-SEI certified riding helmet to participate, which Ride for Joy provides. If you have your own riding helmet, it must be approved by your instructor.
11. Prior to taking any photos or video taping, the parent, instructor, and volunteers must all grant permission. Do not use flash photography.
12. Personal pets are not allowed on Ride for Joy premises, including in a car in the parking lot.
13. Ride for Joy is a tobacco, drug and alcohol free environment. Smoking is strictly prohibited in all areas on the premises. Anyone showing signs of intoxication or substance impairments will be asked to leave the premises immediately. Second offenses will result in being permanently banned from all Ride for Joy programs and events.
14. Ride for Joy strives to provide a safe, supportive, and compassionate environment. Hostile or threatening behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, physical or verbal abuse, gossip, insults, ridicule, harassment or discrimination of any kind.
15. In the event of an incident or emergency, stay calm and listen for instructions from the riding instructor in charge. Given the unpredictable nature of horses, it is best if you remain in your position unless it is necessary to move out of harm's way.

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RIDE FOR JOY THERAPEUTIC RIDING PROGRAM POLICY FOR DISCHARGE OF PARTICIPANTS

Ride for Joy reserves the right to discharge participants for a number of reasons, including, but not limited to:

1. Development of a contraindicated condition or the deterioration of an existing condition to the point that therapeutic riding is no longer beneficial and/or could be harmful to the participant.
2. Development of any behavior or condition that causes safety concerns for the rider, horse, staff and/or volunteers.
3. Weight gain resulting in weight that is above the limit of 175 pounds.
4. Consistent and frequent missed lessons without notifying Ride for Joy in advance.
5. Some behavioral incidents (physical or verbal abuse, fire-starting behavior, alcohol or drug use on the premises) may result in automatic dismissal.

The designated Ride for Joy staff member will discuss the grounds for dismissal with the rider's parent or guardian in private. A written reason for the dismissal will be placed in the participant's Ride for Joy file. Parents or guardians who wish to appeal the dismissal may contact the Executive Director, who will review the dismissal in collaboration with the Board of Directors. The decision issued by the Executive Director and Board of Directors is final.

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IDAHO EQUINE ACTIVITIES IMMUNITY ACT

TITLE 6 CHAPTER 18 EQUINE ACTIVITIES IMMUNITY ACT

6-1802. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY ON EQUINE ACTIVITIES.

(1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, an equine activity sponsor or an equine professional shall not be liable for any injury to or the death of a participant or equine engaged in an equine activity and, except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, no participant nor participant's representative may maintain an action against or recover from an equine activity sponsor or an equine professional for an injury to or the death of a participant or equine engaged in an equine activity.

(2) The provisions of this chapter do not apply to the horse or mule racing industry as regulated in chapter 25, title 54, Idaho Code.

(3) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section shall prevent or limit the liability of an equine activity sponsor or an equine professional:

- (a) If the equine activity sponsor or the equine professional:
 - (i) Provided the equipment or tack and the equipment or tack caused the injury; or
 - (ii) Provided the equine and failed to make reasonable and prudent efforts to determine the ability of the participant to engage safely in the equine activity, determine the ability of the equine to behave safely with the participant, and to determine the ability of the participant to safely manage the particular equine;
 - (iii) Owns, leases, rents or otherwise is in lawful possession and control of the land or facilities upon which the participant or equine sustained injuries because of a dangerous latent condition which was known to or should have been known to the equine activity sponsor or the equine professional and for which warning signs have not been conspicuously posted;
 - (iv) Commits an act or omission that constitutes willful or wanton disregard for the safety of the participant or equine and that act or omission caused the injury;
 - (v) Intentionally injures the participant or equine;
- (b) Under liability provisions as set forth in the products liability laws; or
- (c) Under the liability provisions set forth in chapter 9, title 6, Idaho Code.