

HORSES *for* HOPE

Seasonal Therapeutic Riding Program with a Financially-Free Option

Horses for Hope (HfH) continually looks to evolve our programs and offerings in the hopes of delivering the highest quality program we can to each and every participant. We highly value our riders, their families and all the volunteers that make our programs possible. As part of our continual efforts to improve ourselves and our program, we must make certain changes to our existing programs to support the growth and enhancements we know are necessary and desired by all.

HfH strives to maintain a low cost Seasonal Therapeutic Riding Program with a Financially-Free option. This is not to mean that this is the only therapeutic program that is offered. We offer a year-round Therapeutic Riding Program (YTR) for a monthly fee. **Effective July 1, 2019**, the Seasonal Therapeutic Riding Program (STR) requirements of participation are defined as follows:

Program Structure

The HfH operating year is divided into two semesters, and the TR Program will consist of ten (10) riding weeks during each semester, weather permitting. Semester 1 will be the period from Jan 1 - June 30, and Semester 2 is the time period from Jul 1 - Dec 31. (Because our facility is predominantly an outdoor facility we cannot support all weather operations. This means we need to avoid the hottest and coldest months of the year, and periodically account for dynamic weather conditions.)

To participate in the Seasonal Therapeutic Riding Program with a Financially-Free Option, there are two required elements:

1. The family is required to provide a qualified in-ring side-walker or horse-leader for each program session. If for some reason an in-ring participant is unable to be provided, this situation will be managed by the program coordinator and governed by the program policies. Please note that the in-ring horse-leader or side-walker does not have to work with their family's rider directly, but must assist on all agreed-upon riding days and times through the semester. (*In-ring responsibilities do not count towards the 10 hour volunteer requirement*)
2. Families are required to provide 10 hours of volunteer time for each participant, in lieu of volunteer time families can pay the full semester fee of \$300 or apply for assistance through our scholarship program when available to cover all or part of this (See Rider Scholarship Program section).

Volunteer opportunities include but not limited to:

Grant Writing, Photography, Media / Publication / Graphic Design, Marketing, Fundraising, Horse Care (Groomers, Scoopers), Program Participants (Side-Walkers, Horse-Leaders), Handymen / Tradespeople (Carpenters, Electricians), Event Staff, Office and Bookkeeping, Other Volunteer Work

Multiple participant consideration: Each semester, an in-ring assistant is necessary as well as two (2) additional volunteer hours for each additional participant. Any scholarship will be applied to the entire family obligation.

- Examples:
 - Family A has one rider in the program. The family has a per-semester obligation of one in-ring assistant and ten (10) volunteer hours. Those hours can be satisfied in any way defined above.
 - Family B has two riders in the program. The family has a per-semester obligation of two in-ring assistants and twelve (12) volunteer hours. Those hours can be satisfied in any way defined above.

Seasonal Therapeutic Riding Program Eligibility

In an effort to maintain a fair program, all riders must remain eligible in accordance with the stated rules of participation. Stipulations for maintaining a family's eligibility are:

- The participant must have a medical diagnosis as determined by the Participant Medical History and Physicians Statement completed by the participant's attending physician.
- All new participants must complete a rider evaluation at least 30 days prior to the start of the session. The rider evaluation will determine the level of support needed (see levels below).

Level 1 - needs 2 side-walkers and 1 horse-leader - will need assistance to stay on the horse, needs assistance with controlling the horse and with activities

Level 2 - needs 1 side-walker and 1 horse-leader - may need light assistance to stay on the horse, needs assistance with controlling the horse and with activities

Level 3 - needs 1 horse-leader - may need guidance in controlling the horse

Level 4 - independent rider

Due to limited availability of spots, Level 1 or Level 2 participants may only be in the STR program for 4 consecutive sessions. Level 3 participants may only be in the STR program for 2 consecutive sessions. At the end of their term they may enroll in the YTR program or request to go back on the waiting list. Level 4 riders are not eligible for the STR program.

- The non-refundable semester registration fee must be paid before the first scheduled ride date.
- All volunteer hours must be completed during the six months of the semester the rider is participating.
- At the beginning of each semester, the participant's family will need to identify whether they would like to pay for services or volunteer the 10 required hours.
- All volunteer hours must be recorded and approved each time you volunteer.
- All fees must be paid
- Exception to obligations for medical reason, extenuating circumstances, etc. will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

If a family does not meet their entire volunteer obligation in a given semester, they are expected to pay the full semester fee upon receipt of the invoice. Horses for Hope reserves the right to give that participant's place in the program to someone else.

If a participant is unable to participate due to medical reason, we will hold their spot for one semester. If out for any longer than one semester we cannot guarantee immediate reinstatement of interrupted services.

Rider Scholarship Program

We appreciate that there are many burdens and challenges each of us might face at any given time. To assist our riding families, Horses for Hope has a Therapeutic Rider Scholarship (TRS) program. Participants interested in leveraging this program must submit a **Financial Assistance Application** once per semester for consideration of receipt of a scholarship. Each application is reviewed and evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

- TRS awards are for one semester, and are subject to the rider maintaining eligibility.
- A TRS award may not be applied to the one in-ring assistant requirement. It may only be applied to the \$300 semester fee.
- TRS will be awarded by available funds for the semester.
- TRS awards have no monetary value outside of Horses for Hope. Participants cannot transfer their scholarship to another program or therapeutic service.
- TRS awards cannot be applied to any other HfH program offered.
- Participants cannot redirect how, or to whom a scholarship award is applied or ask for scholarship payout in the event of leaving the organization or program for any reason.

Seasonal Therapeutic Riding Program Obligation Form

I hereby acknowledge that my eligibility to participate in the program is dependent on the following obligations:

1. In-ring Assistant Obligation:

- My family will provide one (1) side-walker or horse-leader for each week that my rider will be participating in the program. This person can be a family member, friend, co-worker, church member, CAP worker, or anyone you recruit to serve in this capacity, however, they must be at least 15 years old and be approved for the position in which they will be serving once they complete HfH's orientation and training.
- My family is unable to provide an in-ring assistant because *(this option may disqualify your rider from this program)*:
-
-

2. 10 Hours Volunteer Obligation:

- My family will provide the obligated hours of volunteerism to the benefit of the organization. This does not include the required in-ring assistant obligation. In the event that my family cannot perform the obligated hours of service to the organization, we will pay the \$300 semester fee.

Please indicate how you intend to satisfy your commitment to the program below:

We expect to provide _____ hours at one or more of the following work days:

- Weekend barn work days
 Benefit Trail Ride
 Fall Hay Day
 Other _____

We expect to provide _____ hours of support and services for:

- Grant writing
 IT system development or support
 Marketing
 Fund raising
 Other _____

- My family cannot perform the obligated 10 hours of service to the organization, **we will pay the \$300 semester fee.**
- My family cannot perform the obligated 10 hours of service to the organization nor are we able to pay all or a portion of the \$300 semester fee for this reason:
-
-

We have included the **Rider Scholarship Form**. We further understand that we are not guaranteed to be a recipient of scholarship funds.

Rider Name: _____

Signature _____

Print name _____

Date: _____