

General Information for Overnight Guests

Tall Oaks Conference Center maintains a small herd of horses that may be used by members of our guest groups when arranged for in advance by their group leader. Those groups might be here for an overnight event or a day program. The horses are also available to members of organized youth groups who are working toward achieving their horsemanship badges. There is a separate lesson and fee structure for those contracted events. This document contains more specific information about the horseback riding activities that are offered for most of our overnight guests at Tall Oaks.

Please share the following information with your participants and keep these things in mind when scheduling time for your group and signing up riders for sessions.

- Reservations are space-available basis at least thirty days in advance of your arrival at Tall Oaks
- All riders are required to wear ASTM-SEI helmets approved for horseback riding (provided)
- All riders must complete our acknowledgement of risk form, and the parent or legal guardian of all riders who are under 18 years of age must also sign this form.

Lead line/meadow trail for youth 5-11 years old

- Sponsor provides at least four adults who are comfortable leading a horse on a short trail walk
- Can accommodate up to 15 riders using a rotation format during the one-hour session

Trail rides for guests 12 years and older

- Trail rides are led by one of our staff
- Six horses available to our guests during each ride time
- Two of those horses are capable of carrying riders 225 – 240 lbs
- There will be a pre-ride interview with safety talk, helmet fitting, horse assignments
- Trail sessions include short practice in the arena, then trail ride, which will run from 30 to 45 minutes
- Riders must be physically capable of dismounting/remounting without assistance in case of an emergency out on the trails
- Trail riders required to wear ankle length slacks or jeans to protect their legs
- Boots or shoes with a notched heel, a smooth sole, and that fasten securely to the foot are required. Hiking boots with lug soles, athletic shoes, slip-ons and sandals are not appropriate. We have a fair supply of boots (sizes 1-13) that may be borrowed. This is all included in the rider fee.

In some instances our trained staff can make accommodations for riders who may have disabilities. There should be conversation between the group representative and the director of equine programs to determine what type of program/activity is most appropriate for any group/participant. Choice of program/activity is based on the age of the riders, the total number of participants expected, the time frame allowed for the program/activity to transpire, and other goals or objectives of the client. Further considerations might be the needs and activities of other groups being served on site at the same time.

If you have any other questions about including horse activities for the participants of your event please contact Barb Deaver at Tall Oaks via e-mail barb@talloaks.org.

We look forward to sharing our horses with you.