

HORSE SHOWS

1- Students interested in competing should be riding once weekly, at minimum. Specific requirements are dependent on age and experience level, and should be discussed with the trainer prior to the start of the show season.

2- Students must ride at least twice in the two weeks preceding a show. Any extenuating circumstances must be discussed with the trainer in advance.

3- Students riding school horses are not guaranteed participation in the shows. We will make every effort to create as many participation opportunities for as many students as possible. Participation may be limited based on horse availability, number of students in a given division, and unexpected events such as weather and horse injury. It is important for students wishing to compete to understand that horse showing can be unpredictable, and flexibility and sportsmanship are important.

4- Students riding school horses are expected to participate in the running of the shows. Volunteer shifts will be available for setup (setting jump course and morning setup) and show day (running ribbons, changing the course, assisting younger students, and breakdown). Parents and siblings are welcome to get involved as well. Duties will be assigned the week prior to each show, based on availability and age-appropriateness. Students 7 and younger are not expected to volunteer.

5- Depending on the time of year and the weather, students are expected to bathe/groom their horse and clean tack on the day prior, or morning of, the show. These responsibilities can be shared among students riding the same horse.

6- Proper attire is required for all students wanting to compete. Please check with your trainer regarding the expected attire for your student.

7- Students who lease or own may have the opportunity to attend off-site competitions. These students are responsible for shipping costs, entry fees, and coaching fees. Students must be available for the duration of the trip, and will be responsible for preparation, packing, loading, and unloading.

Please mark interest, and relevant student info, below. Parents and students should initial to indicate that they understand the expectations of competing. Emails will go out roughly 1 month prior to each show, to allow time for organization and registration. Trainers will be responsible for handling registration for most shows- please **do not** register your student unless directly advised to do so by your trainer.

Interest (check all that apply): Hunter Series Dressage Series Jumper Series

Name: _____ Age and birthdate: _____

Student initials: _____ Parent/guardian initials: _____

CANCELLATION POLICY

- Cancellations for routine events (doctor's appointments, vacations, play rehearsal) must be made a minimum of 24 hours in advance. Earlier notice is appreciated, as it allows us to fill the lesson slot with a make-up lesson. Lessons cancelled less than 24 hours prior to the scheduled start of the lesson will be responsible for the full cost of the lesson. Some exceptions may be made for occasional illness or emergency, at SHF's discretion.
- Repeated cancellations may result in loss of your weekly lesson time, and a shift to week-to-week scheduling subject to availability.
- Winter weather cancellations will follow Fauquier County Public Schools. If FCPS cancels school or afternoon activities, lessons will also be canceled.
- Lessons will run as scheduled in mild weather (light rain, light snow, etc). In the event of heavy rain, lightning, or snow/ice that impacts the footing, lessons will be conducted indoors and will focus on horsemanship topics. These lessons will occur no more than once per month; additional bad weather will result in a normal cancellation.
- No call/no shows are responsible for the full cost of the lesson. More than one no call/no show may result in dismissal from SHF activities.
- Students who are capable of grooming and tacking their horses without assistance should plan to arrive 20 minutes before their lesson, in order to be ready to ride at their assigned lesson time. Students who require assistance should arrive 5 minutes prior, in order to collect a halter and meet their trainer. Late arrivals may result in an abbreviated lesson, or a change to an unmounted lesson for the remainder of the lesson time.

CONDUCT POLICY

- 1.) All students, as well as parents/guardians, understand that horseback riding is a sport in which the horse is an equal or greater participant. Horses are sentient animals who have off days, get scared, and have emotions of their own. All participants must agree to treat our horses with kindness and respect, and strive to be good stewards for our horses' welfare.
- 2.) Abuse or cruelty towards any of our animals is strictly forbidden. Any behavior that is considered abusive or cruel may result in immediate dismissal from SHF activities.
- 3.) SHF strives to be a welcoming, supportive community. Bullying, poor sportsmanship, and unkind behavior will not be tolerated. Giving and accepting constructive assistance is welcome and encouraged.
- 4.) SHF trainers follow the guidelines set forth by the US Center for Safe Sport. Parents/guardians are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these guidelines.
- 5.) Students are expected to treat SHF's facility with respect and pride. Examples include cleaning up after your horse, cleaning and properly putting away any tack, tidying any stall you use, and generally leaving the facility in the same (or better) condition than you found it. Please ask your trainer or the barn manager if you need assistance.
- 6.) Safety is our top priority. Students, parents, and their guests must adhere to our safety rules, including but not limited to using the proper safety apparel, supervising children and dogs, and following any instructions given by SHF trainers or staff. Failure to adhere to guidelines, or continued dangerous behavior, may result in dismissal from SHF activities.

Participant Name: _____ Signature: _____

Guardian Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date Signed : _____