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Welcome to Bridlechase Farm

Our mission is to provide an environment that is welcoming, safe and friendly for equestrians and equines. It's important to use that our students are encouraged and supported through their educational time here on the farm.

This is a quick note to say how excited we are to have you participate in our equine activities. We understand there are many places where you can ride a horse and get educated. We appreciate and thank you that you have chosen our location for riding lessons and activities.

You've made the right decision, and we are always happy to assist you with all of your questions. We look forward to working for you and providing you with a fun place to build lasting memories with horses.

Our Core Values are Safety, Fun, and Education

What sets us apart?

It is our mission to keep riders as safe as possible. It is impossible and impractical to believe a rider will never fall or get hurt when riding a horse or pony. In fact, horseback riding is considered an extreme sport just like rock climbing, scuba diving, or skydiving. Horseback riding takes a combination of skills, such as static and dynamic balance, strength, emotional intelligence, stamina, endurance, and agility. Horseback riding is not just about the rider, it's the development of the horse and rider as a team. There also may be times that the rider won't always have control. A horse has a mind of its own and is a prey animal. Like prey animals, the horse will react with fight or flight instinct. At any moment, and with seemingly no stimuli, a horse could bolt, buck, rear, kick, take off, stop, or swerve suddenly without any notice.

We do the absolute best we can to keep riders as safe as possible. If we ask a rider to do something that makes them feel uncomfortable, we want to know, and we will simply go back a step in training. We do not push riders to do something they aren't comfortable trying. We feel, if the rider is scared, they aren't safe, they aren't having fun, and they aren't learning new things. Therefore, safety is paramount. We never yell at our students (unless there is danger present, we then may yell, "Watch out!") and we certainly never disparage, name-call or act as mini drill sergeants to any of our students. We are not here to add to rider anxiety, we feel that would violate another rule of ours, FUN! We want you to have fun when you are on our farm. Likewise, we do not tolerate "smack talk" or bullying or unnecessary sarcasm. We are here to encourage and maintain a positive environment, while teaching you about enjoying a life with horses. Simply put, Bridlechase cares about you! We want you to be safe, have a great time, and learn new things.

Riding Lessons

We provide both group and private lessons. All beginners must take private lessons, until it is determined they ride well enough to join a group lesson. A student will be permitted to take a group lesson when they can fully control the horse at walk, sitting trot, posting trot, and engage in an emergency one rein stop and emergency dismount.

For the purposes of understanding the riding level of the student, does the rider consider themselves (by the below definitions) a beginner, intermediate or advanced student?

A beginner student may or may not have ever ridden a horse before. This person might have ridden in the past on vacation, or on the trail. This student may know something about tacking up but cannot do so alone. This student may have trotted a horse a couple of times in their life but doesn't really know how to direct or guide the horse well. This student does not know how to post or hold their reins correctly. This student has not learned a one-rein stop.

An intermediate level student is considered someone who can tack up alone, walk, trot, post and is beginning canter work and can ride in a two-point/half seat. This student understands trotting on the diagonal and can change them when needed or directed. This student has an independent seat and rides with elasticity through their arms, wrists, hands, and seat.

An advanced rider is a student who is confident in all gaits (walk, trot, canter, gallop), jumps and has excellent control over the horse. This student understands training principles and can apply them to their horse.

Lesson Fees

Private lessons- \$25.00 per 30 minutes or \$50.00 per hour.

Group lessons - \$20.00 per 30 minutes or \$40.00 per hour per student.

Group lessons are only available for intermediate level riders and above.

All beginner riding lessons are one-on-one with an instructor.

We will invoice you via Quickbooks/Venmo the day of each lesson. You have the option of paying electronically using your smartphone. Bridlechase accepts Zelle, Venmo, CashApp, Cash, and checks. Delays in paying for your lessons will result in a 10% late fee for payments exceeding seven calendar days and lessons will not be rescheduled until previous lessons are paid in full.

***Parents are required to stay with all children, under the age of 18, during lessons**

Lesson Packages

We offer loyalty cards for those who wish to purchase a lesson package. You may purchase a suite of either four (4) or eight (8) lessons. We will then keep a punch card on file for you at the barn. Lesson cards are nonrefundable and nontransferable. Lesson cards may be shared and used within the family if you have more than one student in your family. Lesson cards must be used within three months of purchase or unused lessons are forfeited (exceptions may be given at Bridlechase's discretion in the event of illness or injury, for example).

Lesson Cancellation Policy

Emergencies can happen, we get it. However, last minute cancellations or no-shows, really hurt our lesson planning; therefore, we ask for 24 hours notice for cancellations. You can simply call or text. Emergencies are exempt at the discretion of Bridlechase Farm. No-shows and same day cancellations are not allowed. More than two no-shows or last-minute cancellations within an eight-week period of time will result in losing your slot in our riding program. We do give exceptions to no shows and cancellations if you're paying for the missed lesson, in full, within 5 days of its scheduled time.

Weather– we will cancel lessons in the event of severe thunderstorms. In addition, we do not teach when temperatures are below 25 degrees Fahrenheit or above 90 degrees Fahrenheit. We will notify you of any weather-related issues via text message.

Age Restrictions

Students must be at least 5 years of age to ride at Bridlechase Farm. Students younger than this age will be evaluated and considered on a case-by-case basis. Students must possess dexterity and a level of calmness to ride horses.

Weight Restrictions for our Ponies and Horses

- Any rider over 117 pounds in weight may not ride a pony 12.2 hands or under.
- Any rider over 150 pounds in weight may not ride a pony 13.2 hands or under.
- Any rider over 190 pounds in weight may not ride a pony 14.2 hands or under.
- No riders exceeding 250 pounds may ride any horse at Bridlechase Farm.

Horses and Ponies

You are invited to trailer your horse in for lessons, we love that and welcome visiting horses. We simply ask that you show us your Coggins and Rabies Certificate on an annual basis. If you don't have a horse or pony, you may use one of ours in lessons. We will evaluate your skill set and select the pony or horse we think is right for you. Students or parents are allowed to request specific horses, but there is no promise that you will get the horse you are requesting, selections are made at the sole discretion of Bridlechase Farm. You are, however,

invited to ask us how we make our selections and the reasons behind our decision making for matching specific horses and riders.

We invite you to visit our website and read about our lovely ponies and horses:

www.bridlechase.com

During Your Lesson

Spectators: Spectators MUST wear boots or sneakers. Crocs, flip flops or sandals are prohibited. Riders must wear all proper gear cited below.

Boots: For your lesson, please wear horseback riding boots. Cowboy boots, paddock boots, or tall English riding boots are acceptable. Used boots are available for purchase at Bits N' Spurs Tack Shop in Newberry, Fl. Long-term, it is recommended for rider comfort, that riders invest in tall English riding boots or paddock boots with half chaps.

Pants: Breaches are encouraged and are also available to purchase at Bits N' Spurs Tack Shop in Newberry, Fl. Leggings and yoga tights are allowed. Jeans are NOT allowed for lessons.

Helmets: ASTM/SEI Certified helmets must be worn for all equestrian activities and while mounted at all times. Bicycle helmets DO NOT qualify. It is recommended that only new helmets be purchased by riders. While tack shops may sell used helmets, it is unknown if that helmet was in an equine accident and has been compromised. New helmets may be purchased locally at Bits N' Spurs Tack Shop or online. Some helmets are on-sight for use during lessons, for temporary use only. It is required that riders invest in their own safety equipment within 1 month of starting lessons in our program.

Shirts: Sun shirts, polos, T-shirts are all recommended. NO TANK TOPS ALLOWED.

Gloves: It is recommended people wear riding gloves for all lessons at all times of the year.

Respect

Our goal is to provide a safe, fun, and educational environment. Therefore, we ask everyone, to always be supportive and kind to one another and our horses. Everyone learns at different rates and has different athletic abilities, being supportive is key to inspiring people to advance in their abilities. We need you to be part of that mission.

We have a ZERO tolerance policy for disrespect from anyone. Riders and/or spectators are not allowed to disrespect spectators, instructors, students, or horses. If you are having a bad day, we ask that you reschedule your lesson. If riders snub, talk back to anyone, or engage in bullying activities of any kind, engage in horse or people abuse, or have a bad attitude, the rider will be immediately asked to leave and will be suspended or dismissed from the program.

Photo permission of use

I hereby give Bridlechase Farm, LLC, consent to record, videotape and photograph my image and/or voice to be used in the following ways:

- Facebook page and posts and other social media as appropriate
- Website
- Newsletter
- Printed annual report
- Video/film permission

Promotional materials for example, schooling shows, upcoming events/clinics and the like

I further understand that no special compensation will be provided to me for use of my image and that I may not be informed in advance of the specific use of my image.

Name of Rider (Please Print)

Signature

Date

Parental Signature (under the age of 18)

Date

Rules for Bridlechase Farm, LLC

Bridlechase Farm rules and the Florida State Inherent Risk rules are posted in the very front of the horse barn at the door entrance. The FS Inherent Risk signage includes our visitor responsibilities sign, warning to visitor's sign, and the right to refund sign.

- Protective ASTM/SEI certified helmets, boots with heels and long pants are mandatory when riding at all times, regardless of person's age.
- Be advised: Horses are potentially dangerous and may act in unpredictable ways. Never make loud noises or sudden movements when working with horses. They may spook, bite, kick, or jump suddenly. Horses may not respect your personal space and could step on you or run you over. Horses can cause serious injury, paralysis, or death. Under saddle, horses may act in unpredictable ways and buck, rear, bolt, bite, or kick out, which can also cause serious injury, paralysis, or death.
- Do not allow your horse to "sniff noses" with other horses, as this can lead to injuries. Halters and lead ropes must be used at all times when leading horses. Never tie a horse up by its reins or clip cross ties onto the horse's bridle.
- You may only feed horse treats to your personal horse, unless you have horse owner permission to do otherwise. Treats must be fed in feed bowls or buckets, no hand feeding allowed.
- Never go under a horse's belly; approach horses with caution. When approaching horses to avoid being kicked or stepped on, approach from the side. If you must walk behind a horse, use your voice and let the horse know you are behind him.
- No riding horses into the stables, please dismount facing your horse away from barn doors.
- Release forms must be signed by all riders, instructors, trainers, clinicians, and people handling horses; no one is allowed to ride on premises without farm-owner permission. Release forms must be signed by individuals over the age of 18 or by parent or legal guardians if under the age of 18.
- For those bringing personal horses on the farm for lessons, only the owner of the horse may ride the horse. If the horse owner wishes to have another person ride their horse, please notify the barn managers and have the additional rider fill out a release of liability form.
 - No smoking anywhere on the property. If you want to smoke, cross the street. No alcohol or drugs allowed on the property and no one under the influence is permitted to ride or tend horses.
 - No dogs allowed on property, whatsoever, including inside of cars.
- Please clean up after yourself, the horse you are using, including any defecation inside the riding arena.
- All children must be supervised and not allowed to run, scream, or fool around near horses, children are not allowed to climb on anything including but not limited to gates, fencing, hay bales, trees, etc.
- Please keep your horse tack in good working order and inspect it regularly, no borrowing of other people's property or tack.
- No horses are to be turned out or free lunged in the arena. No horses may be lunged at all if someone is riding and under saddle in the arena. If you need to lunge your horse, use the round pen. If you need a stall, ask.

- Please do not leave your horse unattended in any area including the riding arena.
- Please do not help yourself to hay, grain, treats, or bedding without asking barn management first.

I have carefully read the rules (and explained them to my minor child if applicable), I understand them, and I agree to obey them.

Signed _____ Date _____

Parent, if a minor _____