

Welcome to The Shane Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship

Improving the quality of life for people who have disabilities through innovative therapeutic equestrian activities.

PARTICIPANT POLICIES & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Parking: The parking lot is located next to the indoor riding arena. You will find the “The Shane Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship, Inc. at Willow Farm” main entrance just east of the private residence drive.

Please be on time! Being late is far more difficult than what many people realize. In addition, it greatly distracts the rhythm of the class when participants arrive late.

Attire:

ALL PARTICIPANTS should wear attire appropriate for being at the farm. You will get dirty! Boots with a hard sole and small heel are best, but sturdy tennis shoes are acceptable. Absolutely no sandals are to be worn around the horses! Shorts may be worn in the summer months if they are longer than the fingertips. Dangling jewelry is discouraged and long hair should be pulled up or clipped out of the way. Tops should be modest (no tank tops or spaghetti straps please!) In general, it is usually windy and 5-10 degrees cooler here than in town so please be prepared and in layers during the cooler months. Headbands, gloves, winter coats, and snow pants may be needed during spring, fall and winter sessions. Scarves must be tucked into/under coats. Raincoats/rain pants may also be needed at times, as well as appropriate footwear for the mud. Activities may be modified to the participant’s attire.

ALL PARTICIPANTS, VOLUNTEERS, AND PERSONNEL are required to wear protective headgear currently approved for equestrian use by ASTM-SEI or its international equivalent while mounted. In addition, **ALL PARTICIPANTS** are required to wear ASTM-SEI approved protective equestrian headgear during groundwork conducted with or near the horses (e.g. grooming, tacking, and leading). Approved helmets will be provided for participants to wear if they do not have their own.

Additionally, long pants, socks and shoes are required while mounted. Shorts that fall to the knees are acceptable but not recommended as saddles and straps can rub bare skin causing sores, cuts, or lesions. Participants with shorts less than knee length will not be eligible to ride. Chewing gum is also not permitted while riding.

Before class: Participants who arrive early are to remain under the supervision of their parent/caregiver in the designated waiting area, in your vehicle, unless supervised by The Shane Center staff or authorized person until the instructor signals the beginning of class.

During class: Parents/guardian/designated care giver must remain at Willow Farm for the therapeutic participant(s) or those who are unable to attend to their personal needs (i.e. using the restroom, maintaining hydration, etc). Other children/siblings must be supervised at all times and remain in the designated waiting area, or in your vehicle unless overseen by The Shane Center staff or authorized person.

Missed classes: There will be no refunds for missed classes. Your tuition holds your place in class, whether you choose to use it or not. Make-ups will be offered based on availability (i.e., another rider’s absence & an appropriate group to join), but are not guaranteed. *If we are forced to cancel classes due to inclement weather, your tuition will be credited or refunded.*

Cancellation Policy: If you must miss your regular class, please **call** and let us know as soon as possible. We will cancel classes under the following conditions no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the first class for the day:

- **Heat:** Classes will be cancelled if the heat index is over 100 degrees.
- **Cold:** Classes will be cancelled if the daytime high temperature for Centerburg is going to be below 25 degrees according to the www.weatherchannel.com
- **Severe Weather Advisories, Watches, and Warnings:** will be carefully monitored and cancellations made as necessary to ensure the safety of the participants, volunteers, staff and horses.

Code of Conduct: Due to the specific requirements of volunteers, lesson horses, insurance, and industry standards we reserve the right to deny or limit riding to anyone whose needs we cannot safely meet. The Shane Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship, Inc. reserves the right to refuse or discontinue service to any student if the student or the student’s family member or caregiver exhibits unsafe, unruly, or disrespectful behavior toward the staff, volunteers, horses or environment.

Some safety tips: Please **do not** feed the horses unless you get permission from the instructor. Some of our horses have strict dietary requirements. When petting the horses, refrain from petting them on the muzzle (area around the mouth). Please **do not** let the horses nibble on you or your clothing. Help keep the barn a quiet area, free from running and loud talking. As much as we love all animals, we request that you keep your dogs at home unless you have a service animal.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

1. Horse and volunteer assignments are made at the instructor's discretion. We will do our best to accommodate your preferences.
2. Dress for the weather! Summer gear may include sunglasses, sunscreen and light colored clothing. Winter gear may include snow pants, headbands or earmuffs, mittens, ski gloves, and snow boots as well as wool socks and long underwear. Do dress in layers and remember even though we may be indoors, it is **NOT** heated. Lessons may be modified if extreme weather (heat/cold) affects the safety of the participants, horses, or staff.
3. Participants arriving more than 15 minutes late for a lesson will not be able to participate in the mounted lesson. If you know you are going to be late, please telephone the instructor as soon as possible.
4. Participants must inform The Shane Center in writing, immediately of any changes in health. This includes but is not limited to drastic changes in weight, revised diagnoses, medication changes, surgeries, and injuries. Physician's permission is required to participate in or return to equestrian activities after a surgical procedure or exacerbation/deterioration of a condition, or other significant changes in health.
5. Participants must have The Shane Center's required forms on file prior to taking part in any activities. Selected forms must be updated annually.

2024 Fees

Private lessons are \$85/hour
Semi-Private lessons are \$75/hour
Group lessons are \$65/hour
Half Hour Lessons are \$45/hour

Payment is expected prior to or on the first day of class for the full session (spring, summer, winter, fall). Payment plans can be arranged if needed. A late fee of \$5 will be applied for payments made after the first day of class. Payments can be made through Venmo, PayPal (WillowFarmEAT@gmail.com) or at the farm by credit card, check, or cash.

No students are ever turned away for financial reasons.

Please inquire about funding opportunities that may be available through your county and/or about scholarship opportunities.

Thank you & have a great session!

If you have questions, contact Karen Sanchez, Executive Director, at 740/625-9324