



EQUINE ASSISTED LEARNING INFORMATION MANUAL

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EQUINE ASSISTED LEARNING PROGRAM INFORMATION

Saddle Up!'s Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) program is an experiential learning approach which involves students interacting with horses to build self-confidence, improve social skills, and reinforce academic skills. Using the barn as a dynamic classroom, students also get to participate in arts, crafts, games, and discovery. This program is designed for students Kindergarten through 12th grade with learning and/or social differences.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Saddle Up!'s EAL program partners with the school or group to schedule students to participate in a 2-hour class which includes hands on interaction with the horses. This program focuses on unmounted horsemanship skills, but mounted horsemanship components can be requested for an additional fee. The participants interact with each other and the horse to learn and practice activities that teach teamwork, leadership, self-confidence, respect, and other social and life skills. For mounted horsemanship skills, please see our Adaptive Riding program. The class is led by a PATH International Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning and supported by educators and volunteers as needed. The class time can be adjusted to meet the needs of the school or group.

PROGRESS & GOALS

Saddle Up! develops goals in conjunction with the participating school and/or group. Saddle Up! works with the school and/or group to do a pre and post-assessment based on the goals that are being addressed. Rather than focusing on individual needs, the focus is on concepts and principles related to academics, life skills, and social skills.

ELIGIBILITY

- Participants must be between the age of 4 and 19 years old and have learning and/or social differences.
- Participants need to be willing and able to interact with the horses and fellow classmates.
- Participants are scheduled for EAL as a group.
- Saddle Up! follows the PATH International Precautions and Contraindications for determining eligibility for our programs.
- Eligibility verification will be determined by reviewing the paperwork of all group/class participants.

PROGRAM COST & FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

PROGRAM COST

- \$75 per participant for a 2 hour program (unmounted horsemanship activities)
- \$90 per participant for a 2 hour program (mounted horsemanship activities)

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 25% deposit is due upon verification of scheduled date(s) of participation and number of participants.
- Remaining balance of 75% is due the day of participation.
- Failure to pay deposit and remaining balance will prevent the group from participating in the scheduled EAL program.

PROPER ATTIRE

If your child arrives at a lesson without the proper attire we reserve the right to not allow him/her in the barn and/or on a horse for their safety.

- **ASTM-SEI Riding Helmet** – Helmets will be available to borrow from Saddle Up!. They will be fit to your child by a Saddle Up! staff person according to the Helmet Fit Guidelines in the Parent Information Manual.
- **Closed toe shoe** – such as boots or tennis shoes. A riding boot with a heel would be ideal.
- **Pants are recommended**, but shorts may be appropriate in warmer months as long as the Saddle Up! staff approves it in advance.
- **Long pants** – such as Jeans or Riding Pants, are required for mounted horsemanship activities.
- **Cold Weather Gear (when appropriate)** – such as gloves, jacket, etc. Jackets/coats must be zipped or fastened.
- No loose or dangling clothing or jewelry (i.e. scarves, necklaces, bangle earrings, etc.).

PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS

- Paperwork must be completed on each participant 1 week prior to the scheduled date of participation.
- All participants are required to have a completed Participant Release annually.
- All participants are required to have an updated Physician's Statement form every two years.

CLASS/GROUP SUPERVISION

- Teacher(s) or group leader(s) must remain on site at all times while the class/group is participating in our EAL program.
- Teacher(s) or group leader(s) must remain in the family area or courtyard during the horsemanship part of an EAL session, unless they have been trained as a volunteer.
- Teacher(s) or group leader(s) are allowed to help in supporting the EAL session for non-horsemanship activities.

ATTENDANCE & CANCELLATION POLICY

Due to the time it takes to plan for an EAL session, Saddle Up! enforces a strict attendance/cancellation policy:

- Saddle Up! requires a 2 week notice for cancellation of an EAL session. If less than 2-week notice is given, the 25% deposit will not be refunded.
- Saddle Up! MUST be notified if your group will be more than 15 minutes late for a scheduled EAL session.
- If your group is more than 30 minutes late the session will be forfeited and payment will not be refunded.
- For absences, please email us at attendance@saddleupnashville.org. If the absence is less than 2 hours' notice from the program time you MUST also CALL the lesson hotline at (615) 794-1150 x290 and leave a message.
- For tardies, please call the office at (615) 794-1150 and talk with a staff person or leave a message on the lesson hotline at extension 290.