

GENERAL POLICIES

Riding Policies

The following policies are put in place for your safety. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns in regards to any of our policies.

1. No rider can ride in shorts, skirts, dresses, or open toed shoes/sandals.
2. All students 18 years or younger must wear a riding helmet.
3. Please make sure to notify your instructor in regards to the teaching of your child if they have special needs.

Cancellation Policies

We must receive notification of a cancelled lesson one hour prior to the missed lesson. One must cancel by means of phone call or e-mail. Failure to do so will result in required payment of the missed lesson.

"No Shows"

No refunds will be made for no show lessons. We must receive notification for it to be considered a missed lesson. Missed lessons can be made up six days a week. If you schedule a make-up lesson and cannot attend, you must call and cancel or forfeit the make-up lesson.

Refunds

Woodwind Farm does not offer refunds under any circumstances. Payments made for lessons must be used on lessons only.

Returned Check Fees

There is a \$25 returned fee on returned checks and must receive the payment for that check prior to the next lesson.

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New Student Handbook



WOODWIND FARM

Welcome to Woodwind!

WELCOME TO WOODWIND FARM RIDING SCHOOL

We want to thank you for choosing Woodwind Farm, where our motto is "Excellence in Equestrian Education." We hope that you will have as much fun taking your riding lessons and participating in our numerous activities as we do in providing them for you!

Woodwind Farm is owned and operated by Bonnie Kittredge. Bonnie is a professional in the horse industry for over 50 years and has many accreditations to her name. Woodwind Farm has two separate facilities, the School and the Show Barn. The Show Barn is located ¼ mile up the road and is home to approximately 40 horses. Some of these horses are used in our advanced lesson program, while most are show horses belonging to different customers. The facility is used to give advanced group lessons, private lessons, to hold our twice-yearly barn shows, and to train and maintain young horses and show tack.

The facility you are currently in is our School Barn. We have many school horses for students of all ages and skill levels. This schooling barn has been here for over 35 years and has given many people a lifelong love for horses. This facility has also worked with the Northern Illinois Girl Scouts and is the approved riding and teaching facility for the Barrington Park District. The School Barn is open six days a week. Please schedule lessons in advance but we can be flexible to fit your changing schedule.

Again, thank you for choosing Woodwind Farm as your provider of equestrian education!

Sincerely,

Alexandra Fischer

Woodwind Farm Riding School Director

Benefits of Riding

1. Why ride horseback?
 - a. Good exercise
 - b. Done year round
 - c. Almost any age individual can participate
 - d. Offers a wide choice of horse related activities
 - e. Enjoyed by the whole family or only one member
 - f. Relaxation
 - g. Outdoor OR indoor activity
 - h. Share experiences with friends who have the same interests
 - i. May devote whatever amount of spare time you wish
2. Why Take Lessons?
 - a. Lessons will help you learn:
 - i. Responsibility
 - ii. Ambidexterity and coordination
 - iii. Poise – Grace – Finesse
 - iv. Self-confidence
 - v. Alertness and responsiveness
 - vi. Self-control
 - vii. Patience and persistence
 - viii. Quick decisions and good judgement
 - ix. Discipline
 - x. Thoughtfulness and consideration
 - b. You will learn:
 - i. To have more security on a horse
 - ii. Better communication with the horse
 - iii. To accept criticism and commands
 - iv. Safety – both on and off the horse
3. Lessons offer a study of the character and personality of the horse. Each one is different.

Leasing/Owning Opportunities: Are you ready for a new challenge? We can help you find that challenge with a horse of your own! We love finding the perfect teammate for you and having your dream come true!

Group Rides: We offer many different kinds of riding opportunities outside of your regularly scheduled lesson.

Pattern Classes: This is great for students that are ready for something a bit more complicated. Learn how to perform figure eights, serpentines, and a wide variety of different patterns! Get ready for a challenge!

Adult Nights: Once per month us adults get together for a glass of wine, some yummy appetizers, and some saddle time. This is great if you already take lessons, used to ride, or always wanted to! Come join the fun!

Kids Only Nights: Just like our adult night...this is a great night for our kids to get together for a bit of fun outside of their lesson. This is also a great opportunity for your child's friend to come out for a ride.

Showmanship Classes: these seasonal *in hand* class that gives students the opportunity to work with horses on the ground. One will be taught how to present oneself and their horse properly from the ground. As simple as this might seem, it teaches riders discipline and body awareness. Showmanship can offer students an opportunity to show or refine their in-hand skills with horses to more safely work with them at home at the barn.

Summer Camps are the best way for our regular students to get out of the house in the summer. What is better than spending an entire day at the barn? Summer camps are full of fun, outdoor activities, group riding, games, and spending time with fellow students and building new friendships.

Just a Few Reminders...

We would like to let everyone who is new to our barn to know some important guidelines that we use so that everyone will have safe and enjoyable lessons:

Helmets



We always require helmets on any student under the age of 18. We will supply them to students, but ask that after your first five lessons, you purchase your own (please note: our insurance provider do not allow other varieties of helmets).

Proper Attire



All students should wear either a hiking type boot or riding boots. A variety of stores carry inexpensive work boots that are perfect for beginner riders. Riding boots are also available online (see your instructor for information) or through a tack store. Please, no open toed shoes, sandals, and/or tennis shoes. All students must ride in long pants, no sweatpants or loose fitting wind pants. As the student progresses, we also suggest purchasing gloves and jodhpurs. We also receive gently used riding equipment. Ask your instructor if we have your size!

Don't be Afraid to Ask Questions!

We understand that this is not only a new situation for a student but also for their parents as well. If there is something you do not understand and would like to know more about or have any other questions, your instructor will answer it to the best of their ability.

Woodwind Farm would not have ever become the successful barn that it is today without the energy, enthusiasm, and support of our riders, their families, and our barn community.



WHAT ELSE DO WE PROVIDE AT WOODWIND FARM IN ADDITION TO LESSONS?

By supplying passionate and talented instructors, we can pass on this education and love of horses to newer riders and provide more than just lessons to our students to give them many opportunities to learn more about our four legged friends.

Below is a list of what else we offer to our student in addition to your regular lesson:

Woodwind Farm Showstoppers: this is our barn youth group that was established in 1995. The Showstoppers meet usually once a month to discuss a specific topic (sometimes with a guest speaker), go on field trips, or just get together to have fun! It is easy and inexpensive to join!

Days of Riding: these are occasional day camps that are held over school vacations or on weekends. These are great, half day camps that offer a supplemental ride to those looking for get more time in the saddle to improve their skills. Some days of riding have specific topics so keep an eye out for which one you want to sign up for.

Barn Shows: these twice annual "in-house" shows that your instructors and Woodwind Farm staff put on for our students to showcase their skills to their family and friends. These are very similar to our larger, off the farm shows, we have a judge come in and actually judge our riders on their skills and abilities. This is all friendly and fun competition for either those who want to show competitively to practice or for those who do not want to show competitively to ride a horse in a new environment and continue to build up their riding skills.