

Freedom Ride - Rider Information/Registration Packet

Thank you for your interest in Freedom Ride, a non-profit, 501c3 organization dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals with disabilities through horseback riding and related activities.

Lessons, open to all qualifying individuals, provide each rider a unique experience. Instruction is tailored to fit each of our rider's specific needs and to help improve their levels of strength, balance, mobility and confidence during their riding experience.

Programs offered and fee schedule:

Therapeutic Riding- Lessons are taught by a NARHA certified therapeutic riding instructor with a team of 1-3 volunteers per rider. The emphasis is on developing riding skills in a safe environment that is both therapeutic and fun. Specific goals are set for each rider at the beginning of a session based upon input from the rider's parents, physician, and therapists.

New Rider Application Fee	\$25(non-refundable)
New Rider Evaluation Fee	\$40(payable at time of service)

Therapeutic Riding Lessons

- Group lesson (30-45 minutes, depending on rider level) \$30 per class
- Private 30-minute lesson (at instructors discretion) \$40 per class

The **New Rider Evaluation** is scheduled after receipt of application fee and completed forms. The evaluation enables a certified riding instructor to determine the type of horse, level of instruction, tack and equipment necessary and class type that would be suitable for the participant. From there a suitable place within the operating schedule can be found.

Hippotherapy- Riding skills are not taught as in therapeutic riding but rather a Licensed Physical or Occupational Therapist, certified by the American Hippotherapy Association, uses the horse as a modality; utilizing the natural movement of a horse to help the client improve his/her neurological function, sensory processing, and functional abilities.

In order to participate in Hippotherapy sessions, an individual must have a prescription from a physician. Therapists providing service are Independent Contractors and set their own fee for the therapy session. This service may qualify for insurance reimbursement. Since the use of the horse as a unique tool is optional there is an additional out of pocket fee to pay for costs incurred by Freedom Ride for the use of their horses, facilities, instructors and volunteers.

New Rider Application Fee	\$25 (non-refundable)
Facility Fee (payable to Freedom Ride)	\$35 per visit
PT/OT Evaluation (at initial visit)	*additional cost may apply
Therapy session (payable to therapist)	\$50-130 per visit

***Freedom Ride currently has a waiting list for both the Therapeutic Riding and Hippotherapy Programs. There are a limited number of openings available for each new session.*

Lesson fees are collected for the entire session in advance must be paid in full prior to the first class. Alternative payment options and a limited number of scholarships may be available. To inquire, please contact Linda. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Freedom Ride, Inc. Please do not give payments to the instructors. There is a payment drop box in the administrative office, or you may mail your check to Freedom Ride, 1905 Lee Road, Orlando, FL 32810.

Rider Registration package-Prior to participating in the program, riders must complete these forms:

- ❑ **Participant Registration Information/Photo Release/Authorization for Emergency Medical Treatment**
- ❑ **Participant Release Form**
- ❑ **Riders Medical History and Physician's Release** Requires a doctor's signature. This is a 2-sided form. Riders cannot participate in any mounted activity without this form. Form MUST be updated annually
- ❑ **Rider Questionnaire**
- ❑ **Statistical Survey**- Because our lesson fees cover only a small portion of the estimated operating cost for each rider, Freedom Ride relies heavily on private donations, as well as grant and foundation gifts. Many foundations fund programs according to specific guidelines and this statistical information affords us the ability to properly and appropriately apply for much needed funds. Your cooperation is much appreciated and all information is kept completely confidential, separate from your application and is never used to determine Freedom Ride program eligibility.

The rider forms are updated annually. Please understand that this paperwork is necessary for Freedom Ride to remain in compliance with our accreditation standards and insurance requirements

Rider Limitations

Due to the nature of the horses work, Freedom Ride has a weight limit of 185 lbs. or less for ambulatory persons. Weight limitations may differ for persons requiring a full transfer and will be at the discretion of the instructor. Horseback riding may not be a suitable recreational activity for certain individuals and therefore it is necessary for you to have your physician complete and sign the Physician Release/Rider Medical History Form. Should the physical condition of the rider change at any time, Freedom Ride is to be notified immediately and a new Physician Release form must be completed and filed with the office. Certain conditions require additional precautions to be taken when on or around horses and **some conditions are contraindications to riding**. Most activities have some type of precautions and guidelines for participation and horse riding is no exception. Behavioral issues that may cause harm to the animals, instructors, volunteers or place the participant in a dangerous situation cannot be tolerated, individuals who have spinal curvatures that are unable to accommodate the movement of the horse, or those who lack neck and trunk control may not be suitable rider participants.

Clothing

For both evaluations and lessons, riders should wear long pants such as riding breeches, jeans or leggings to prevent leg chafing. Shoes or boots with a rounded, closed toe and a small heel are the safest form of footwear. Riders should avoid wearing jewelry, especially long dangling necklaces and earrings. Safety helmets that meet ASTM-SEI requirements are to be worn by all riders and if necessary, will be provided.

Inclement Weather

Please do not assume that classes will be canceled due to bad weather. We often provide stable management and horse care classes in place of riding. Remember, this is Florida; it may be raining where you are, but clear at Freedom Ride.

Freedom Ride No-Show and Cancellation Policies

We are glad you have decided to participate in our program. We ask that you adhere to the following policies in order for us to offer the best quality program possible.

- 1) Please arrive on time or a few minutes early for your scheduled lesson time. If the arena gate is closed and the class has already started, then you will not be able to ride that day.
- 2) We will consider you 'absent' if you have notified us at least 24 hours in advance. Otherwise, you will be considered a "no-show".
- 3) If you will be absent, please call the office at 407-293-0411 as soon as possible. If you get the voice mail, PLEASE leave a message. Our volunteers drive the distance and fight the traffic as you do in order to help. By letting us know that you will be absent, we can let our volunteers know so that they can plan their day.
- 4) In the case of an emergency the rider or parent/guardian should call within 24-48 hours after the emergency.
- 5) In case of sudden illness, the rider or parent/guardian should call as soon as it is apparent they will not be able to attend due to illness.
- 6) Excessive absences (3 or more) or no-shows (more than 1) will disqualify the rider from the remainder of the session and the rider will be placed on the waiting list for the next available session.
- 7) Riders who are receiving scholarships and have more than 1 no-show will be subject to forfeiting the scholarship and becoming ineligible for future scholarships.
- 8) There will be NO Refunds for missed classes. Payment for the session is expected regardless of absences and no-shows.
- 9) If Freedom Ride must cancel a class due to weather or other circumstances, we will make every attempt to schedule a make-up class at the end of the session. If our calendar does not allow for a make-up class, the riders will receive a credit for the canceled class. Due to our schedule, it is not possible to schedule individual make-up classes for absences and no-shows.

<p style="text-align: center;">PLEASE don't be a "No-show, No-call"- this results in: Unnecessary tacking and untacking of our horses Inefficient use of staff and volunteers Excessive absences take up a time slot that could be used by another rider</p>

Safety Rules and Barn Policies

- Do not hand feed the horses
- No pets allowed on Freedom Ride property
- During lessons, ONLY students and volunteers are allowed in the barn area
- Abusive behavior, lack of respect for volunteers, staff and horses, or any violation of Freedom Ride rules will result in immediate dismissal from the property
- NO SMOKING

Freedom Ride 2007-2008 Session calendar: (dates subject to change)

2007 Fall Session (13 weeks): September 9 - December 15

2008 Spring Session (20 weeks): January 6 – May 31

2008 Summer Session (8 weeks): June 8 - July 26

The staff and volunteers at Freedom Ride want to make your visits with us enjoyable, fun and rewarding. Please, give us feedback; let us know how we are doing and what we can do to improve you, or your child's, experiences with us.

Freedom Ride
 1905 Lee Road, Orlando, FL 32810
 Office: 407-293-0411 Fax 407-293-6280
 www.freedomride.com



Please sign and detach this portion to return with your Rider Registration Forms- Thank You

By signing below, I agree that I have read and understand the above written policies and procedures.

Rider name: _____ Date: _____
Please Print

Signature: _____ Print name: _____
Rider, Parent or Legal Guardian

Please send me a Rider Scholarship Application

Comments:

