



Equestrian Program

FAQs

How do I request Equestrian Programming?

To request a private program for your troop/group, please visit our Camp Reservation website to submit a date request [here](#). Search for the date you are interested in using the *Browse Facilities* button. Request the time you are interested in and continue to check out. Once your program is approved a deposit of \$100 is due within 7 days. Final numbers and final payment are due 30 days prior to program date.

How many girls can participate in an Equestrian Program session?

The barn staff will determine the group size limits on a case-by-case basis. The maximum riding group size is 14 for the standard 3-hour program. This maximum group size is based on girl age and ability, safety of the girls, staff, and horses, weather conditions. For troops larger than 14, two separate riding sessions will be scheduled. Girls will be placed in one of the two sessions based on similar age and riding ability. Girls will be permitted in the barn during their assigned session.

How much does Equestrian Program Cost? What kinds of programs do you offer?

During the confirmation call with a member of GSWCF staff, program options are discussed. In general, troops begin with the Beginner/First-time Rider program if there are girls who are new to riding.

Please note that safety is our top priority. All girls participate in a safety briefing prior to interacting with horses. In order to participate in GSWCF equestrian programming, girls are expected to follow equestrian safety rules at all times.

Half-Day Troop Programs for Junior, Senior and Ambassador Troops

There is a 5 person minimum and 14 person maximum for each 3-hour session.

- \$35 per person (\$40 out-of-council)
- These are offered on select Saturdays and Sundays either from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. *or* 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Includes approximately 45 minutes of riding time.
- Troops may choose from the following program options:
 - Beginner/First-time Rider: learn the parts of the horse, how to groom and tack your horse, arena riding lesson, learn to care for tack
 - English Focus: learn the tack and basics of English riding, groom and tack your horse, arena riding lesson, learn to care for tack, learn about competitive riding in the discipline
 - Western Focus: learn the tack and basics of Western riding, groom and tack your horse, arena riding lesson, learn to care for tack, learn about competitive riding in the discipline
 - Intermediate (Juniors+; **must** have completed one troop reservation with GSWCF previously): Learn more about horse health, daily care, and barn operations, groom and tack your horse for an arena ride with obstacles, care for your tack and more.
 - Trail Riding: Cadettes and older with horseback riding experience (have completed the Horse Kicks riding program or equivalent with GSWCF or takes lessons privately) can join in on a day of learning about trail ride safety, preparing for a trail ride, and then setting out on the trail! Troops larger than 12 riders may be asked to divide into two separate sessions. GSWCF reserves the right to not allow anyone on a trail ride who cannot demonstrate the ability to steer and control their horse in the arena. *One adult may be asked to ride with their group(s) to support safety ratios.*

Daisy and Brownie Program

Our Daisy and Brownie programs ensure that girls build horsemanship skills to prepare them to ride when they are Juniors, Seniors, Cadettes, and Ambassadors. In this program, you will learn all about grooming your horse and practice those skills with a partner. You will play barn games to learn more about horses and the equipment used to care for and ride horses. You will also spend some time learning how to walk our miniature horses using a lead line!

- Minimum of 5 girls and maximum of 20 girl – this is a 2 hours program
- \$25 per girl (\$30 out-of-council)

- Offered Saturdays and Sundays at either 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. or 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- For grooming lessons, adults are required to assist girls in reaching the tops of their horses during grooming

Add-ons:

- Painting with your horse - \$7/person

Is a deposit required to reserve equestrian programming?

For troop reservations a deposit of \$100 is due, in full, at the time of approved request booking. This deposit is NON-REFUNDABLE.

When is the final payment due?

Final payment is due 30 days prior to the date of your encampment or troop reservation. If full payment is not received by this date, we reserve the right to cancel your reservation.

Who may ride?

We strive to provide riding opportunities to all our members; however, horses have varying capabilities in workload.

We are unable to accept adult riders.

We strictly enforce a maximum weight of 200 pounds.

Our riders are important to us, as is their privacy. Riders should expect to be weighed in a private and confidential setting if staff or volunteers have any fears that a rider may be above their weight limit for riding.

The Camp Wildwood Equestrian Center is not equipped or staffed for riders who require special needs accommodations. Please refer to our Approved Equestrian Vendors list for alternative specialty providers.

Can we bring treats for the horses?

All our horses are on individual diets based on their age, health, and more. We keep specialty treats in our feed room that we prefer to give our horses, as they support healthy weight and joints. All feeding of the horses is typically done using small bowls.

What is the cancellation policy?

All cancellations are subject to our cancellation policy below.

In order to receive a full or partial refund you must email a cancellation notice to info@gswcf.org. Deposits are non-refundable. If your email is sent:

- 60 days or more prior to program reservation date, you will receive a full refund (minus deposit)
- Less than 30 days to program reservation date you will not receive a refund

A staff member will follow up with cancellation requests. Cancellation requests include, but are not limited to lowering the number of participants, total cancellations, or anything that affects the cost of program delivery.

If GSWCF cancels your program due to inclement weather, you will be offered another program date or be fully refunded.

Can I change my group size?

Yes, we will work with you to accommodate slight changes in group size up to 1 week prior to your reservation. In the event that you need to lower the number of participants after you have paid for your reservation, our cancellation policy will be enforced (please review the cancellation policy above).

When will I receive final confirmation of my reservation?

You will receive a confirmation email directly from the GSWCF Staff two weeks prior to your reservation date at the email address in your reservation request through our Camp Reservation website. The confirmation email will contain everything you need to know about your equestrian program (including logistics, packing lists and activities). You are welcome to reach out to the GSWCF Staff prior to the 2-week mark to inquire about your program plans.

Do you have to have a waiver?

Every individual who will be riding is required to turn in a signed (by a parent or guardian) original hard copy of the current [Liability waiver](#) at the time of their program. If a signed waiver is not turned in the individual will not be able to participate in the equestrian program. Electronic copies of signed waivers are not accepted.

What if a girl does not have a signed waiver on the day of program?

Any girl that does not have a signed hard copy of the liability waiver to hand in on the day of your programming, she will not be able to participate in any programming directly involving a horse. However, she may observe. No refunds will be issued due to the lack of a signed waiver. Blank copies are kept on hand for emergencies; however, the adult signing for the girl must be 18 years or older and a parent or legal guardian to the girl participants. No exceptions will be made.

What if a participant is late?

Late arrivals are highly discouraged as safety and barn rules are the first thing girls do in the program. Being late to the program may shorten your active time with the horses either on the ground or riding, as the safety orientation is required by Safety Activity Checkpoints. Should a rider miss this entirely, they will not be able to ride.

What if a participant needs to leave early?

Please inform the Equestrian Team of any early departures as soon as possible. Plans can be made to accommodate the participant being able to ride in the first group, if the group is riding. However, this is not always the case with all programs. Please discuss early departures with the Equestrian Manager prior to your program date.

What do the girls do when they are not riding?

Normally, girls are split into two groups, with one group riding while the other group is participating in a ground-based learning activity. Specifics can be found in the menu descriptions above.

What do the girls need to bring with them when attending equestrian program?

Girls must wear **pants**. Cotton yoga pant style are recommended but jeans are accepted (NO low-rise jeans). Loose fitting sweat pants or sleep pants are discouraged. Pants must cover from waist to foot; capris are not acceptable.

Girls are welcome to bring their own **boots** if they have them. Acceptable boots have a 1-inch heel without a treaded sole and are not rubber material. Boots that are not acceptable include rubber rain boots, hiking boots, and Uggs. If you do not have boots of your own, we have a selection of loaner boots available.

Personal equestrian helmets may be brought; however, they must have all factory stickers in place, be in good repair and may not have suffered an impact. Bike or other sport helmets are not acceptable. Helmets are available to borrow and are sanitized and sprayed between each use.

Where should we park?

Please park in the main parking lot at 9583 Co Rd 223 Wildwood FL 34785. Driving in camp is strictly prohibited. Once you have parked, follow the red trail blazes to the Equestrian Center. You will have to pass by a large white concrete building (Horseshoe Meadows) to get to the barn. Should you need ADA accommodations, please contact the Camp Ranger no less than two weeks prior to your arrival to discuss your needs. The Camp Ranger can be reached at (813) 417-5467.

What is the Fly Spray system in your facility?

As of November 2020, we have an automatic fly spray system installed and operating in our equestrian center. The SprayMaster® system automatically sprays an insect repellent throughout the day. This spray's active ingredient is Pyrethrin, but you can read the product Safety Data Sheet [HERE](#). The concentrate is secured in a locked area with no access possible to members and girls. If you have any allergy concerns or questions, please contact the email or phone number below

Have more questions?

Please contact us at info@gswcf.org or call 813-281-4475.