



ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Healing Hooves Therapeutic Horsemanship's programs are based on an individual's ability to participate safely, provided the necessary resources are available including: an appropriate horse, volunteers and class availability which meet the individual's needs. Our professional staff will provide initial and ongoing evaluations for all prospective and active participants.

Healing Hooves Therapeutic Horsemanship reserves the right to decide we are unable to serve an applicant due to unavailable resource(s) and/or safety concerns including PATH Intl. guidelines relating to contraindications for participation.

Minimum Age: Therapeutic Riding: 5 years old **(BOB IS THIS THE AGE YOU WANT LISTED)**

There is no maximum age limit.

Weight Maximums: Healing Hooves implements weight limits for our mounted program that are based on the advice of our veterinarians and our professional judgement about what is safe for each instructor/horse/rider combination. Each horse has an assigned maximum weight limit, and in addition to weight, a rider's other characteristics (such as skill level, muscle tone, balance, or behavior) are considered when making horse/rider matches. Weight limits help to ensure that our riders, volunteers, and instructors are safe during mounts, dismounts, and emergency procedures.

Additionally, these limits help our horses stay fit and healthy and able to perform their jobs. Participants may be weighed at the time of assessment, or periodically for reassessment, in order to be sure, we are making safe and appropriate horse/rider matches. If a participant is over the weight limit for the horses available, we may recommend alternative equine activities that provide safer, more effective ways of experiencing the therapeutic value of the horses.

New Rider Assessments: All riders new to Healing Hooves must have an assessment before being scheduled in a lesson spot. Once your application has been processed and an appropriate spot on the schedule has been identified, you will be called to schedule an assessment.

Scheduling: Clients currently riding at Healing Hooves will be given priority when scheduling. Others will be scheduled as appropriate spots become available. If we are unable to schedule your rider, he/she will be put on a waiting list. When a suitable spot becomes open, you will be contacted.

Absences: It is very important to make sure that riders attend their assigned riding times, not only to maintain the rider's progress but also to ensure we can serve as many riders as we are able and that volunteers are not wasting their valuable time and needlessly tacking horses. We understand that illnesses, doctor's appointments, work, traffic or other situations arise, but ask that you contact Healing Hooves at 501-366-8436 as soon as you are aware that a rider is going to miss or be late for a lesson.

- For group classes there is no make-up or refunds for non-weather-related absences. For private lessons missed, make-ups may be scheduled depending on volunteer, arena, horse and instructor availability
- Arrival time: Riders need to arrive 10 minutes prior to the lessons' scheduled starting time. Repeated lateness will result in consideration for being dropped from the program. For the safety of all, riders arriving after the lesson has begun (all other riders are mounted, and the arena gates are closed) will not be allowed to ride.
- 24-hour notification: If a rider cannot attend a scheduled lesson, please notify Healing Hooves 24 hours in advance if at all possible.
- No shows: Riders having three no-show/no-notification occurrences within a session period will be notified that they are being dropped from the program.
- Repeated cancellations with notification: Riders who continually cancel attendance will be considered for dismissal from the program. Extenuating rider circumstances will be considered in the decision.
- Extended Absences: Healing Hooves requires advance notification of absences longer than two weeks. Depending on a rider's circumstances, Healing Hooves may reserve a rider's spot during the absence, temporarily fill it with a new rider or permanently fill the spot and place the rider on the waitlist.

Attire and Equipment: Appropriate clothes for riding are long pants and hard soled boots with low heels. Since we use safety stirrups on all the English and most of the Western Saddles, Sneakers are permissible. Dress for comfort and according to the weather. Undergarments that provide adequate support and comfort are necessary.

Wear close-fitting clothing for safety as well as comfort. Loose or baggy clothing can get caught and tangled in equipment. No dangling jewelry is permitted. All riders are required to wear an ASTM/SEI approved Equestrian Helmet. If you forget your helmet, Healing Hooves will provide you with one for the lesson. Healing Hooves will provide a new helmet for a fee of \$40 or you can choose to purchase your own helmet separately. Riders may also bring their own English stirrups and stirrup leathers providing the stirrups are safety stirrups and in good condition. Having your own stirrups helps save time in the adjustment of stirrups.

Volunteers: Healing Hooves instructors are assisted by an incredible team of volunteers. They groom and tack the horses, assist with mounting and dismounting and, when needed, help the riders during class. Many volunteers help in other aspects of the organization, from facility maintenance to office work, to fund-raising. Please try to show your appreciation to our volunteers who are the lifeblood of Healing Hooves. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please have them contact our director at 501-366-8436.

Volunteer registration forms are available upon request. All potential volunteers must attend a one-day volunteer training program.

Fee Schedule and Policies:

BOB, WE NEED THIS INFORMATION

There are five sessions (blocks of lessons) per year from January – June and August – December. Each session is six weeks long.

Therapeutic Riding- Group lessons: \$270.00 (per 6 week session) or \$1,350.00 (total 2022)

Therapeutic Riding- Private Lessons: \$360.00 (per 6 week session) or \$1,800.00 (total 2022)

If riders are added to the schedule after the session has begun, the fee will be pro-rated. Session invoices will be sent the 3rd week of each session. Prior payment balances must be received in full prior to the first lesson of each session.

BOB, ARE YOU OFFERING THIS?

Financial Assistance: It is Healing Hooves philosophy to accept riders in the program regardless of financial means. Financial assistance up to 75% of the session fee is available for those who feel they cannot pay the full fee. **Please download a Financial Assistance Application (we will need this too)** Form or call the Healing Hooves office at 501-366-8436 and request one.