



Registration Package

Welcome to Wildflower Riding Club! We are dedicated to building a supportive, inclusive, and engaging community around horses to help children, youth, and adults reach their full potential. We offer riding lessons for beginner through advanced riders, and we accommodate a variety of needs. Please read on to learn more about our organization and what to expect as you join our community.

About Our Riding Program

Our riding program consists of three core elements:

1. **Safe and Effective Horsemanship:** Everyone who comes through our program can expect to learn the basics of working with and riding horses. Our curriculum is based off a mixture of disciplines and practices.
2. **Therapeutic Interactions:** Being around horses is naturally therapeutic and we design our lessons around promoting these therapeutic experiences.
3. **Life Skills Building:** Working with horses builds not only horsemanship skills, but many other skills necessary to living a fulfilling life. Our lessons are designed to teach confidence, emotional awareness and regulation, interpersonal relationships, communication, leadership, and problem solving, to name a few skills.

What Sets Us Apart?

We emphasize relationship building between horse and rider.

While other programs often emphasize becoming competitive, jumping higher, or getting more time in the saddle, we prefer to help our students become well-rounded equestrians and horse people. A rider who can combine an understanding of how a horse communicates, moves, reacts, and learns with effective position, fitness, and technique is an incredibly competitive and much more highly skilled rider. This means that not all lessons will be mounted. Some lessons will focus on theory through groundwork, while others will focus on horse care skills, like nutrition, bandaging/wrapping legs, and first aid. Some mounted lessons might be bareback on a colder day to ensure a less strenuous workout for the horse and improve a rider's balance. This may mean it takes longer to try the first canter or enter the show ring for the first time. However, once a rider has a strong foundation, the rest comes easily.

We develop people.

The horse has an incredible ability to help a person grow and become a better version of themselves. Many riding programs focus only on developing riders/athletes. We focus on developing confident, compassionate, emotionally intelligent human beings first, and riders second. When you invest in lessons with us, you invest in your or your child's overall wellness.



Program Structure

Beginner Program

Weekly 45-minute lessons for brand new riders. This 8-week program is designed to teach new riders how to halter, lead, groom, tack up, and learn the basics of riding. After this program, students will have the option to join either the youth program or adult program. .

Children and Youth Program

Our children's riding program has three main parts: weekly riding lessons, monthly skills groups, and monthly club meetings. During weekly group riding lessons, students will develop their riding skills. During monthly skills groups, students will join up with other student's in their age group to learn an unmounted horsemanship skill and participate in an equine assisted learning session. During monthly club meetings, students will interact with students of all ages, learn more about the horse industry, participate in social events, and have the option to participate in learning projects. Together, these sessions allow for community building, life skills development, and a deeper understanding of horsemanship, in addition to quality riding instruction.

Adult Program

Our adult program consists of weekly riding lessons, with the option to pay an extra fee to participate in monthly social nights and quarterly wellness clinics. Every adult has a different goal with their riding, and we aim to be flexible in our lessons in order to help you achieve your goal. We also want to invite you to a wonderful community of horse lovers and enhance the ways in which horses can help you achieve continued growth and wellness.



Safety and Risk

Participants should be aware that there are risks involved when working with horses. Horses are living animals with minds of their own, and regardless of their training and past behaviour, they may react unpredictably based on instinct. Safety is our highest priority. Please take care to read and understand all rules and policies outlined in this document, as well as any notices that may be posted in the future.

Please fill out all registration forms fully and read the liability forms carefully before signing. You will not be permitted to participate in any programming until liability and registration forms are submitted to WRC. Parents and guests must also complete a liability form upon arriving at the farm. Blank forms can be found on clipboards next to the office. Completed forms can be left in the black mailbox just above.

ASTM/SEI approved helmets must be worn while riding, regardless of your age. If you choose not to wear a helmet, you **MUST** fill out a separate release form. Approved helmets are provided by Wildflower Riding Club for all students if needed.

The instructors with whom you will be working are always available to answer any questions you may have. If you see anything you feel is unsafe, please inform an instructor immediately the situation can be managed. If you have any questions or concerns regarding proper procedure or safety, please don't hesitate to ask the instructor.



COVID-19 Policies

Before You Come:

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, have been out of the country in the last 14 days, have been around someone diagnosed with COVID-19, or have had a case at your school, please do not attend your lesson. Our 24-hour cancellation policy is waived for any COVID-related cancellation. We reserve the right to turn you away if you are exhibiting symptoms upon arrival.

Please limit the amount of people attending the lesson with the student. One parent/guardian is preferable, and siblings or a second parent can join if necessary. If you want to invite an additional guest, please ask your instructor first so they can manage the amount of people in the barn at a given time.

Consider purchasing your own helmet and grooming kit to minimize the amount of equipment that gets shared. This is not necessary, but will reduce your risk while at the barn.

When You Get to the Barn:

All visitors, including parents/guardians must sign in on the clipboard beside the door. Scheduled students do not need to sign in.

Use hand sanitizer as soon as you arrive and before you sign in. Use it again after coughing or sneezing and anytime you feel necessary.

After Your Ride:

Sanitize every piece of equipment you have touched with the alcohol sanitizer. Please use the sanitizer sparingly as it can wreck the leather and it is expensive. Ask your instructor if you are unsure if you are using it correctly.

We are treating our barn community as a Cohort Group, similar to team sports cohorts. Please refer to the following guideline in order to understand the risks associated with this activity and the government policies in place: <https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-19-relaunch-guidance-cohorts.pdf>



Program Expectations

- 1. Arrive on time.** Group lessons are 1 hour and private lessons are 45 minutes of instruction time. As a beginner, you will learn all aspects of horse care and a portion of your lesson will be dedicated to learning how to safely interact with your horse in the field, groom, tack up, and lead. As you progress, you will be able to get your horse ready on your own prior to your lesson time, with your instructor's permission, in order to spend your full hour of instruction learning new things. Once you know how to care for your horse unsupervised, you should plan to arrive *30 minutes before* your lesson and stay up to *30 minutes after* your lesson to allow enough time to properly care for your horse.
- 2. Dress appropriately.** *Closed toed shoes with a heel* are required in order to ride your horse. If you do not have a heel on your boot, you may not ride with a saddle. If you do not have closed toed shoes, you may not be able to work with the horses at all. Safety always comes first at Wildflower Riding Club! If you do not have an appropriate pair of shoes to wear, please let the instructor know ahead of time so we can try to have something available for you when you arrive. *Dress appropriately for the weather* as well. You will be inside, outside, active, and sitting still. Layer up as best you can to be able to participate in all the activities comfortably. Please bring *sunscreen, bug spray, lots of water, snacks, and any medications* you may need while you're here.
- 3. Show respect.** Please show respect to your instructors, volunteers, peers, and the space you're using. *Listen to all instructions* to keep yourself safe and to learn as much as you can. *Use please and thank you* as often as possible! Your instructors and volunteers really appreciate it. *Show your horse how much you appreciate them.* Praise them, pet them, love on them, take care of them. They work hard for you, so make sure you work hard for them. *Clean up your mess.* If your horse makes a mess or you do, please make sure you leave the farm in the same condition you found it. *Put all trash in the appropriate bins.* *Take ownership of your time at the farm.* If you need something in order to make your experience at Wildflower better, please don't hesitate to ask.
- 4. Play your part.** This is your community too! Share a special skill you have, teach someone something new, make suggestions on how something can improve (or better yet, take initiative and find a way to lead the change yourself), and welcome others with a smile and an introduction. We want everyone to feel that they belong here, and it takes everyone to make that happen!

Certain behaviours will not be tolerated from both participants and parents for the safety and wellbeing of our staff, horses, and other participants: physical violence towards humans or horses, verbal abuse, destruction of property, and failure to abide by any rules and regulations. We are here to help children and youth, however should behaviours continue or become unsafe, they may be grounds for suspension or full dismissal from our program.



Pricelist

Payment by cash, cheque, or e-transfer is due at the beginning of each month. Invoices are provided on the 1st of the month. Payment must be received by the 7th of each month. If payment is not received by the 7th, a late fee of \$25 will be added to your next invoice. If communication is not received regarding when payment will be made, or if late payments become a regular occurrence, we reserve the right to refuse providing our services.

Riding Lessons:

Monthly Youth Program Group Lessons:	\$250
Includes weekly lessons, monthly skills group, and club fees	
Monthly Youth Program Group Lessons (Own Horse):	\$170
Includes weekly lessons, monthly skills group, and club fees	
Monthly Adult Program Group Lessons:	\$210
Monthly Adult Program Group Lessons (Own Horse):	\$130
Monthly Adult Program Semi-Private Lessons:	\$230
Monthly Adult Program Semi-Private Lessons (Own Horse):	\$150
Monthly Adult Program Private Lessons:	\$250
Monthly Adult Program Private Lessons (Own Horse):	\$170
Single Private Lesson Add-On:	\$62.50
Single Group Lesson Add-On:	\$50
Single Group Lesson:	\$55
Single Private Lesson:	\$65
Beginner 8-Week Session	\$500



Cancellation Policy

24 hours notice is required for all cancellations. We have staff, horses, and volunteers scheduled to provide you the best experience possible. If, for any reason, you cannot make it to the lesson, please call us as far in advance as possible so that we can plan accordingly. It is important that we receive a call or voicemail in order to cancel your lesson on short notice. We may not receive an email in time to notify our staff and volunteers.

If 24 hours notice is given, participants may schedule a make up lesson. It is your responsibility to come to an agreement with your instructor prior to the end of the month in which the cancellation occurred in order to receive your makeup. If you do not have an agreement in place prior to the end of the month in which the cancellation occurred, you will forfeit your makeup. Private lessons may not be able to be rescheduled due to scheduling constraints. In the event you have to cancel a makeup lesson, the lesson is forfeit. We can only reschedule once.

If less than 24 hours notice is given, your lesson is forfeit.

In the event of a cancellation on our end due to inclement weather or another unforeseen circumstance, a full credit will be given for the lesson towards your next invoice if a makeup is not possible. We will cancel lessons if the weather makes it impossible to reach our farm or if the temperature including wind chill dips below -20 C. If you choose not to attend a lesson based on weather and we have not cancelled it for that reason, you are responsible for giving appropriate notice.

No refunds will be given unless under extreme circumstances.

In the case of possible COVID-19 symptoms or notification of isolation requirements, we will waive the 24 hours notice policy.



Communication

Most of our communication about classes is done via email, including class cancellations, so please check your email often. This is the best way for us to reach all of our students.

Facebook Group:

Our Facebook group, **Wildflower Riding Club Members**, was created to connect parents, students, and volunteers with each other when they aren't at the farm. It can be used to arrange carpooling, coordinate for events and volunteering, and general discussion. If you would like to be added to our Facebook Group for parents and students, please send a message to Wildflower Riding Club on facebook requesting access.

Facebook Page:

Our Facebook page, **Wildflower Riding Club**, was created to help anyone in the community learn more about WRC. We post information about upcoming programs and camps, events, and volunteering opportunities on this page. Like our page to show support! Make sure to also click "Follow" if you want updates sent directly to your news feed.

Instagram:

Our Instagram account, **@wildflowerriding**, is used primarily to post pictures of our programs and events. Follow us on Instagram to stay up to date on what we are up to!