girl scouts of wisconsin southeast

Horseback Riding Guidelines

Resident Camp Program Activities • Summer 2013

Our council has approved specific horseback riding facilities. The staff at each of these facilities has worked with our council to offer activities that are appropriate for Girl Scouts. These are the only facilities a Girl Scout troop/girl may go to for horseback riding. Go to www.gswise.org, click on *Events and Activities*, click on *Horseback Riding*, and then click on *Approved Ranches and Stables* for more information about a facility.

Our council requires a permission slip/waiver form be completed and signed prior to anyone participating in any of the described riding activities. In addition, the horseback riding facilities require a liability waiver to be signed and turned in to them prior to any riding activities. The Girl Scout permission slip/waiver and one copy of the stable waiver needs to be kept by the Trip Leader (to be turned in to the council in the event of an accident). In addition, each parent must receive a copy of these guidelines.

Due to the girls' physical size and maturity level,Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) and our council does not recommend horseback riding for girls younger than Girl Scout Juniors.

For the safety and security of all participants, the following Girl Scout National Safety Guidelines will be enforced by the horseback riding facilities and our council:

- No eating or drinking is permitted during the riding activity (this includes gum chewing).
- Participants must stay with their group.
- No yelling or screaming while on or around the horses.
- Only one rider on a horse at any time.
- Properly fitting protective headgear, provided by the stable, must be worn by all girls and adult participants (for proper fit, do not wear hats, hair clips, barrettes, pony tails, etc.).
- Proper clothing is required. This includes:
  - Snug-fitting clothing, including long pants (no baggy pants or shorts)
  - Boots or shoes (no sandals) with at least a half-inch heel (to keep feet from sliding through stirrups).
  - No dangly earrings, pendants, or bracelets may be worn.
  - No clothing can be wrapped around the waist (this includes fanny packs) to guard against items becoming tangled in the saddle.

Please review these rules and information with your camper, and be sure she understands that all rules must be followed or they will not be allowed to ride.

Additional safety rules may be covered at the stable before the riding activity begins.

Any participant without a signed waiver form or not wearing the proper attire (i.e. shoes with heels, pants) will not be permitted to ride.

As per *Safety-Wise*, trail riding will only be allowed based on the ability of the least experienced rider. For the safety of the girls and the entire group, if the instructors do not feel that all of the girls can control their horses sufficiently to go out of the ring, the entire group will not participate in a trail ride. No refunds will be issued.

Remember that horses are unpredictable, and while following these safety precautions will reduce the likelihood of an accident, it does not eliminate the risk.

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Resident Camp Program Activities Horseback Riding Permission Slip

To be completed by the parent/guardian

Girls Name: _____ Age _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Participants' horseback riding experience is rated as: _____ Beginner (under 10 hours) _____ Experienced (over 10 hours)

NOTICE: A person who is engaged for compensation in the rental of equines or equine equipment or tack or in the instruction of a person in the riding or driving of an equine or in being a passenger upon an equine is not liable for the injury or death of a person involved in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities, as defined in section 895.481(1)(e) of Wisconsin Statutes.

My daughter has my permission to participate in horseback riding and related activities through the Resident Camp program activities. We have read and agree to follow the rules outlined in the Horseback Riding Guidelines.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Resident Camp Program Activities Horseback Riding Waiver Agreement

I hereby **RELEASE, WAIVE, COVENANT NOT TO SUE AND FOREVER DISCHARGE** Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast, its directors, officers, employees, agents, volunteers, successors, and insurers (hereinafter "Releasees") **FOR ANY AND ALL DAMAGES, COSTS, LOSSES, EXPENSES, DEMANDS, CLAIMS, OR CAUSES OF ACTION** for any bodily injury (such as but not limited to broken bones, paralysis, and even death), property damage, emotional distress or loss of society, of myself, my child(ren) or my spouse (as well as any next of kin of myself, my spouse or my child(ren) that is caused by the **NEGLIGENCE** of any of the Releasees and that relates to or arises out of my and/or my child's participation in horseback riding or any other equestrian activities through the Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast. Such negligence could include a failure to use reasonable care in the selection and approval of any horseback riding facility, the provision of first aid or the provision of advice or encouragement relating to my child's participation in horseback riding or any other equestrian activity. I further acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to review, discuss, ask questions about and negotiate the terms and conditions of this waiver agreement.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____