

## **Orientation Lessons Information:**

**How much does it cost?:** \$180 for 4 – 1 hour lessons

**How often do the lessons occur?:** Orientations are scheduled weekly. So, you will be assigned a day and time to come each week until completed. \*\*\*Please note: Because Orientation Lessons are held on the weekend, there may be some weekends where we are unable to have lessons due to horse shows or clinics. During the summer months, shows and clinics are more frequent. Please be patient and flexible when it comes to scheduling. We try our best to accommodate everyone's schedule. Thank you\*\*\*

**What to expect for your first lesson:** Your instructor will be somewhere in the barn, expecting you at the time assigned to you. They will show you around the barn & show you where to find the lesson tack room where all the equipment is kept. They will let you know which horse you will be riding. Then, you will learn how to groom, tack-up and be safe around your horse. This takes place in the first 15 minutes. Next, you will have a 30 minute riding lesson where you will learn the basics of riding (steering, circling, going forward, halting, etc...). At the end, you will spend the last 15 minutes un-tacking and grooming your horse and putting all your equipment away.

**What to bring to your first lesson:** You will need to bring your signed release form, and your \$180 payment for the Orientation Package.

You will also need to wear proper attire: boots (no tennis shoes), long pants (jeans or breeches are preferred), and an appropriate shirt/sweatshirt/coat dependent on the weather.

\*During colder months, layers are good to wear, since riders tend to warm up as they ride.

Layered coats & sweatshirts with ZIPPERS are best, so that the rider does not have to remove their helmet to take them off/on.\* Dan Hobyn Stables provides helmets, but if you have your own that is fine too. Helmets must be ASTM/SEI Certified, for safety reasons.

**Can parents watch?:** Parents are welcome to watch the lesson. However, some kids do best with mom or dad hanging out around the corner out of sight (the distraction of a parent watching sometimes does not help with attention spans). Please note that ANYONE entering the barn (moms, dads, grandparents, siblings) needs to wear proper footwear. No sandals or crocs. Tennis shoes or boots are required. This is a safety rule.

**Also, PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE do NOT coach your kid from the sideline.** Your instructor is very knowledgeable and has the safety of your child as their first priority. Trying to listen to 2 people at once is difficult and can lead to frustration for both the rider & instructor. This can also become dangerous as it is distracting for the rider and they may not be able to hear important instructions to help keep them safe in the saddle. An encouraging word from time to time is welcome, but please let the instructor do their job.

**What if I need to cancel my lesson?:** Things happen and we understand that you may not be able to make it every week due to illness, vacations, etc... However, we do ask that you cancel at least 6 hours prior to your lesson, so that the instructors can plan their day & not waste the lesson slot time. **If you do not cancel in time, we will have to charge you for your lesson.** You can cancel by calling or texting your instructor, or emailing us at [danhobynstables@aol.com](mailto:danhobynstables@aol.com). We check emails multiple times throughout the day.

**Will I be able to join a group lesson after completing my orientation?:** Yes! Most students are ready to join a group lesson by the end of their orientation. However, some students do better by doing a 2<sup>nd</sup> set of orientation lessons. Many of the younger kids tend to need a 2<sup>nd</sup> round. This is normal and happens all the time.

Once you are ready to join a group lesson, we will do our best to find a day and time that you can come every week. Please note that our lesson schedule is full, and we normally only have a few open spots. So, please try to be as flexible as possible.

**Any Additional Questions? Send us an email at [danhobynstables@aol.com](mailto:danhobynstables@aol.com)**