



2024 READY SET RIDE – RIDER APPLICATION FORM

Welcome to Ready, Set, Ride Therapeutic Recreation Facility! We look forward to working with you and are glad you would like to join us in this exciting endeavor. Here at Ready, Set, Ride, we offer equine therapeutic recreation to individuals with special needs and the terminally ill.

We are now accepting applications for enrollment for our current season. **Session availability is extremely limited, so we encourage you to return your paperwork with deposit as soon as possible to be considered for enrollment.** After formal review and evaluation by our staff, we will be notifying parents/students of enrollment status in March. Ready Set Ride offers 3 Seasonal Riding Sessions (Spring, Summer and Fall). These are first-come, first-served. Below, you will find a list of guidelines. We hope that many of your questions will be answered in this form, but if not, please feel free to contact us at any time at admin@readysetrider.org or visit us on the web at www.readysetrider.org.

General Guidelines and Rules at Ready Set Ride

- ★ **Barn Etiquette & Rules:** Our therapy horses and all animals are wonderful, gentle, patient animals. However, they are animals and may react to sudden noise or movement. If you have questions about proper etiquette, please ask. No question is a bad question! When we know better, we do better. **We request each rider/family to please adhere to BARN and ARENA etiquette:**
 - **All Riders, Parents and Visitors are required to wear appropriate clothing and footwear:** OPEN TOED AND OPEN HEELED SHOES SUCH SANDALS, CROCS, FLIP FLOPS, MULES ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED FOR ALL RIDERS, PARENTS AND VISITORS.
 - **Parents/visitors will be required to remain outside of the arena,** quietly, at all times unless otherwise directed by the instructor.
 - **Photos need to be saved for the end of the lesson** so your child can focus on their riding lesson.
 - **Please refrain from offering additional instruction/reminders** from the viewing area. Riders may become overstimulated with multiple directions and need to be listening to the instructor and sidewalkers first and foremost for safety purposes. If parents/visitors become a significant distraction for the child, they may be asked to wait in a non-viewable area from the arena until the lesson is completed.
 - **Please turn off the volume on your phone.** If you must take a phone call, please step away from the arena viewing area where it will not be a distraction.

- ★ **Horses and Riders:**

We currently have nine therapy horses that vary in age and weight bearing ability. To protect our riders, horses and volunteers, **we have a rider weight limit of 150 lbs.**

 - Our herd is aging and per veterinary recommendation, we must consider limiting the workload for some of them. This may mean your child is on a different horse than in the past, or that we are no longer able to accommodate riders that we were able to accommodate in the past. Riders who need the assistance of a back rider will need to reach out to admin@readysetrider.org to inquire about an opening with a horse that MAY be able to take on the extra workload. These horses are worth their weight in gold. They have served the greater community, given their hearts to us, and have asked for nothing in return. We owe it to them to ease into retirement/lighten the workload as needed, and to accommodate their needs as well as our rider's needs. RSR reserves the right to decline riders based on our horse and side walker abilities.



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- ★ **Session Participants:** Each session will have a maximum of 4 riders. Given our prior program experience, the rider minimum age is 3 years.
- ★ **Choice of Session Times and Days:** Please identify the Season(s) and ALL days/times per session you would like to be considered for enrollment. This is very important as we currently have a very large demand for our very limited number of riding sessions, especially on Sundays. Each child is eligible for only one day/time slot, so the more options you identify for us, the better chance you may have to be eligible for a slot.
- ★ **Session Fees:** There is a fixed rate for each Seasonal Riding Session as identified in the enclosed enrollment materials. This will be a non-refundable donation to Ready Set Ride for your child's riding season(s). Ready, Set, Ride is a 501c3 non-profit organization and we depend on donation and fundraising to keep the program operating. Horses and Equine Therapeutic Riding Programs are expensive to maintain/operate, and we strive to keep costs as minimal as possible through donations and fundraising. This riding program fees help us defray the high costs and expenses associated with the annual upkeep, and, 24/7 feeding, care and maintenance of the horses, the riding equipment, facility and insurance. With the exception of our instructors and Barn Manager, all of the RSR staff, barn help, side walkers, horse leaders and Board of Directors are VOLUNTEERS and are not paid. PLEASE remember this. These people are taking their own time to help serve the needs of our RSR families and community.
 - **Deposit Fee:** a \$100.00 cash or check (\$103.00 online) deposit fee or a payment in full due is required to secure a Session or Camp. A remaining full payment is due PRIOR to the first day of a Therapeutic Riding Session or Camp
 - **Sunday Therapeutic Riding Session fees are now \$670.00** (cash or check) or \$690.00 (online) *We've raised prices nominally on our Sunday Sessions (our most popular sessions) to help cover the increase in operating costs and expenses.*
 - **Weekday Therapeutic Riding Session** fees are still \$600.00 (cash or check) or \$618.00 (online)
 - **Trial /Evaluation Rides** are \$50 (cash or check) and \$51.50(online) and are approximately 15 minutes.

We MAY have funds available for a full or partial scholarship, but they are not guaranteed.
- ★ **Payments:** We currently accept cash or check. And we will now be offering **convenient online payment options!** All online payments require an additional 3% processing fee. Enrollment cost is only good for the seasonal riding program enrolled. There will be no refunds for classes missed due to personal circumstances. If you cancel your class Ready Set Ride is not obligated to schedule a make-up class.
- ★ **Trial / Evaluation Rides:** Horseback riding may not be a good fit for everybody. We offer trial rides to help you assess if it will be a good experience before jumping into a 7-week season. You will be provided with a leader, 2 sidewalkers, and an instructor to work 1:1 with the rider to assess benefits and success of the activity. Trial rides are 15 minutes and cost \$50 (cash or check) or \$51.50 (online), due at the time of service.



Absence Policy

Consideration for RSR volunteers, staff and horses is appreciated.

- **Riders are asked to call 24 hours in advance** at 815-439-3659 or as soon as possible if you know you will miss a lesson.
- **Make up classes will not be offered unless RSR must reschedule due to extreme weather conditions.**
- **If you are a no call/no show for two scheduled lessons, you will have voluntarily given up your riding spot for the remainder of the session.**

Refund Policy

Refunds or credits of Session fees are available only under the following two circumstances:

1. If a participant must withdraw for medical reasons, a physician's statement is required.
2. If a cancellation is initiated by Ready, Set, Ride, we will provide a make-up day.

Riders Discontinuing Sessions for any other reason:

We understand that this may be a new activity for some riders. If you are unsure if your rider will be comfortable during the sessions, has never ridden, or has not been around horses, we recommend a Trial/Evaluation Ride for \$50.00 (15 minutes). If there are unforeseen circumstances that require the rider to discontinue the remainder of a Session, a refund may be requested, but is not guaranteed. This will be considered by Ready Set Ride on a case-by-case basis depending on the circumstances.

Cancellation by Ready Set Ride

We make every effort to ensure riding lessons canceled due to weather are made up or substituted with a valuable alternate activity. In the event we are unable to ride in the arena due to weather conditions, lessons may be continued on the ground. Horsemanship is more than just riding, and valuable lessons are taught on the ground. Providing care and learning about your horse from the ground is often when the strongest bond begins to form between horse and rider. Your child will continue to receive the same benefits as they care for their horse on the ground that they would have gained from riding in their lesson.

You will be contacted when the make-up date has been scheduled. Possible reasons for cancellation may include:

- o Extreme temperatures (Above 100°F and below 30°F)
- o High winds, thunderstorms, tornado warnings, or storms
- o Poor Air Quality
- o Snow and/or ice conditions



Required Attire for Riders

We require riders to wear appropriate attire for riding and ground including a helmet and closed-toed shoes. We understand that some riders have sensory sensitivities to some of these items, but these items also ensure the safety of the rider, horse, and volunteers. If your child is unable to wear any of these items due to sensory sensitivity, please consult with us at admin@readysetrideride.org.

★ For all Riders (Including Beginners):

- **Shoes:** Beginner riders should wear closed-toed shoes. OPEN TOED AND OPEN HEELED SHOES SUCH SANDALS, CROCS, FLIP FLOPS, MULES ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED FOR ALL RIDERS. Steel-toed shoes are also prohibited.
- **Clothing:** All riders should wear pants. No dresses, skirts or costumes are allowed except on designated dress-up days. Long Pants including breeches, jeans, leggings, etc. are recommended.
- **Helmets:** Riders MUST be able to wear a helmet to ride. Beginner riders will be provided a helmet at the time of their lesson and are required at all times while riding. Riders returning for Sessions beyond their first session will be required to purchase their own helmets. BIKE HELMETS ARE NOT ALLOWED.

★ For Intermediate and Advanced Riders will need to additionally provide:

- **A fitted equestrian helmet**
The helmet provided MUST be an equestrian specific helmet- bike helmets or other helmets will not be permitted as they do not meet safety standards for equestrian sport.
- **Boots with a heel when riding**

Recommendations for Purchasing a Helmet:

We strongly suggest purchasing your helmet in person rather than ordering online so the helmet can be fitted specifically to your child's head by a professional.

The Riding Store offers a 10% discount if you mention RSR. Helmets are also available at Saddler's Row and LK Tack Shop.

We look forward to serving you and your family. As always, the Ready, Set, Ride family is here to make a difference and we hope this will be a positive experience for all of us.



RIDING SESSIONS: SESSION REQUEST FORM

[You Can Now Request Sessions and Make Payments Online!](#)

You may also email all completed forms to admin@readysetrider.org or mail all completed forms to PO Box 1113, Plainfield, IL 60544-1113.

- ★ **Note your preferred choices on the chart below for the Riding Season(s) and 7-week Sessions you would like to be considered for.** There is no guarantee that a particular day/time slot will be available, so the more you select, the greater our ability to accommodate your enrollment in ONE day/time slot per rider.
- ★ **Multiple Riders:** If you wish to enroll more than 1 rider, please note that below and ensure that additional enrollment paperwork and deposits are submitted for EACH rider.
- ★ **Weekday Therapeutic Riding Sessions are still \$600.00 (cash or check) or \$618.00 (online)**
- ★ **Sunday Therapeutic Riding Sessions are now \$670.00 (cash or check) or \$690.00 (online)**
We've raised prices nominally on our Sunday Sessions (our most popular sessions) to help cover the increase in operating costs and expenses.
- ★ **Submit your non-refundable deposit:** Riders will not be considered until we have received the deposit.

Due to demand, remember that you should sign up NOW for ALL seasons if interested.

Please indicate which sessions are your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices:

SPRING SESSION: Apr. 7- May 22	
Sundays	
	11:00 to 11:45 Beginner
	12:00 to 12:45 Beginner
	1:00-2:00 Intermediate*
	2:00-3:00 Advanced**
Mondays	
	5:00 to 5:45 Intermediate*
	6:00 to 7:00 Beginner
Tuesdays	
	5:00 to 5:45 Intermediate*
	6:00 to 7:00 Beginner
Wednesdays	
	5:00 to 5:45 Advanced**
	6:00 to 7:00 Beginner

SUMMER SESSION: Jun. 7 - Aug. 8	
Sundays	
	11:00 to 11:45 Beginner
	12:00 to 12:45 Beginner
	1:00-2:00 Intermediate*
	2:00-3:00 Advanced**
Mondays	
	5:00 to 5:45 Intermediate*
	6:00 to 7:00 Beginner
Tuesdays	
	5:00 to 5:45 Intermediate*
	6:00 to 7:00 Beginner
Wednesdays	
	5:00 to 5:45 Advanced**
	6:00 to 7:00 Beginner

FALL SESSION: Aug. 18 - Oct. 7	
Sundays	
	11:00 to 11:45 Beginner
	12:00 to 12:45 Beginner
	1:00-2:00 Intermediate*
	2:00-3:00 Advanced**
Mondays	
	5:00 to 5:45 Intermediate*
	6:00 to 7:00 Beginner
Tuesdays	
	5:00 to 5:45 Intermediate*
	6:00 to 7:00 Beginner
Wednesdays	
	5:00 to 5:45 Advanced**
	6:00 to 7:00 Beginner

** **Intermediate Sessions are one hour and include** grooming and tacking the horse. Riders should be able to do so with minimal assistance. A rider in this section will be paired with a leader, and possibly one side walker to act as a spotter if needed. Proper equestrian attire will be required at rider's expense: Boots with a heel (NOT steel toed), long pants (breeches, jeans, leggings, etc.), and a properly fitted helmet (we strongly suggest being fitted by a store in person rather than purchasing online to ensure proper fit.*

*** **Advanced Sessions one hour and include** grooming, tacking, and aftercare (grooming/bathing) for the horse. Riders should be able to do this with minimal to no assistance. A rider in this section will be paired with a leader who may walk alongside the horse/rider for 1:1 guidance throughout the lesson. No side walkers will be provided. Proper equestrian attire will be required at rider's expense: Boots with a heel (NOT steel toed), long pants (breeches, jeans, leggings, etc.), and a properly fitted helmet (we strongly suggest being fitted by a store in person rather than purchasing online to ensure proper fit.*

Recommended retailers for helmets: The Riding Store (10% discount if you mention RSR), LK Tack Shop, or Saddler's Row

RSR may register your child for a different class that better suits their needs if RSR feels this class is too advanced for the rider.



READY SET RIDE - RIDER INFORMATION *REQUIRED*

Name		Date of Birth	
Street Address			
City, State		Zip Code	
Cell Phone		Other Phone	
Parent/Guardian Email			
Diagnosis		Height & Weight (150 lb max)	
Photo Release Consent	YES or NO	Signature:	

GENERAL INFORMATION: Please indicate if any of the situations apply to the rider.

Is the rider experiencing...	YES	NO	Comments
Grief/Loss?			
Issues at school?			
Family problems?			

Does the rider require...	YES	NO	Comments
Wheelchair assist/transfer?			
Issues at school?			
Emotional Triggers?			

Does the rider...	YES	NO	Comments
Have a history of seizures?			
Follow simple directions?			
Have speech or language difficulties?			
Have communication difficulties?			
Have a fear of animals/horses?			
Walk independently?			
Have limited range of motion?			
Have decreased strength/endurance?			



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Have poor balance (sitting/standing)?			
Have problems with gross motor skills?			
Have problems with fine motor skills?			
Have digestion/elimination problems?			
Have bone/joint problem?			
Have allergies or breathing problems?			
Have emotional/behavioral problems?*			

* Ready, Set, Ride does not allow aggressive or dangerous behaviors to occur on the premises. The program may choose to discontinue lessons for an individual that displays aggressive or dangerous behaviors towards themselves, other individuals, the animals, or the property. Refund may be requested but not guaranteed.

GOALS/COMMENTS:

What would you like to accomplish in our program?

Do you have any additional comments or feedback? (May use the back)



RIDER'S MEDICAL HISTORY AND PHYSICIAN'S STATEMENT *REQUIRED*
(To be filled out by Physician)

Name		Date of Birth	
Street Address			
City, State		Zip Code	
Cell Phone		Other Phone	
Parent/Guardian Email			
Diagnosis		Onset	

For Persons with Down Syndrome:

Negative Positive

Cervical X-ray for Atlantoaxial Instability:			X-ray Date
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Please Indicate Mobility:

Independent Ambulation:	Yes	No	Crutches:	Yes	No	Braces:	Yes	No	Wheelchair:	Yes	No
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Please indicate any special precautions:	
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Please indicate if patient has a problem and/or surgeries in any of the following areas by checking Yes or No.

Areas	Yes	No	Comments (If Yes, please comment)
Auditory			
Visual			
Speech			
Cardiac			
Circulatory			
Pulmonary			
Neurological			
Muscular			
Orthopedic			



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Please indicate if patient has a problem and/or surgeries in any of the following areas by checking Yes or No.

Areas		Yes	No	Comments (If Yes, please comment)
	Allergies			
	Learning Disability			
	Mental Impairment			
	Psychological Impairment			
	Other			

To my knowledge there is no reason why this person can't participate in supervised equestrian activities. However, I understand that the therapeutic riding center will weigh the medical information above against existing precautions & contraindications. I concur with a review of this person's abilities/limitations by a licensed/ credentialed health professional (i.e. PCP, SLP, PT, OT, Psychologist, etc.) in the implementing of an effective equestrian program.

	Physician Name (Print)			
	Physician Signature			
	Address			
	City, State		Zip Code	
	Phone		Date	



HORSEBACK RIDING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT (Page 1 of 2)

Please read carefully before signing

WARNING: UNDER THE EQUINE ACTIVITY LIABILITY ACT, EACH PARTICIPANT WHO ENGAGES IN AN EQUINE ACTIVITY EXPRESSLY ASSUMES THE RISKS OF ENGAGING IN AND LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR INJURY, LOSS, OR DAMAGE TO PERSON OR PROPERTY RESULTING FROM THE RISK OF EQUINE ACTIVITIES.

*****Ready Set Ride will herein be known as and referred to as RSR***

The Participant expressly agrees that RSR Therapeutic Recreation Facility it's employees, officers directors, shareholders, agents, owners, guides, instructors, volunteers, and other independent contractors shall **NOT BE LIABLE** for any property damages, personal injuries or losses arising from injuries sustained by the Participant in, on or as a result of the Participant using the facilities, equipment, or horses, jumping rails, and other related paraphernalia, or horses in, on or about the premises of RSR Therapeutic Recreation Facility or any riding or jumping , trail, or route. The Participant therefore hereby fully and forever release and discharge RSR Therapeutic Recreation Facility, it's employees, officers, directors, shareholders, agents, owners, guides, instructors, volunteers, and other independent contractors from **any and all** claims, demands, damages, rights of action or cause of action present or future whether known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, resulting from or arising out of the Participant's use or intended use of the facilities, equipment horses, jumping rails, and related paraphernalia thereof or any riding or jumping, trail or route.

_____ **Please initial to show that you agree**

Participant represents that Participant is in good physical condition and has no disability impairment, ailment, allergy or feat that prevents or hinders Participant from engaging in active or passive exercise including horseback riding or that will be detrimental to participant's health, safety comfort or physical condition. Participant agrees to the terms of the Release for good and valuable consideration including the right to participate in sport of horseback riding.

_____ **Please initial to show that you agree**

I fully understand that an animal (horse), irrespective of its training and usual past behavior and characteristics, may act or react unpredictably based on instinct or fright, and that even the gentlest horse, when provoked or frightened may rear, buck, run away or otherwise act in an unpredictable and dangerous manner. In addition, weather including but not limited to: wind, thunder, hail, lightning or snow sliding off the roof, may cause a horse to rear, buck, run away or otherwise act in an unpredictable and dangerous manner.

_____ **Please initial to show that you agree**



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Participant agrees to inspect the premises and equipment before each use and to bring to the attention of the management any defects or dangerous conditions. Participant understands that management makes no representations express or implied regarding the condition of the premises and equipment.

Participant assumes all risks.

_____ **Please initial to show that you agree**

Participant agrees that Participant shall be responsible for any and all attorney’s fees and costs incurred by RSR Therapeutic Recreation Facility, it’s employees, officers directors, shareholders, agents, owners, guides, instructors, volunteers, and other independent contractors, and their respective insurers in the defense of any claim for personal injuries, property damages or losses brought by Participant or because of any act or omission of Participant, against RSR Therapeutic Recreation Facility, it’s employees, officers, directors, shareholders, agents, owners, guides, instructors, volunteers, or other independent contractors. Participant has read this document and understands that this is a legally binding release. Participant executes this document freely and knowingly.

_____ **Please initial to show that you agree**

Protective Headgear: I understand that **ALL riders MUST wear protective headgear**. I agree that for myself and on behalf of my child and/or legal ward have been fully warned and advised by RSR that an ASTM/SEI approved helmet must be worn while riding and being in the proximity of horses.

_____ **Please initial to show that you agree**

Signature of Participant (If over 18 years old)

Date

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

Printed Name of Parent/Legal Guardian)

Date

_____ Signature of Witness (Ready Set Ride Authorized Staff Only)	_____ Date
_____ Printed Name of Witness	