

Horse Liability Release Form  
Rhodes Grove Camp ♦ Chambersburg, PA

This form must be completed by and for each participant. Please read carefully before signing.  
Serious injury may result from your participation in this activity. Rhodes Grove Camp,  
hereinafter known as This Stable, does not guarantee your safety.

**A. Registration of Riders and Agreement Purpose**

In consideration of the payment of a fee and the signing of this agreement, I, the following listed individual, and the parent or legal guardians thereof if a minor, do hereby agree to hire from This Stable a horse, tack and equipment, personnel and trail for the purpose of horseback riding today and on all future dates.

Rider Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Weight over 240 lbs. (circle one) No Yes ♦ (check one) Beginner (under 10 hours) \_\_\_\_\_ Over 10 hours \_\_\_\_\_

Does this rider have physical and or mental health conditions, problems and or disabilities which may affect his/her safety and ability to ride a horse? (circle one) No Yes ♦ If yes, describe here: \_\_\_\_\_

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**B. Agreement Scope and Territory and Definitions**

This agreement shall be legally binding upon me the registered rider, and the parents or legal guardians thereof if a minor, my heirs, estate, assigns, including all minor children, and personal representatives; and it shall be interpreted according to the laws of the state and county of This Stable's physical location. Any dispute by the rider shall be litigated in and venue shall be in the county in which This Stable is physically located. If any clause, phrase or word is in conflict with the state law, then that single part is null and void. The term Horse herein shall refer to all equine species. The term Horseback Riding herein shall refer to riding or otherwise handling of horses, ponies, mules, or donkeys, whether from the ground or mounted. The term Rider shall herein refer to a person who rides a horse mounted or otherwise handles or comes near a horse from the ground. The terms I, Me, My shall herein refer to the above registered rider and the parents or legal guardians thereof if a minor.

**C. Activity Risk Classification**

I understand that: Horseback riding is classified as a rugged adventure recreational sport activity, and that there are numerous obvious and non-obvious inherent risks that always present themselves in such activity despite all safety precautions. According to NEISS (National Electronic Injury Surveillance Systems of United States Consumer Products) horse activity ranks 64<sup>th</sup> among the activities of people relative to injuries that result in a stay at US hospitals. Related injuries can be severe requiring more hospital days and resulting in more lasting residual effects than injuries in other activities. I/We further understand that the applicant may be participating in a Wilderness Experience and that the meaning of this term is defined as follows: The pursuit of adventure type activity in a wild, rugged, and uncultivated area or region, as of forest and or hills and or mountains and or plains and or wetlands, which would likely be uninhabited by people and inhabited by wild animals of many types and species to include, but not limited to, mammals, reptiles, and insects, which are not tame, may be savage and unpredictable in nature and also wandering at their will.

**D. Nature of Stable Horses**

I understand that: This Stable chooses its rental horses for their calm dispositions and sound basic training as is required for use as riding horses for novice and beginning riders, and This Stable follows a rigid risk reduction program. Yet, no horse is a completely safe horse. Horses are 5 to 15 times larger, 20 to 40 times more powerful, and 2 to 4 times faster than a human. If a rider falls from the horse to the ground it will generally be at a distance of from 3 ½ to 5 ½ feet, and the impact may result in injury to the rider. Horseback riding is the only sport where one much smaller, weaker predator animal (human) tries to impose its will on another much larger, stronger prey animal with a mind of its own (horse) and each has a limited understanding of the other. If a horse is frightened or provoked it may divert from its training and act according to its natural survival instincts which may include, but are not limited to: Stopping short; Changing directions or speed at will; Shifting its weight; Bucking, Rearing, Kicking, Biting, or Running from danger.

**E. Rider Responsibility**

I understand that: Upon mounting a horse and taking up the reins the rider is in primary control of the horse. The rider's safety largely depends upon his/her ability to carry out simple instructions, and his/her ability to remain balanced aboard the moving animal. I agree that the rider shall be responsible for his/her safety, and that of an unborn

child if the rider is pregnant. This Stable advises pregnant women not to ride horses, unless permission is given under advice of her physician.

**F. Conditions of Nature**

I understand that: This Stable is NOT responsible for total or partial acts, occurrences, or elements of nature that can scare a horse, cause it to fall, or react in some other unsafe way. Some examples are: Thunder, lightning, rain, wind, water, wild and domestic animals, insects, reptiles, which may walk run, or fly near, or bite or sting a horse or person; and irregular footing on out-of-door groomed or wild land which is subject to constant change in condition according to weather, temperature, and natural and man-made changes in landscape.

**G. Carry-On Object and Sharp Noises**

I understand that: Riders must not carry loose items on riders which may fall, blow away, flap in the wind, bounce, or make sharp noises, possibly scaring a horse. Some examples are: Cameras, hats not securely fastened under chin, toys and purses. Riders must not make sharp, loud noises, such as screaming or yelling, which may scare a horse.

**H. Saddle Girths-Natural Loosening**

I understand that: Saddle girths (saddle fasteners around horse's belly) may loosen during a ride. If a rider notices this he/she must alert the nearest guide or wrangler as quickly as possible so action can be taken to avoid slippage of saddle and a potential fall from the animal.

**I. Accident/Medical Insurance**

I agree that: Should emergency medical treatment be required, I and or my own accident/medical insurance company shall pay for ALL such incurred expenses. I have recorded my accident/medical insurance on This Stable's registration form.

**J. Protective Headgear Offering**

I, for myself and on behalf of my child and or legal ward, have been offered a SEI Certified Equestrian Helmet by This Stable and do understand that the wearing of such headgear while mounting, riding, dismounting and otherwise being around horses, may prevent or reduce the severity of some of the wearer's head injuries and possibly prevent the wearer's death from happening as the result of a fall and other occurrences. It is understood that Stable-provided protective headgear may not be of perfect fit for each rider's head, and that once provided I/We will be responsible for securing the helmet on this rider's head at all times. All participants in any type of horse activity must wear a SEI certified helmet in order to participate.

**K. Liability Release**

I agree that: In consideration of This Stable allowing my participation in this activity, under the terms set forth herein, I, the rider, for myself and on behalf of my child and or legal ward, heirs, administrators, personal representatives or assigns, do agree to hold harmless, release, and discharge This Stable, its owners, agents employees, officers, directors, representatives, assigns, members, owners of premises and trails, affiliated organizations, Insurers, and others acting on its behalf (herein, collectively referred to as Associates), of and from all claims, demands, causes of action and legal liability, whether the same be known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, due to This Stable's and or its associates ordinary negligence; and I do further agree that except in the event of This Stable's gross and willful negligence, I shall bring no claims, demands, actions and causes of action, and or litigation, death, property damage, sustained be me and or my minor child and or legal ward in relation to the premises and operations of This Stable, to include while riding, handling, or otherwise being near horses owned by or in the care, custody and control of This Stable, whether on or off the premises of This Stable.

All Riders and Parents or Legal Guardians must sign below after reading this entire document.

I/We, the undersigned, have read and do understand the foregoing agreement, warnings, release and assumption of risk, I/We further attest that all facts relating to the applicant's physical condition, experience, and age are true and accurate.

Signature of Rider: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_