

HOSS Summer Camp

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Absences

Should a circumstance arise where your child is unable to attend a day of camp, there is no penalty. We understand that some situations are unavoidable. Please call and give notification as soon as possible prior to the absence. If your child has not arrived within half an hour of arrival time, they will be marked absent for the day. If you call and give notification that your child is on the way and will be tardy, a staff member can be ready to receive the child at the drop off location at your estimated time of arrival.

If your child is absent Day 1 as well as Day 2, they will be marked off the roster for that week without a refund.

Activities

At H.O.S.S. Camp we are excited to present a range of activities that campers will enjoy. These activities will be designed in ways that facilitate a growth in social skills, individual character, community living/service skills, and critical thinking.

The activities utilized to encourage growth include Equine Assisted Learning sessions, in which the children work with horses and peers in specialized games and activities to promote qualities such as teamwork, empathy, communication, and situation awareness.

-2- *Activities continued-*

The children will also enjoy daily riding lessons where the connections and trust begun on the ground can be further explored in the saddle. Children who do not wish to ride or who are not medically cleared to ride will be given a replacement activity during that block of time.

We encourage growth and learning in other areas of interest as well in outdoor activities that inspire imagination, creativity, and camaraderie. Children will enjoy time in the vegetable garden, learning about plant health. They will engage in team sports and games using balls, Frisbees, and perhaps a water balloon or two! Nature walking will also be on the agenda so that the children can have plenty of fresh air and exercise. Two ponds will be available for fishing and wading (no swimming, sorry!). During hotter parts of the day we will cool off in the air conditioning and engage in activities focused around the creative arts.

Behavior Management

We understand that children will be children. We do not, however, tolerate behavior that is unsafe or impairs a child's ability to interact with others in a positive, respectful manner. With that in mind, we encourage appropriate behavior with a positive, accepting atmosphere. We will never degrade or humiliate a child for inappropriate behavior.

The following steps are implemented as soon as any conflict arises:

- 1) Once inappropriate behavior (whether physical or verbal) is observed, a staff member will bring the child aside and gently identify the behavior that is in question, explain why it is not condoned, and ask the child not to continue the behavior.
- 2) If the behavior persists, the child will be given a verbal warning and told that if it doesn't stop here, an incident report will be filled out and discussed with the parent or guardian.
- 3) If the child is unwilling or unable to discontinue the behavior, the incident report will be completed and shared with the parent or guardian. A staff member and parent/guardian will then discuss how best to proceed.
- 4) After the third incident report, if the persistent behavior is dangerous in nature and the child has not responded to appropriate redirections, the child will be dismissed from the camp without refund.

The staff will make every reasonable effort to work with the parent/guardian and the child to avoid dismissal. The program is, after all, designed to enhance positive relationship building

Confidentiality

Respect for personal information is imperative to East Wellness Equine and Animal Assisted Therapy program. Staff members are not permitted to discuss personal matters of any participants in the camp. Staff members are not permitted to share photographs, videos, or conversations on any social media, such as Facebook, that is in any way related to participants, discussions, or activities at camp. We ask that personal information shared by children or parents in camp are not discussed elsewhere by other children or parents also in the program.

Daily Needs

When you are getting your child ready for camp, use the following checklist!

- Sunscreen/Insect Repellent
- A packed lunch (we provide refrigerator space and a microwave)
- Hats and sunglasses are encouraged. We will be in the sun the majority of the day.
- A pair of gloves for gardening. (Can be provided)

Dress Code

Shorts are okay but a pair of long pants is preferable for riding. Their legs will pinch if they are riding in shorts. (There is a nice and private bathroom area where they can change from shorts to long pants.

- Close-toed, sturdy shoes for working with and riding horses.
- Tennis shoes for other activities
- T-shirts should not have offensive or suggestive writing or pictures.

Drop Off/Pick Up

Drop off and pick up will be in the front of the main barn. Drop off is at 9:00am and Pick up is at 4:00pm. Arriving more than twenty minutes early or late to either drop off or pick up will result in a \$10 fee unless pre-arranged before the start of camp.

If your child has not arrived within half an hour of arrival time, they will be marked absent for the day. But, if you call and give notification that your child is on the way and will be tardy, a staff member can be ready to receive the child at the drop off location at your estimated time of arrival.

Electronic Devices

Children are welcome to bring cell phones to camp to be used for emergencies or while waiting to be picked up. All cell phones will be put in a locked box and behind two locked doors for the duration of the day. Should a child become ill or injured, they may use the phone. It is also helpful in the event that their ride is late for Pick Up.

No other electronic devices such as handheld video games or music players (ipods, cd players, tape players, etc) are allowed at camp.

Emergencies

In the event of a medical emergency 911 will be called and parents/guardians will be immediately alerted. If no contact with them can be made, we will begin at the top of the emergency contact list until we reach someone.

Food Policy

Campers should bring a lunch with them each day to camp. They may also bring snacks for East Wellness Equine and Animal Assisted Therapy snack times. We will be providing a selection of healthy snacks. No other meals will be made available.

If your child has an allergy, be sure it is listed on the registration and release form. That way we can alert other parents to the presence of any severe food allergies so that those foods are not brought to camp.

Health Forms

Campers are required to have a physical completed and turned in before start date of camp. Any child riding must be cleared by a doctor to rule out any contraindications for riding. Health and Rider releases are attached below.

Illness/Injury

Children exhibiting contagious symptoms (fever, chills, vomiting, rashes, lice, ringworm, etc) within a 24 hour period of coming to camp should remain home. If your child has a minor injury or becomes ill we will separate the child from the other children and contact the parent/guardians the

child in question. Parents are expected to arrive within 90 minutes to pick the child up.

Liability Release Form

Each child is required to have a completed liability release form signed by parents/guardians before the start of camp on the first morning. If there is no release form on record, the child may not legally participate.

Lost/Stolen Items

Camp is not liable for any items that go missing during camp hours. It is not advisable to bring any item of value to camp as there are many places it could get lost on the property if it fell out of a pocket or was left somewhere. If there is an item that is necessary and is of value, we can lock it safely in the office until Pick Up.

Medication

Campers may not have any medication (prescribed or non-prescribed) in their possession at any time during camp hours. If the medication is absolutely necessary, it will be kept locked in the office and will only be administered if there is a detailed and signed note from the parent or guardian.

Payment

All camp fees must be paid in advance.

If a payment is not received by Drop Off on Day 1, the child may not remain at camp but must return home with parent/guardian.

Summer Camp payments must be made out as a check or money order to East Mental Health, LLC.

Personal Care

All campers must be able to take care of personal needs, such as bathroom breaks, independently. They must be able to feed themselves and be independent with other personal care actions. Camp does not provide a 1:1 service.

Photography/Video Waiver

Inside the liability release there will also be a signature line which, if signed, allows East Wellness Equine & Animal Assisted Therapy to use pictures of your child in East Wellness Equine and Animal Assisted Therapy future brochures or on East Wellness Equine and Animal Assisted Therapy website or in any other media. If you do not approve of your child's image being used in future brochures or on East Wellness Equine & Animal Assisted

Therapy website, do not sign the photograph release section.

Refunds

No refund shall be given unless requested no less than a week before camp starts.

Visitor Policy

While we appreciate any excitement and interest in East Wellness Equine and Animal Assisted Therapy program, we do not allow visitors during camp hours. This is for the safety of all the campers and confidentiality.

Waitlist Notification

If you are placed on a waitlist we promise to keep you updated often so that you know the status of your application. You will be notified by phone and email when your application is accepted.

Withdrawal

If at any time you wish to withdraw your child from the program there will be no penalty. A refund will be given if you withdraw earlier than a week before camp. After that, no refund will be given.