



Mountain Horse School

Riding Lesson Info

What should I know about lessons at MHS?

- At Mountain Horse, we teach a little differently than conventional lesson barns. Instead of riding goals and competitions, we believe it's the student's relationship with their horse that's the most important thing, and that's where the skill set that carries through into the rest of their lives comes from. Because of this emphasis, a portion of each lesson (but never more than 50%) will be spent on the ground: grooming, tacking up, learning leading techniques, working in-hand, or simply taking 5 minutes to say hello to the herd as we catch our horse.
- For new students and beginning riders, you're asked to arrive at the time your lesson is scheduled to start, and you will catch and get your horse ready as part of your lesson. Intermediate riders are able to come catch, brush and start tacking up their horses 15 minutes before the start time of their lesson. If they're less than 12 years old, this time needs to be supervised by a parent. Thank you.
- Because of the way we've designed our schedule this year, we can no longer be flexible with running lessons over their end time if students arrive late. If you arrive early, children under 12 must be supervised by a parent until the start time of their lesson.
- At the end of their lesson, students are expected to untack their horses and turn them out (with assistance if needed), put their tack away, and sweep the spot they used in the aisle.
- New students will be asked to sign a 1 page liability waiver.

Directions:

- The farm is located at 7370 Harrow Road across from the Glen in Pemberton BC. It's the first driveway on the right. If the gate is closed, please open it, let yourself in and close it behind you. Drive up and park at the 2nd barn.

What to bring:

- Boots with a 1/2" heel for riding. The heel keeps the foot from slipping through the stirrup and are a CRUCIAL safety and insurance requirement. (Blundstones or the cheaper rubber boots with defined heels are perfect.) If you are a parent and want to participate in grooming or are side walking for your 3-5 year old child, please come in close toed shoes to protect the tops of your feet from the horse's hooves. If you (or your child) come in inappropriate footwear, you will be asked not to participate in your lesson. (Showing up in sandals is like showing up at the ice rink without your skates!)
- Long pants for riding in. (Stretchy jeans or yoga or sweat pants are perfect.)
- Weather appropriate gear. Layers are great! If it's raining, you can wear rain pants or even snow pants. Gloves keep fingers warm and protected, especially LITTLE fingers. You don't have to get riding gloves, but the more dexterity the better. (Imagine that you need to be able to close your hand into a fist and hold it there comfortably, and still have enough mobility left to feel your contact through the reins.
- Horseback riding approved helmets are provided. If you wish to bring your own helmet, it must be a horseback riding helmet (ASTM approved.) No bike or snowboard helmets please. Again, this is an insurance and safety requirement, so it's something we can't be flexible on.
- If you wish to purchase proper riding gear as your or your child's riding progresses, we're happy to make recommendations. As a rule, more streamlined gear will give you a better sense of feel than bulky clothing.

Weather:

- We don't have an indoor teaching space. If it rains we ride!
- In the event the weather is extreme enough to warrant a cancellation, you will receive a full refund and be notified by text message a minimum of 2hrs in advance of your lesson.

Cancellation Policy:

- Because of the time and energy that goes into making sure a horse is ready to offer you an amazing experience, 48 hours notice of your cancellation is required to receive a full refund. Special cases will be considered as they arise.
- If you booked a group lesson (3-4 people, 1.5hrs) but only 2 people register, the lesson will be taught as a semi-private (1hr 15 min.) If only 1 person registers, it will be taught as a private lesson (1hr). If you booked a semi-private (1hr 15 min) but only one person registers, the lesson will be taught as a private lesson (1hr).

Thank you, and we hope to see you soon!