## YORK EQUESTRIAN WINTER CAMP PROGRAM GUIDE

York Equestrian prides itself in finding friendly, kind and safe horses and ponies that are suitable for children of all ages and riding ability.



### A Day at Camp

Camp runs from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm - Ages 7-14

Extended care is available from 3:30 to 5:00 pm at a cost of \$15+hst per day. Arrangements can be made on a daily basis.

Each day campers will participate in two riding lessons. Campers will be divided into small groups according to their age and level of experience. These lessons will allow beginner riders to develop basic walk and trot skills. Riders with

experience will work to advance and improve their riding position and skills. Scheduled horsemanship activities will educate students on safety around horses, grooming techniques, general horse care and equipment.

### **Group Placement Breakdown**

**New Rider** – rider has had little to no experience. Little experience would include pony rides, trail rides or a handful of lessons. This rider has little to no experience in grooming and tacking up a horse.

**Beginner** – rider has done at least 2 weeks of our camp program in the past. These riders have basic steering skills at the walk and can post trot in rhythm. This rider is also working to strengthen their steering and control at the trot. Rider has basic knowledge and skill in grooming and tacking up but still requires assistance.

**Novice** – rider has good steering control and body control in the walk and trot. This rider is able to guide their horse through a pattern with precision in the trot. Rider also has basic skill in the canter. Rider can independently groom and tack up a horse.

**Intermediate** – rider has been in a consistent lesson program that has them riding confidently in walk, trot and can canter a pattern with good steering and rhythm control. This rider has started working over fences (jumps). Rider can independently groom and tack up a horse.

**Experienced** – rider has been in a consistent lesson program that has them riding confidently in walk, trot, canter and can work over fences in a course. Rider is able to groom and tack a horse independently.

This break down is a guide to help parents and riders understand how we assess skill level at York Equestrian. Our number one priority is the safety of our riders. Campers will not be placed or moved into a different riding group unless the instructor feels it is suitable. Day one of camp is assessment day.

### **Our Facility**

York Equestrian Riding School is one of the finest riding facilities in southern Ontario. It is located 35 minutes from Toronto. Our Winter Camp lessons run in our large indoor arena. Our camp facilities include a big, heated indoor lounge, classroom and washrooms. Our camp room is fully equipped with a fridge and microwave to deal with all lunch time needs. Our cubby room offers a safe place for campers to store their bags and equipment.



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## **Winter Camp Staff**

The majority of our Camp staff work in the riding school throughout the year and implement a year-round curriculum to help develop students over a continuous, long-term period. Whether your student is just starting out or continuing their equine education our staff are well equipped to develop your young rider.



## When does Winter Camp Run?

Winter Camp runs for two sessions during the December/January school break. For specific dates please refer to our Registration Form.

## **Cancellation Policy**

Cancelled bookings 8 days or more prior to the start date of the camp session will be charged a \$200.00+hst cancellation fee. **NO** refunds will be provided for bookings cancelled 7 days or less prior to the start date of the camp session or once camp has commenced. NO EXCEPTIONS!

### **What Campers Need to Bring**

- Properly fitted industry approved riding helmet
- Boots to ride, with heel no more than ¼ inch
- Riding pants; can be proper riding breeches or leggings. Jeans are also acceptable. **No baggy** sweatpants please as they can be a hazard.
- Riding gloves to protect hands from leather reins
- Running shoes for games
- Warm layers that are easy to take on and off
- Refillable water bottle
- "Litter-less" Lunch

<sup>\*</sup>Please note that YERS cannot supply helmets and/or boots



### **Dressing for Winter Riding**

Our modern facility offers many comforts to beat the winter chill. Our heated camp room offers a warm place to eat lunch and play games. Our large indoor arena is equipped with heaters to take the sting out of the winter air. Riders **must** wear full-length pants when riding, snow pants are not permissible when riding. Layers are best and they should be easy to remove or put on with a helmet. Thick socks, gloves with feet and hand warmers are also recommended. Please no jewelry at the barn. Only exception are stud earrings. Other items can become lost or damaged.