



## Horseback Riding Guidelines 3/12

Troop Horseback riding program guidelines are designed to help ensure a **SAFE and ENJOYABLE** experience for Girls, Leaders, Volunteers, Trail Leaders and the Horses.

1. All Girls and Adults **MUST BE** a registered Girl Scout in order to participate in any of the rides; unless otherwise noted.
2. Adult men registered with a Troop may ride. Younger brothers, a Leaders son, etc. may **NOT** ride.
3. For the Trail Rides: Girls **MUST BE** in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. **No Adults are required to ride this ride with the Girls.**
4. For the Arena Rides: This ride is for Girls in grades K-3. Girls that are in K and 1<sup>st</sup> grades **MUST PROVIDE** an Adult to lead **EACH** Girl in the Arena. Girls in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades will steer the Horses themselves in the Arena.
5. Troops may increase the number of riders for their scheduled ride – so long as the maximum number has not been met. They must first contact Janice Firzlaff at the Dubuque Leadership Center to make this type of change. If the number decreases for your scheduled ride, you must also contact Janice Firzlaff. A two-week notice must be given to Janice Firzlaff for these situations in order to receive a refund. Janice may be contacted at 563-583-9169 or [janicef@gseiwi.org](mailto:janicef@gseiwi.org)
6. Different Troops and Individual Girls may be added to your scheduled ride if the maximum number has not been met.
7. **NO ONE** in a sling, cast, brace, ace wrap, finger splint, neck support, or back support may ride. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** This is a Council standard and is not the decision of a Doctor.
8. **Riding Apparel:** Wear long pants (jeans are preferred), socks, shoes/boots. Riders may wear tennis shoes or riding boots. **NO** hiking boots with raised waffle pattern soles. **NO** shorts, **NO** Capri's, **NO** sandals, **NO** flip-flops, and **NO** clogs are allowed.
9. All riders **MUST** wear an approved helmet. This must be worn whether mounted on the Horse or standing on the ground in the area of the Horses. The helmets are provided by the Equestrian Staff.
10. Trail rules and the assignment of the Horses is the responsibility of the Volunteer Trail Leader. When possible, Girls' choice of a Horse will be considered but cannot be guaranteed. Riders must follow the directions of the Trail Leaders at all times.
11. Horses are not lead on the Trails. All riders doing a Trail Ride must be able to control their own Horse before they will be allowed to leave the corral.
12. Every effort will be made to hold the scheduled riding time as planned. However; weather and Trail conditions may require a Trail Ride to become an Arena Ride – per the discretion of the Trail Leader.
13. **Due to the age and sizes of our Horses at Camp Conestoga – there is a 250 pound weight limit per rider.**

**WEATHER:** If in doubt about the weather, contact Joanne Dumar at 563-349-6149 to make sure riding is still taking place. In the event your riding time(s) have been cancelled, the Troop Leader will be notified via a telephone call. **If your ride is cancelled due to the weather by the Equestrian Staff – please contact Janice Firzlaff at the Dubuque Leadership Center to reschedule or request a refund. Janice may be contacted at 563-583-9169 or [janicef@gseiwi.org](mailto:janicef@gseiwi.org)**