



Choosing a Riding Day Camp: A Parents Guide



Summer Day Camp Riding Experience

Many riding facilities offer summer day camps for children, giving your child the opportunity to experience their love for horses. It gives them a chance to learn proper horsemanship, develop riding as well as social skills, and gain confidence in riding and working with horses in a healthy, physical, and controlled environment. Finding a riding camp facility and camp director that is knowledgeable, skilled, and well trained for teaching and caring for your child is vital to make sure your child can learn to ride in a safe and appropriate learning environment.



Finding a Summer Riding Day Camp?

To find a summer riding day camp, 1) begin by searching for “stables” on the internet, near your city or town, that offer day camp, 2) once you

find a stable, or stables, that offer summer camp, call and talk with the barn manager or camp director. Ask if they are the summer camp riding instructor and when is the best time to visit the facility and observe a lesson with your child and 3) Once at the stable, talk with children and other parents to get their opinion on the camp as well.



Continued other side...



Questions to ask the Barn Manager or Camp Director



1. Is the facility (barn/stable) accredited by the American Camping Association (ACA) or Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA)? Yes No

2. Are instructors certified by the CHA or American Riding Instructors Association (ARIA)? Yes No

Accreditation and certification ensures the camp has safety standards and instructors teach in a safe, professional, and competent manner. If "No" to both does not mean the camp is unsafe however. There are camps that are not accredited or have certified trainers but have safe practices. However to make sure ask the following ten questions.

1. Are campers required to wear riding helmets when riding? Yes No

2. Does the instructor make sure the riding helmet is worn and fits properly before riding? Yes No

3. Are campers required to wear riding boots or similar, before riding? Yes No

4. Does the riding Camp have safety policies for prevention? Yes No

5. Does the riding Camp have policy for handling riding related emergencies? Yes No

6. Are there criminal background checks for those working with child campers? Yes No

7. Are trainers or instructors well-trained with horses and teaching children? Yes No

8. Do you have experienced and well-mannered lesson horses? Yes No

9. If there are out-of-camp trips, is *there a trip leader a) qualified in First Aid & CPR, b) a parental permission form needed before each trip, c) a buddy system, d) lost-camper protocol*? Yes No

10. Are parent visits encouraged? Yes No

If "No" to any of the above, consider another riding camp!

If "Yes" to all above, consider the following:

1. **What are the hours?** Usually 9 am-3 pm or half day
2. **Is there extended care, before and after camp?** Usually 8-9 am and 3-5 pm
3. **Is lunch included or do children bring lunch?** Usually bring own 9 am

Accreditation Logos



Riding helmet and boots



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Pro Consumer Safety

For more information visit
ProCarSeatSafety.com/RidingCamps.html



Public Health
Behavior Solutions