



328 Bethel Road, Fincastle, Virginia 24090

phone: 540-992-2940

CampBethelOffice@gmail.com

www.CampBethelVirginia.org



Horseback Riding "Add-On" Information and Required Waiver

You should have already received (or downloaded) your Confirmation Packet for your chosen camp program. These two pages are IN ADDITION to your Confirmation Packet and includes "Additional Items to Pack & Bring," safety information, and your Equestrian Waiver. Carefully read all the enclosed information.

This waiver must be returned to Camp Bethel at least 14 days before your first day of camp:

Additional Items to Pack & Bring, plus Safety for our Adventure day-trip:

Additional Items to Pack and Bring for Horseback Riding: *For riding, Camp Bethel and Reba Farm will provide helmets and instructors.*

- Horse riders must wear **long pants (jeans are best) & closed-toe shoes (boots with a heel are preferred, but are not mandatory)**
- Sunscreen: we lather up before we leave to our outfitter each day
- Dry clothes to remain in vehicle & to change into in case of rain
- Rain poncho or rain gear
- If you wear glasses, you will need a strap to keep them on
- Backpack or fanny pack
- *Camera (water-proof) with strap, optional
- Completed Equestrian participant waiver mailed back or given to Camp Bethel registrar at check-in

Safety for our Adventure day-trips:

All vehicles used for transporting campers are equipped with a first aid kit and emergency accessories. All vehicles have seatbelts for each passenger, and we check vehicle safety conditions prior to transport. Counselors will carry health forms for all passengers and a cell phone for emergency communication. Campers get full safety orientation prior to our day-trip.

Passengers (campers) are instructed in the following safety procedures prior to transporting:

1. Passengers will remain seated at all times with hands and arms inside vehicle.
2. Seatbelts will be fastened – one person per seatbelt.
3. Noise level will be such as to not distract the driver. There will be no disruptive behavior.
4. Passengers will enter and leave the vehicle under the direction of a staff member and/or driver. If the vehicle makes an emergency stop, passengers will follow directions of staff member and/or driver and use buddy system if leaving the vehicle.

The Directors of Camp Bethel have selected our Adventure outfitters (those providing equipment, leadership and expertise) and off-site projects based upon their qualifications and their adherence to safety standards as outlined by the American Camp Association.

SAFETY REGULATIONS FOR HORSEBACK RIDING AT REBA FARM INN:

1. **Protective headgear** specifically designed for horseback riding w/ chin strap are required. Riding helmets will be provided by Camp Bethel.
2. **Long trousers** and/or blue jeans are required to be worn by each participant. No shorts or Capri pants.
3. **Boots/Shoes:** Some type of closed shoe and/or boot (sneakers, hiking boots, etc.) are required to be worn by participant. No open-toe shoe and/or sandals and/or flip flops allowed. Socks (ankle or longer) are also required to be worn w/shoes or boots.
4. **Procedure for Approaching Horse(s):**
 - a. Never startle a horse. Always speak reassuringly whenever you approach.
 - b. While working around a horse, stay close to the front or sides so it will not be tempted to kick you and, if it does kick, you will not be struck with the full force of the kick.
 - c. Never approach a horse directly from the rear because a horse has a blind spot directly behind it. You might startle it and cause it to kick, which could result in serious injury. Remember, horses have blind spots directly in front of them and behind them.
 - d. Walk beside your horse, near the shoulder, when leading it -- never ahead or behind.
 - e. Never wrap the lead strap, halter rope or reins around your hand, wrist, or body. Lead from the left or near side, using your right hand to hold the lead rope. Keep the excess rope in the left hand in an "S" shape with your fingers to the outside.
 - f. If the horse rears, release the hand nearest the halter so that you stay on the ground.
 - g. Never mount in a barn or near fences, trees, or overhangs.
 - h. Never bind yourself to the horse or saddle.
 - i. Keep the horse under control and maintain a secure seat at all times.
 - j. If horse is frightened and attempts to run, turn it in a circle and tighten the circle until the horse stops.
 - k. Hold your mount to a walk when going downhill or uphill.
 - l. Slow down and hold the horse's head up when riding over rough ground or in sand or mud; there is a danger it might slip and fall.
 - m. Beginning riders should not jump a horse. If you cannot avoid a jump, give your horse a loose rein, grasp the saddle and lean well forward with your heels down.
5. **Distance between horse(s)** while riding: Rule of thumb 10 feet between horses.
6. When riding near/on and crossing public roads: Stay to the side of the road as directed by the trail leader.
7. Never enter a field of horses alone. Never approach a horse from behind or unannounced.
8. Trail Procedures: A first-aid kit will be carried by Trail Leader of Reba Farm Inn and Camp Bethel. Each participant will have a water bottle (provided by Reba Farm Inn) which attaches to the saddle.

**Virginia Code 3.1-796.130 applies to this activity: Please read:**

"Under Virginia law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities."

Reba Farm Inn posts the following notice at their facility:

"NOTICE: This is an equine facility. All activities on these grounds are subject to the Equine Inherent Risk Law (VA Code 3.1-796.130). By your presence on these grounds you have indicated that you have accepted the limits of liability resulting from inherent risks of equine activities. This is NOT a spectator area. All persons in this area will be regarded as participants and limited by the Inherent Risk Law. This law is strongly supported by The American Horse Council."