

Lutheran Valley Retreat Trail Rides & Riding Program
a program of
Lutheran Valley Retreat, Inc.

RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

ALL ADULT HORSEBACK RIDERS, 18 OR OLDER, OR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF ANY PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 18, MUST READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY:

Section A. Protective Attire.

- + I am hereby advised to wear a well-fitted helmet, hard hat, or similar protective head gear, fastened securely under the chin, while working around or riding horses, to prevent injuries.
- + I am hereby advised to always wear hard-soled, fully enclosed shoes or boots and socks to protect feet, and long pants to protect legs while working around or riding horses.

Section B. The Nature and Physical Character of the Horse.

1. **I am advised that** while domesticated, well-trained horses are usually obedient, docile, and often affectionate, it is important to understand that their survival instincts are what has allowed the horse to survive from prehistoric times to the present day.
2. **I am advised that** horses are unpredictable by nature, with minds of their own, as are all animals both domestic and wild. The horse is often somewhat high strung or nervous by nature. Horses are physically powerful and extremely heavy, weighing from 600 to 1,300 pounds on the average. These characteristics deserve a human being's utmost respect.
3. **I am advised that** when a horse is frightened, angry, under stress, or feels threatened, it is his instinct to jump forward or sideways, to run away from perceived danger at a trot or gallop at speeds up to 35 miles per hour.
4. **I am advised that** if a horse is frightened or feels threatened from behind, it may kick straight back, sideways in either direction, or even forward with either of its hind legs with tremendous force.
5. **I am advised that** if a horse is frightened or feels threatened from above or to its back, it may hunch its back and buck in away that could throw a rider to the ground with tremendous force.
6. **I am advised that** if a horse is frightened or feels threatened from the front, it may naturally react by rearing up with its front legs, strike with one or both front legs, bite with its teeth, throw its head up or from side-to-side, or run directly over whatever it fears in front of it.
7. **I am advised that** a human must always approach a horse calmly, quietly, and cautiously, preferably from near its shoulder or lower neck, talking soothingly to it. **I am advised that** loud and/or sudden or unexpected movements, dropping of objects near a horse, approaching vehicles or animals or people, ill-fitting equipment or physical pain can provoke a domesticated horse to react according to his natural protective instincts.
8. **I am advised that** the first signs of danger or fear in a horse are the sudden tensing of the muscles of the body, possibly laying its ears flat back against its head, or quickly tossing or raising its head, or sudden snorting through the nostrils accompanying at least one other warning sign.
9. **I am advised that** a horse can see independently with each eye, actually looking in one direction with one eye and another direction with the other eye, or it can focus both eyes on one object somewhere in front of it; that usually the direction the ear is pointing will tell an observer where the eye on the same side is looking, and consequently, where the horse's attention is focused.
10. **I am advised that** a horse has two blind areas around it which it cannot see. It cannot see directly behind it, nor what it is eating. This is the reason it is best to approach a horse close to the shoulder, and never to surprise a horse from the rear or to reach first for the horse's mouth.
11. **I am advised that** while a horse is very sure-footed by nature, it may accidentally step on an object such as a human foot when it is balancing itself or turning around; also that if a horse is ridden or worked on unstable ground or slippery grass or footing, it could fall, injuring a rider or handler.

(OVER)

Section C. Release

WARNING: Under Colorado Law, an 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, pursuant to section 13-21-120, Colorado Revised Statutes.

Upon acceptance of horse and equipment, I acknowledge that the use, handling, and riding of a horse involves a risk of physical injury to any individual undertaking such activities; and that a horse, irrespective of its training and usual past behavior and characteristics, may act or react unpredictably at times, based upon instinct or fright, which, likewise, is an inherent risk assumed by a horseback rider.

The undersigned expressly assumes such risk and waives any claim whatsoever, including, but not limited to, claims for negligence, breach of any warranties, or breach of contract he/she might state against Lutheran Valley Retreat, Inc., its Officers, employees, agents, or representatives, **(Indemnities)** from any and all costs, medical expenses, attorneys' fees, court costs, jury verdicts, settlement amounts, or other monetary damages incurred by or assessed against Indemnities and arising in any way from my participation or my child's participation in any horseback riding activity, camp or clinic involving the use, handling, or riding of a horse. I further agree to hold harmless and indemnify the Indemnities against any claims, demands, or lawsuits brought by anyone, including my child, for any negligence of the Indemnities, losses, damages, or injuries arising from my participation or my child's participation in any horseback riding activity, camp, or clinic involving the use, handling, or riding of a horse.

I have carefully read and understand this Release, have had the opportunity to ask questions about this Release and all such questions have been fully answered. With full knowledge of its contents, I hereby sign this Release voluntarily.

Name of Camper _____ Age _____
(Please Print) Last First MI (As of Date of Arrival at LVR)

Signature of Camper _____ Date _____

Signature of Parent _____ Date _____
(Signature of parent required if camper is under 18 years old)