

Windy Ridge Ranch Practice Riding

Practice riding is for the purpose of practicing what you are learning in class and improving your riding and horsemanship skills.

Practice riders are expected to take on an additional level of responsibility in caring for the horse, tack and facilities. Riders (and parents of minors) must be willing to accept the additional risks and responsibilities of riding outside of a supervised class.

All riders under the age of 13 must have parental supervision. WRR reserves the right to require supervision for anyone under the age of 18. Supervision means being within eyesight during the ride.

Who can Practice Ride?

- Currently-enrolled WRR lesson students (and some previous WRR students).
- Students who can identify, lead in and properly and safely tack the assigned horse unassisted and who can demonstrate independent control of the horse with a balanced seat at the trot and canter.
- Students who are comfortable and skilled enough to ride a variety of WRR horses.
- Students who have passed the riding and written portions of the WRR Practice Riding Test and who have read and signed the Horse & Stable Use Agreement.

Practice Ride (PR) Policies

- Practice Riders will have read, understood and signed the Horse Use and Stable Agreement.
- Email your request at least 24 hours in advance. If you do not receive an OK, do not come out to ride.
- Before making a request, check the roster for horse availability and total use for the day. If a horse is assigned to 2 classes, it is not available for a PR. Avoid PRs during lesson times when the weather or footing restricts lessons to the indoor ring. No PRs on Saturdays (unless no lessons are scheduled).
- You can request a particular horse but it may not end up being available, due to last minute class assignment changes, injuries or use by the lessee or another practice rider. If you notice that someone else did a PR on your requested horse earlier that day, choose another horse you have previously ridden or have received permission to ride. Practice riders should remain flexible.
- Before riding, log into the PR Notebook and leave payment in the brass payment box.
- Practice rides are limited to one hour and riders will be sure to track their time carefully. Practice ride time begins when you get on and ends when you get off.
- When making up a missed lesson, a 1-hour practice ride equals either a 1-hour or 1.5-hour class.
- Begin your practice ride soon after bringing your horse in, grooming and tacking up. Return your horse to the paddock (or pasture) soon after untacking and grooming/cooling out.
- Use a saddle for all or most of your ride.
- If a lessee shows up during your PR and wishes to ride, you can let them know how much time you have left. The lessee can either decide to wait for you to finish or can request their horse, in which case they can bring in and groom another horse for you (one you have previously ridden or had permission ride).
- New practice riders must receive permission to ride off the ranch property for the first time.

Windy Ridge Ranch Practice Riding Test

Name: _____

The riding portion of the test takes place during class. Please let Mark know if you'd like to complete the test before the class begins. You will need to demonstrate and have Mark sign off on:

- Properly tacking a horse, verbalizing knowledge of fitting a bridle, saddle and girth. _____
- Tying a safety release knot. _____
- Canter on a straight line, with good posture, a balanced seat and heels down. _____
- Halting on a straight line, from a canter, using the correct aids in proper order. _____
- Pulley reining to a halt from a canter. _____
- Doing the emergency dismount from a trot, landing facing forward and without getting hung up on the saddle or stuck in the stirrups. _____

1. While grooming, what are some health issues or possible injuries to look for?

2. What is the "bare hand test" and why is it important?

3. Why is it important to pick out a horse's feet before you ride?

4. How do you check to see if a saddle fits before and after you get on? Why is that important?

5. How long should you wait to ride at more than a walk after a horse has had a half scoop or more of grain and why?

6. How many minutes should you walk a horse at the beginning and end of your ride and why?

7. What are the three aids a rider should use, in proper order, to slow or stop a horse?

8. Name at least two things you can do to stop or slow a “runaway” horse, when pulling back doesn’t work?

9. How can you tell if a horse is lame and what should you do if your assigned horse is lame?

10. How can you tell if your horse is cool enough to end your ride, let it out or feed it grain?

11. What can happen if you feed a hot horse grain?

12. What should you do on a cold, windy day if your horse is soaked with sweat after your ride?

13. What ground or surface conditions should you consider before deciding to ride in:
 - a. The outdoor ring
 - b. The pasture or trails off the ranch?

14. When opposing riders meet in the ring, each rider should stay to the: __ Right __ Left

15. List four important trail riding rules:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.

16. What are some signs that a horse might have colic?

17. What should you do if you are at the barn alone and you see a really sick or badly injured horse, or there’s some other emergency?