



## **LESSON INFORMATION**

October Hill Farm provides excellent instruction in the equestrian discipline of show jumping. Our lesson program for non-boarders offers opportunities for riders from the beginner level to the intermediate level and beyond, helping each student develop his or her skills and abilities to progress further into the sport. All lessons on school horses include use of horse or pony and tack. All riders will begin lessons at October Hill with one or more private sessions to determine riding ability prior to joining any available group lessons. We accept students ages 7 and up.

### **RIDING LEVELS:**

*Beginner:* Designed for beginner riders, these lessons are approximately 30-45 minutes long (depending on age and experience) and cover the basic riding aids, safety, body position, balance, steering and controlling the horse's gaits. Riders may walk, trot, and canter over ground poles or small crossrails at this level. Not all riders progress at the same rate; riders can expect to remain in the beginner program until they are safely able to negotiate arena traffic and display other important proficiencies determined by the instructor.

*Intermediate:* Riders at this level receive 45 minutes of instruction, including cantering & jumping. Emphasis is on developing seat, using proper aids, equitation, building confidence, learning feel, adjusting gaits, and riding small jumps and courses.

**ADVANCED LESSONS WITH HEAD TRAINER:** When available, advanced level riders can book lessons with October Hill's head trainer Christian Heineking. These lessons run 30-40 minutes with intense instruction on jumping skills, flatwork, and upper level show preparation.

**HAUL-IN LESSONS:** Riders may bring their own suitable horses for lessons, working out of their trailers for tacking and untacking. Riders must provide all of their own tack and equipment. A current negative Coggins is required. All haul-in lessons are 40 minutes and may be scheduled with any available instructor, with rates as shown. October Hill Farm has absolute and ultimate authority to not allow an unsuitable, ill-behaved or dangerous horse on its property.

**PRIVATE & GROUP LESSONS:** Wherever possible, private lessons will be offered. Group lessons consist of up to three riders of comparable abilities. Group lessons are generally offered during school days and may also be arranged on weekends to accommodate demand. It is at the instructor's discretion to determine if a student is capable of success in a group lesson setting. Any riders which cannot ride off-lead must be in a private lesson.

**LESSON RATES – Lessons are pay as you go.** Introductory lessons are paid for on the day they occur. Additional lessons are billed twice per month by email invoice with a link to online payment. Prompt payment is required in order to continue lessons. *PRICES EFFECTIVE 1.1.2023*

<b>Lessons</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>Group</b>
Beginner Rider	\$80	\$70
Intermediate Rider	\$110	\$100
Advanced Rider (with Christian Heineking)	\$150.00 each, limited availability	

<b>Haul In Lessons</b>	
Single Lesson	\$175.00
With Christian Heineking	\$225.00 each

**ARRIVAL** – Plan to arrive at the farm at least fifteen minutes prior to your lesson time, dressed and ready to ride. Upon arrival, please check in at the office and remain there until the instructor is available. If you arrive late, your lesson will still end on time in order for our instructors to stay on schedule.

**ATTIRE** -- Riders must wear approved helmets, jodphurs, riding pants or tights, and footwear to participate in lessons. Jeans are considered in appropriate and may not be worn after the introductory lesson. October Hill does not provide helmets or footwear. Shirts should be tucked in to pants. Helmets are required while mounted, with chin strap in place. Riding gloves are recommended at all levels.

**RELEASES & HORSE USE AGREEMENT** – All riders and parents of minors who ride will sign a horse use and lesson agreement, including a liability release, prior to the first lesson. All parents of minors will also be required to sign a Safe Sport One-on-One Coaching Waiver prior to the first lesson. Periodically, riders and/or parents/guardians will be required to resign these documents when presented in order to continue lessons at October Hill Farm.

**STABLE DECORUM** -- We encourage friends and family to come and watch lessons, however certain decorum is needed around horses. Observation from the railing is allowed only in certain areas for the safety of the riders, and, for the safety of onlookers, please do not enter the arena without invitation from the instructor. Small children accompanying you must not be permitted to stray from your side.

**CANCELLATIONS AND NO-SHOW POLICY** – We understand things can happen and plans change; we hope you understand that our horses need to earn their keep. Therefore, lessons cancelled within 3 hours of scheduled lesson time incur a \$30 cancellation fee. Chronic cancellation of lessons may result in inability to schedule future lessons. No-shows are a no-go! A no-show, meaning you either fail to show up for your scheduled lesson or forget to cancel, will result in a full lesson price penalty to be paid before additional lessons can be booked.

**CONTACTING US** -- For scheduling, changes, and cancellations, please contact your instructor by phone or text at the provided number. October Hill Farm will maintain a strict policy regarding communication with a minor child, requiring the presence, whether physically or digitally, of a parent on both a text messaging app as well as on an email communication. We cannot arrange lessons with a minor over the phone; please call on behalf of your child or communicate with us by group text only.