



Switch Willo Stables Riding Academy

Horsemanship Class

Program goal: introduce beginner equestrians to the skills and experience required to start the Switch Willo Riding Academy successfully and confidently.

Week 1

- Barn tour and horse introduction
 - Instructor / student introductions. Ice breakers.
 - Barn and camp house tour
 - Meet/greet small pony from lesson program; learn how to feed treats, learn how to stand around a pony.
 - Barn tour should include introduction to the horse assignment sheet.

Week 2

- Grooming 101
 - Introduce the students to each grooming tool. Teach them how to collect their grooming supplies and bring to tack-up stall.
 - Game option: place grooming tools in yard. Ask students to find one of each tool and put into their bucket.
 - Craft option: coloring book for grooming tools.
 - Meet/greet a new pony from lesson program. Re-teach how to feed treats and how to stand around a pony safely.

Week 3

- Grooming 101 Round 2
 - Remind students how to collect their grooming supplies and bring to tack-up stalls.
 - Meet/greet a new pony/small horse from lesson program. Remind students how to stand around a pony/horse safely.
 - Teach grooming techniques – curry comb, body brush, hoof pic, tail/mane.
 - Educate on why grooming is important.

Week 4

- Tack-Up 101
 - Introduce students to each piece of tack: halter, bridle, saddle, saddle pads, boots. Use camp house wood horse to introduce saddle / pads placement.
 - Meet/greet a new pony/small horse from lesson program. Allow students to groom that pony/horse with supervision.
 - Show students how to tack-up
 - Remind them how to feed a treat / how to stand around the pony/horse safely.

Week 5

- Tack-Up 101 Round 2
 - Remind students how to collect their grooming supplies / tack and place at tack-up stalls.
 - Meet/greet a new pony from lesson program.
 - Allow students to groom the horse by themselves, less direct supervision.
 - Re-teach tacking up a horse. Allow each student to place saddle pads/saddle on pony.
 - Teach students how to put away all of their materials for the day.

Week 6

- Leading a Horse 101
 - Allow students to groom and fully tack-up a pony/horse.
 - Instructor will teach students how to properly lead a horse.
 - This should include walking forward, turning around, halting, and backing up.
 - Recommendation: Use poles and cones for an obstacle course setting – this will also begin to introduce learning a sequence, AKA learning a course.
 - Have students completely un-tack the pony/horse and properly put away all of their materials for the day.

Week 7

- Getting Ready to Ride
 - Teach students how to:
 - Mount
 - Hold reins properly
 - Post
 - Two-point
 - Dismount
 - Repeat several times.
 - Show fun (but educationally correct) videos of horseback riding. i.e., horse shows, clips of good riders on social media, pictures of local horse shows, etc.
 - Get out a pony/horse for leading exercises to finish the day.

Week 8

- Getting Ready to Ride Round 2
 - Have students show you what they learned from Getting Ready to Ride Part One while on wood horse: mount, hold reins, post, two-point, dismount.
 - Allow students to groom and fully tack-up a pony/horse.
 - Have each student correctly mount the pony/horse from mounting block. Have them show you how they hold the reins properly, how to post (at a halt), how to two-point, and how to properly dismount.
 - Recommendation: allow each student to sit on the pony/horse and take a minute to feel comfortable. Let them pet their neck, give them a hug, reach back with their hand to their tail. All of those actions will help them feel comfortable in their surroundings.
 - Have students completely un-tack the pony/horse and properly put away all of their materials for the day.

Week 9

- Getting Ready to Ride Round 3
 - Allow students to groom and fully tack-up a pony/horse.
 - Have each student take a turn leading the pony/horse.
 - Have each student mount and walk on the pony/horse.
 - Demonstrate proper rein holding, post at walk, two-point at walk, dismount.
- Have students completely un-tack the pony/horse and properly put away all of their materials for the day.