

Mercer County Stables

2023 Programs- March - April



Registration is required for all programs. Open Lessons and Trail Rides are booked via phone-in reservations. On-line registration opens February 20 at 9:00 am through the Community Pass- Mercer registration site: <https://register.communitypass.net/mercer/> . Please read the entire program description, dates, times, and Cancellation/Refund Policy carefully before registration. Please call 609-730-9059 x 404 or 401 for questions and additional information.

ENGLISH RIDING SIX-WEEK LESSON PROGRAM- Mercer Stables offers English riding lessons for New, Beginner, and Advanced level riders. Our weekly lesson program focuses on safe, practical horsemanship and horseback riding regardless of the rider's experience. No rider is ever pushed beyond their comfort or skill levels. All riding lessons take place in our well-lit indoor and outdoor riding rings. Lesson students may begin at 6 years old. Adults are welcome too! Please see the schedule for available days and times. No credits or refunds given for cancellations or missed lessons. Lessons start Saturday March 4th. *Please note, this session is for 6 weeks of lessons.*

Age: Min age 6 years old- adult

Registration Type- On-line through Community Pass

Dates & Times: Tuesdays 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 5:45 – 6 weeks, March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11.
Thursdays 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 5:45 – 6 weeks, March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13.
Saturdays 9:30 am 10:00 am, 1:00, 1:30 – 6 weeks, March 4, 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15. ***No lesson on March 11.**

Cost: \$360.00

Weight Limit: 200 lbs. **Weigh-in may be required.**

OPEN ENGLISH RIDING LESSONS- Our Open Lesson option is a great way to join our lesson program without committing to multiple lessons. The Open Lesson program time slots are weekday mornings and early afternoons. Riding instructions are taught according to the students riding level or the student may request to work on a specific riding skill. Two options are available in our Open Lesson Program- Private or Extended Private. A Private lesson is 30 minutes of ride time. Extended Private is your choice of either 15 minutes learning grooming and tacking with 30 minutes of ride time or straight 45 minutes of ride time. Reservations are required. To make a reservation simply call Maria at 609-730-9059 x 404 to discuss available times. Payment is due at the time of reservation.

Age: Min age 6 years old- adult

Registration Type- Phone-in 609-730-9059 x 404

Dates & Times: Weekday mornings and early afternoons, times vary

Cost: Private \$60.00
Extended Private \$80.00

Weight Limit: 200 lbs. **Weigh-in may be required.**

GROOM, TACK, & RIDE (GTR) CLASSES – One of our most popular programs! The class starts with an interactive presentation about the Stables and horse care. We teach the students how to groom and how to tack up a horse with an English saddle. We then head into the barn for hands-on grooming and tacking of the horses and ponies used for the class followed by a lead pony/horse ride around the riding ring. Classes are by age. Tiny Riders GTR ages 2-4 years, Pony Partners GTR ages 5-7 years, Horse Partners GTR ages 7-9 years.

	Tiny Riders GTR	Pony Partner GTR	Horse Partner GTR
Dates:	March 14, April 14	March 11, 9:00 am-10:30 am (approx.)	March 11, 10:30 am-12:00 (approx.)
Time:	10:00 am-11:00 am (approx.)	April 4, 10:00 am-11:30 am (approx.)	April 6, 10:00 am-11:30 am (approx.)
Cost:	\$15 per class	\$15 per class	\$15 per class
Weight Limit:	60 lbs.	120 lbs.	120 lbs.
Class size:	6 children	6 children	6 children

Registration Type- On-line through Community Pass



The Mercer County Park Commission
Brian M. Hughes, County Executive
Aaron T. Watson, Executive Director

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“TINY RIDERS” STORYTIME- *Storytime is back!* Reading and storytelling with children promotes brain development and imagination, develops language and emotions, and strengthens relationships. Building on our popular Tiny Riders program, Tiny Riders Storytime starts with Stables staff reading an age appropriate, horse themed storybook to the kids followed by pony rides in our riding ring. Program duration: Approximately 30-45 minutes long. No credits or refunds given for cancellations or missed classes. Be sure to arrive on time!

Ages: 2-4 years

Time: 10:00 am

Dates: March 17, 28, April 7

Weight limit: 80 lbs.

Cost: \$10.00

Class size: 12 children

Registration Type- On-line through Community Pass

BOOK BUDDIES, Read to a Horse- Growing research has identified several advantages of reading to animals that shows benefits to both children and animals. Animals don't judge a child's reading skills, which may encourage hesitant or struggling readers to practice and gain confidence, fluency, and boost literacy skills. While practicing their reading skills and building their confidence, kids also learn empathy for animals when they see how their reading can have a calming effect on the animal and they discover how to assess an animal's body language. It gives kids a sense of purpose when they sense the animals are benefiting from their kindness and attention through the act of reading. The benefits of reading to animals isn't just for the children. Animals are also helped from the attention they receive. We set out a hay bale to sit on. Bring a blanket or folding chair if you prefer, your own book or choose from our library. No credits or refunds given for cancellations or missed classes.

Ages: All ages

Dates: March 19, April 2, 23

Times: 1:00 pm -2:00 pm

Cost: \$5.00

Session size: 10 children per posted date

Registration Type- On-line through Community Pass

PONY RIDES!- Just a good old-fashioned pony ride! Each ride is twice around the indoor ring. Registration is required, sorry no walk-ins permitted. To be fair to everyone, registration is limited to two rides per participant and rides are not consecutive. No credits or refunds given for cancellations or missed classes.

Ages: 2-7 years

Dates: March 22, April 5

Time: 10:00 am

Cost: \$5 per ride

Weight limit: 80 lbs.

Registration Type- On-line through Community Pass

TRAIL RIDING- Come join us for a 45-minute guided trail ride around Mercer Stables property. This is a relaxing walk only trail ride. Previous riding experience is not necessary but riders must be able to control the horse. At the management's discretion, riders may be on lead for the riders' safety. Participants must be physically able to get on and off the horse without assistance. Boots are preferred; no open toed shoes, ballet flats, thin sneakers (like Vans/Converse) or tight clothing. Wearing a riding helmet is required (provided by MCS). Please allow for some extra time before and after your scheduled trail ride. One adult from the same family must register with minors. Additional policies will be explained when making your reservation. Please note, trail ride time slot must have a minimum of two participants for it to run. Trail Riding at Mercer Stables runs to mid-May 2023.

Dates & Times: Wednesdays March 8, 15, 29, April 12- 11:00 am

Fridays March 10, 24- 11:00 am

Saturdays March 4, 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29- 11:00 am

April 17-21 & April 24-28, 11:00 am

Cost: \$45.00

**Actual time may vary by a few minutes depending on how fast or slow the horses walk.*

Age Requirement: 12 years old and up

Weight Restrictions: 220 lbs. maximum

Registration Type- Phone-in 609-730-9059 x 404 or x 401

Schedule subject to change



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