



2025 Dream Riders Participant Welcome Letter and Fact Sheet

**4705 Winkler Road, Philpot, KY 42366
(270) 613-0079**

Thank you for your interest in ***Dream Riders of Kentucky Inc.*** Enclosed is a packet of information and the required forms, which must be filled out and returned to the Program Director before placement in the program. Please keep this first section for your future reference.

Dream Riders of Kentucky Inc. is a non-profit equine-assisted activities and therapies program in a supportive and therapeutic environment to enhance the quality of life for children and adults with disabilities living in Daviess County and surrounding areas. The ***Dream Riders of Kentucky Inc.*** program strives to be therapeutically beneficial in the physical, psychological, cognitive, and behavioral challenges of each individual who participates. All programs work towards fostering independence, enhancing individual strengths, and achieving personal goals.

Dream Riders of Kentucky Inc. serves individuals with diagnoses of cognitive and physical challenges and other mental health issues. DRK also serves Veterans and Active Service Members. Participants' ages range from four into their senior years.

Each participant, parent, or guardian begins by reading the attached information package, completing the attached forms, and sending them to the Program Director. Please note the medical forms **must be completed** and signed by the participant's medical provider. All new participants will require an intake assessment to determine individual needs, suitability, class type, exercise tolerance, mounting technique, volunteer assistance, horse and adaptive equipment assignments, availability and goal setting. Participants are then placed in classes based on their individual needs, ability, age, personal goals, weight limit (mounted participants are weighed twice (2 times) a year), and availability by the Program Director.

Through carefully designed objectives and lesson plans prepared by our instructors who are PATH Intl. (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) Certified and CHA (Certified Horsemanship Association) Riders with Disability, participants work towards their personal goals in a therapeutically beneficial setting. The instructor documents measurable outcomes in the student's weekly progress notes for the individual participants they serve; always working towards the goals agreed upon at the beginning of each semester.

The ***Dream Riders of Kentucky Inc.*** Board of Directors, staff and volunteers continue to assertively pursue funding to support the program and make it affordable for every rider we serve. Payments are **required** prior to the starting date of the session. Although riders pay a tuition fee of \$250 per semester per student, the actual cost to ***Dream Riders of Kentucky Inc.*** is much higher.

We look forward to making ***Dream Riders of Kentucky Inc.*** an integral part of your coming year.

(Please keep pages 1, 2, and 3 for your records)



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2025 Fact Sheet

(please date and sign the last page, return with registration)

The Dream Riders of Kentucky Enrollment:

Please complete all the forms and have the appropriate party sign and date them. Once the forms have been completed, return them to ***Dream Riders of Kentucky Inc.*** via email or mail. When the forms have been received, you will be contacted for a rider intake assessment meeting. The intake assessment will determine the rider's individual needs, such as suitability, class type, exercise tolerance, mounting technique, volunteer assistance, horse assignment, adaptive equipment, availability and goal setting. Riders are placed in classes based on their individual needs, ability, age, personal goals, and your availability. If you are a returning rider you will need to fill out all paperwork and update goals.

Rider tuition costs

- Our tuition fee is \$250 per semester per student.
- Payment in full is required before or first day of each new semester. This will secure riding time throughout the semester. There are no per lesson rates, fees are charged at a flat tuition rate for each semester.
- Due to the high level of program activity, we are not able to offer refunds, make-ups for missed lessons, or carry a balance over from one semester to the next.

General Information

- The classes are offered in semesters (Five 8-week), with the hope riders continue to participate and benefit throughout the year.
- The riders attend their assigned class weekly to maximize the benefits of the progressively designed classes.
- All assignments are made by the Program Director/Certified TR Instructor based on the age, goals and needs of the rider(s).
- To help us provide the maximum time available for your lesson, please arrive **15 minutes** before the assigned riding time and be prepared with the rider's helmet on, adjusted and ready to mount.
- **DRK will make every effort to accommodate each rider, however, if you arrive late, it is disruptive to the class and may result in you not being able to ride or participate in that class.**
- Please give 24-hour notice of any cancellations so we can re-schedule our volunteers and horses accordingly. Two (2) "no-call, no-shows" in a session will result in you being asked to forfeit your spot to someone on the waiting list.

Attire

- All students must wear approved ASTM-SEI safety helmets while mounted. Helmets are provided by ***Dream Riders of Kentucky Inc.*** All students must wear closed toe shoes and long pants. No sleeveless shirts.

Safety Rules

- **Riders who are minors require a parent or caregiver to remain onsite during the lesson. This means even though a rider is dropped off, the parent or caregiver cannot leave the premises.**
- **Guests and spectators should remain in the designated viewing areas in order to minimize distractions.**
- **Please do not leave any children unattended.**
- **Please note: The barn is not open to parents, caregivers, or visitors without prior permission.**

Eligibility Criteria

- Riding is not an appropriate activity for everybody. The ***Dream Riders of Kentucky Inc.*** program occasionally has declined services to those for whom riding is contraindicated. We follow PATH International standards and guidelines for safety purposes. According to PATH Intl. guidelines, riding is contraindicated if:
 1. The staff or volunteer is unable to safely manage the client in any situation, including an emergency dismount.
 2. The safety and comfort of the client or the horse is compromised.
 3. Weigh under **160 lbs.** for independent riders, weigh under 50 lbs for riders who cannot bear weight
 4. Be of weight and height ratio that can safely be managed by staff, volunteers, and/or the equine
 5. Mount and dismount safely with assistance
 6. Sit up on their own with minimal assistance
 7. Maintain head and neck control at all times
 8. Maintain a centered position while the horse is in motion
 9. Sit quietly in the saddle without excessive movement
 10. Understand and comply with verbal instructions
 11. All riders must wear an ASTM-SEI helmet during all mounted EAAT programs.
 12. Due to the risk to the riders, volunteers and horses, back riding is not permitted
- As an alternative **ground lessons** are offered for those individuals who are unable to participate in riding. Ground lessons may include grooming, tacking, leading, and general horsemanship education and other related community service activities. These lessons provide many therapeutic benefits, new learning experiences, and opportunities for bonding with the horse.

Signature

Date

