

Our Needs:

Volunteers: These caring, dedicated people are the lifeblood of the program. Without them, many individuals would not be able to get the riding therapy they look forward to and deserve. No matter the amount of time you have, your help is invaluable and much appreciated.

Rider Sponsorships: This helps a rider with limited resources participate in the riding therapy they need.

Horse Sponsorships: This helps with the costs of feed, bedding, veterinary care, and farrier work for the horses used in the program.

All donations, whether cash or check, are tax deductible. Receipts are available.

Directions to the Equestrian Center

- Exit north off I-80/35 at Hwy 141
- Exit #148, NW Saylorville Drive/Polk City exit off Hwy 141 – Turn Right off exit ramp
- Turn west (left) at NW Beaver Drive (4-way stop), before you reach the one-mile bridge
- Turn north (right) on NW 107th (look for direction signs to Equestrian Center)
- Turn east (right) on NW 114th
- Follow the road to the Equestrian Center parking lot



Jester Park Equestrian Center
11171 NW 103rd Ct.
Granger IA 50109

Barn: 515-999-2818
Program Director: 515-229-5722

Jester Park Exceptional Riders

Therapeutic Horseback Riding for Children and Adults

Located at Jester Park Equestrian Center

Our Mission:

The Jester Park Exceptional Rider program is a therapeutic horseback riding environment designed to provide individuals with physical, cognitive, and emotional disabilities an opportunity to experience therapy, education, sport, and recreation using equine-assisted activities.

Our Goal:

To provide a positive experience that puts clients first and enhances learning, growing, strengthening, and fun.

Why Therapeutic Riding?

Horses evoke excitement, adventure, grace, freedom, and magnificence in people of all ages. The three dimensional movement of the horse's gait causes the rider's trunk, pelvis, and shoulders to move in a way that is similar to the movement created by the normal human walk. This motion helps the body build muscle memory. The equine world can enhance a person's skills in problem-solving, goal setting, decision-making, self-reliance, listening, follow-through, and self-confidence. The multi-faceted world of horses also can teach responsibility and respect for other living creatures and people.

Specific Areas of Development Affected by Interactions with Horses Include:

Character: Accountability, patience, empathy, self-discipline, social integration, builds identity, improves the ability to trust, and develops the understanding that choices, attitude, and behaviors affect other living creatures.

Cognitive: Improves focus, increases intensity, teaches leadership skills, sequencing, critical thinking skills, cause and effect relationships, eye-hand coordination, and allows for practice of math and reading skills as they learn about horses and their care.

Health: Good calorie burning exercise, improves lower body muscle tone, develops balance, coordination, and flexibility, improves postural and motor control, improves motor planning and sensory processing, the neuromuscular stimulation eases muscle spasms and relaxes tense muscles, increases respiration which in turn increases alertness and the ability to vocalize, and creates feelings of happiness, pleasure and independence.

Disabilities Helped by the JPER Program

There is a wide spectrum of disabilities that benefit from this program. They include but are not limited to:

Autism

Developmental Delays

Brain and Spinal Cord Injuries

Learning Disabilities

Downs Syndrome

Multiple Sclerosis

Cerebral Palsy

ADD/ADHD

Sensory Integration Dysfunction

Tourette's Syndrome

Visual and Auditory Deficiency

Jester Park Exceptional
Riders Program
Call 515-999-2818