

# TO ENROLL IN LESSONS

*The upcoming series will take place*

*Fall Session weeks of*

*September 12 - November 14*

*The next lesson registration date is:*

*August 13, 2011*

*Registration begins approx. 7:30 a.m. This is an in-person registration. Please call us with any questions you might have regarding the registration process.*

*If you are not able to make the registration in person, you may send the paperwork with another person. If that is not a possibility, you may drop off the paperwork by December 3rd, and after all registration is complete we will place you in an open slot if one is available. Once all of the lesson spots have been filled, we will hold a waiting list in case there are withdrawals. The waiting list is good for the current session only; those on the list will not receive priority in the next registration.*

*MCEC welcomes visitors. If you are interested in observing a lesson, we encourage you to call ahead of time for the daily schedule.*

431B Federal City Road  
Pennington, NJ 08534

Mercer County Equestrian Center

Mercer County  
Equestrian  
Center

# Horseback Riding Lessons



Brian M. Hughes, County Executive



Operated and Maintained by the  
Mercer County Park Commission  
Kevin B. Bannon, Executive Director  
Drew Worek, President

## The Lesson Program

### Beginner Private/Semi-Private Lessons

The Mercer County Equestrian Center (MCEC) beginner lesson program was created to expose people to horses and equestrian sports. The program focuses on safe, practical horsemanship and horseback riding. Lessons are appropriate for people with little or no riding experience, as well as those who desire more hands on experience. All students are given the opportunity to build knowledge and skills through basic individual instruction. No rider shall be pushed beyond their comfort or skill levels. Whether riders plan to continue after the 10-week program, or not, this experience offers the same enjoyable, informative and positive exposure. New riders must start with private lessons.

### Advanced Private Lessons

These lessons are for riders with experience but want to remain in a private lesson. Students must be able to groom and tack completely on their own and be ready at the riding ring for their lesson start time. You will receive a full hour of instructed riding. You are also required to untack and put away your horse successfully.

### Group Lessons

In addition to the beginner lesson series, we also offer group lessons for advanced beginner and intermediate students. To be eligible for group lessons, one must be able to groom and tack their mount as well as walk and trot independently. An evaluation lesson to determine skill level is required prior to scheduling. As an extension of the beginner lesson program, group lessons are also skill and knowledge focused, based on balanced-seat riding in a safe atmosphere.

#### The goals of the program:

- ✓ To increase the students' comfort level working around horses/ponies
- ✓ To develop horsemanship skills
- ✓ To build general horse-related knowledge
- ✓ To develop skills required to safely and effectively ride a horse/pony

## Instructional Format

Students scheduled for the private or semi-private lesson series will have a one hour lesson for 10 consecutive weeks. Approximately half of each lesson will be spent learning to groom, tack and handle the horse, the rest of the time will be spent riding. As group lesson students groom and tack independently, their instruction time may last up to an hour.

\*In order to provide a well-rounded equestrian education, at the discretion of the individual instructor, private and group lessons may be unmounted (i.e. lunging, long-lining, bandaging, handling) or a combination of mounted and unmounted.

## The Lesson Animals

MCEC uses both horses and ponies as mounts in the lesson program. Mounts are assigned by the instruction staff based on size, skill level and the intended lesson plan. Throughout the lesson series, based on the needs of the student as determined by the instruction staff, mounts will be rotated. As with people, all mounts are different, and offer different educational opportunities.

## Additional Information

Lessons are given in the indoor and outdoor arenas depending on the weather and time of year. Instruction is provided to both children and adults (beginning at 6 years of age). In an effort to provide riding opportunities to as many people as possible, registration is limited to one lesson spot per student per session. If openings are available after registration, then a second lesson spot may be reserved. After private lessons, continuation in the form of group lessons is based on availability and skill level (as determined by instruction staff).

## Summer Camp

Information regarding summer camp is available beginning in February. Please inquire if you are interested, information can be emailed.

## Lesson Series Schedule

Three, 10-week series are run throughout the year.

**Fall:** *September, October & November*

**Winter:** *January, February & March*

**Spring:** *April, May & June*

**Summer:** *July & August\**

*\*For group capable students only. Beginner private lessons are not given during July and August, in order to accommodate summer camp.*

## Cost

### Beginner Private Lessons

Mercer County Residents: \$400

Out-of-County Students: \$450

### Advanced Private Lessons

Mercer County Residents: \$550

Out-of-County Students: \$600

### Semi-Private Lessons

Mercer County Residents: \$380

Out-of-County Students: \$430

### Group Lessons

Mercer County Residents: \$360

Out-of-County Students: \$410

*\*Prices are subject to change*

## Directions

From I-95 take the Pennington/Rt.31 north exit. Turn right at the light for Delaware Ave. (Pennington Market will be on your right). Go through Pennington until the road forks. Bear right onto Federal City Rd. MCEC is 1/3 mile on the right.

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Equestrian Center

431B Federal City Road

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