

## **Short Boots Information**

Our philosophy is that the younger riders that are getting started do best if they begin in an unpressurized lesson program where they can progress by building confidence in an age appropriate way.

We have a special junior program to facilitate this.

Our regular group Short Boots program April-October is for the children 7+ ages group. Younger children will set up individualized lead line lessons on a less recurring basis.

It is also our introduction into the lesson program for those who want to ride in groups after they have progressed in several areas.

As instructors are looking for:

1. Confidence around the horse on the ground and on its back.
2. Stability on the horse (understanding of using their body with the horse's movement)
3. Understanding that our aids for communication are legs, seat, hands and voice, and a basic use of them.
4. Respect for the horse/pony and care in how we communicate with them.
5. Basic learning and practice of mounting, exercises, grooming, tacking up, position on the horse, following instructions for guiding the horse, and eventually communicating with the reins.
6. Safe development into awareness of others on their horses and basic ring figures.
7. Maturity to be safe with a lesson pony without one on one direct supervision.

There is no timeline, however the littler ones will be in junior program longer and some children prefer to have the guidance or help for a longer time. This program also allows more time flexibility because the lessons are scheduled according to parents availability and our staff availability rather than the commitment of reserving a horse and lesson time for 4 weeks every month for the year.

For the spring/summer we will be scheduling regular days that are dedicated to our Short Boots program. Each week they will learn new parts of the horse, words that are Equestrian related terms and their meaning, and varied activities (walking a pattern, trail ride, games, etc.)

2025-2026 School year: **Nov-March winter break; Individual lead line lessons can be scheduled** separately at \$60 plus tip cash payment all year round.

**SHORT BOOTS SCHEDULE; APRIL - OCTOBER:**

TBD

### **PAYMENT:**

All payments are required to be cash in an envelope marked with the student's name. No refunds for no shows. There is a discounted price of \$50 for prepayment of Short Boot's monthly ride/s, which includes the tip.

Fees for Lead line Lessons is \$60 for 45 minutes plus we ask that you tip the youth that works with your child.

We suggest that children 12 and under might consider trying this before graduating into available spaces in the weekly lesson program. Short Boots graduates get priority to join into these openings.

Our Short Boots coordinator is Jamie and she appreciates text messages to reserve a space in the program. If it is your first text, please introduce yourself and your child. 208-871-5926.