**DEEP SIGH EQUESTRIAN CENTER**



DSEC

PARENT

HANDBOOK

Complete General Information for Children’s Summer Day Camp 2017

**Deep Sigh Equestrian Centers Summer Camp program** is designed to be an intensive learning experience for both the experienced and first time rider. Summer camps offer a chance for children to learn in a focused environment with the interaction of other children in their age group. The DSEC offers an outdoor adventure in equine care and maintenance with quality instruction based on years of experience in the profession.

**Goals –** TheDSEC strives to provide children the opportunity to build skills physically, mentally and socially; to gain understanding and build relationships with others and nature.

**The O’Leary’s** **–** Kirk and Barbara are the owners of the DSEC and have been in business for over 10 years. Barbara has basically grown up on the back of a horse riding many styles including Western, English, Dressage and is now a National Barrel Horse Racing competitor with two Championship belt buckles to her name for qualifying and placing in the World Finals. Kirk is a retired Firefighter of 29 years. His last position held with the department was as a Public Education Officer to which he holds a certification in Fire and Life Safety. Not much gets by him on his daily safety check for helmets and boots…

**The program -** Equine care, balanced seat riding and on-the-ground (in-hand) horsemanship techniques are our main focus. Instruction in proper care of the equine and the equipment used will also be taught and performed by the attendees. Campers will get hands on experience in farm management and equine care including (but not limited to): mucking stalls, feeding assisting in farrier and veterinarian procedures, learning techniques used in equine training. Instruction will be given on how to properly groom and bath a horse. Your child will be encouraged to participate in activities in these areas based on their age and ability. Each activity is carefully planned to be suitable for the different ages of the campers. The daily horse "experience" is stressed.

A typical Camp Day at the DSEC is:

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| 8:30 – 9:00 | Arrival and Daily Review of horse assignments |
| 9:00 - 10:30 | First Activity |
| 10:30 - 12:00 | Second Activity |
| 12:00 - 1:00 | \*\*\*Lunch, (Bring your own lunch and beverages **please no sodas**) |
| 1:00 - 2:30 | Third Activity |
| 2:30 - 3:00 | Snack/Beverage break |
| 3:00 - 4:00 | Games, Crafts, Etc. |
| 4:00 - 4:30 | Clean Up and Departure |

\**Please note schedule may change based on weather and ring conditions, we will adjust schedule accordingly. Daily activities will change on multiple day camps. We will participate in water activities and enjoy the outdoors when weather permits****. \*\*\* Lunch must be brought daily for all campers****.*

**What to Wear:**

**Boots:** An appropriate riding boot must be worn at all times while on the horse. Leather Tennis shoes will be allowed but are not recommended. PLEASE; NO STEEL TOED BOOTS.

**Pants:** Jeans or riding breeches are recommended. Shorts and bathing suits should be brought for non-horse activities as well as water type shoes (sloggers, clogs, etc.).

**Helmets**: If your child has his or her own, please bring it and have it labeled with the child’s name inside. We do provide helmets for each child that needs one for the camp week. All helmets must be equestrian use and labeled as a SEI or ASTM approved helmet.

**Code of Conduct:** Campers are expected to show respect to all adults as well as fellow campers. Campers are required to address adults by "Miss, Mrs. and Mr., GOOD MANNERS are expected and rewarded, Please and Thank You. Inappropriate behavior may result in immediate termination of riding privileges and camp attendance as well as forfeiture of any deposits or monies to camper or parent.

**For your Childs Safety:**

In the event that your child cannot participate due to a health issue, we will work with you to provide a alternative for camp completion.

**Snacks / Lunch:** Each camper must bring their own lunch. Please only pack enough for your child. Please do not send any candy, chocolate, ice cream or soda.

**Drop Off / Pick Up:** For the safety of your child you are required to check in with a staff member when dropping off and picking up your child/children. This enables us to ensure an authorized adult is picking them up. Children will not be permitted to leave with an unauthorized person. Authorization must be written and signed by the legal guardian. No exceptions given. **Note:** A daily attendance pass will be given to the parent or guardian each morning. This pass must be presented and surrendered upon the completion of the camp day in order for the child to be released into the custody of the person picking up the child. If the pass is not presented, verification of the person picking up the child will be done.

**Deposit / Payment**: The cost for camp is $425 per session per week. A $50.00 non-refundable deposit will be required at the time of registration; ***This is a non-refundable deposit****.* The balance is to be paid in full before the first day of camp starts. Payment may be made with cash, personal checks, Venmo, or credit card.

**Cancellation:** Camp will be held rain or shine. No refunds or discounts will be given for partial participation. Deposits may be transferred to another camp date one time only with two weeks notice.

**Medical Releases a Camp Releases:** Please allow extra time the first day of camp to sign Waivers and Medical Release forms for the camp week.

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**Camp Rules and Regulations**

*Please go over these with your child / children*

* All campers must be signed in upon arrival.
* All drivers shall be given a camp attendance pass after drop off, and must be presented to pick up child / children at the end of the day.
* No visitors or family member are allowed in the barn before 8am or after 5pm.
* All guests must sign in.
* All campers must wear protective head gear and proper boots or shoes.
* A signed release forms must be obtained for all campers the first day of camp.
* No chewing gum allowed.
* No flip flops allowed unless the activity permits it.
* No rider may be mounted or handle a horse without camp staff present.
* No tying horses to fences or equipment.
* No treats may be given to horses unless approved by camp staff.
* No camper may administer medication, ointments, dressings or wormers to horses.
* No yelling, cussing, running, alcohol, personal drugs of any kind, permitted on property. No bullying, gossiping, teasing or name-calling permitted.
* You may not borrow, change, clean, adjust or in any way tamper with any boarders/owner's tack, equipment or supplies.
* No person under any circumstance may mount, ride or handle a horse without the proper releases signed by a parent or guardian.
* No trading or sharing foods with non-family members.
* You (the camper) are responsible for maintaining a clean safe environment while at DSEC. You must pick up after yourself and your guest(s) and return all equipment to it s proper storage location, i.e. saddles, bridles, brush kits.
* Trash must be properly disposed of in trash receptacles.
* No camp members are allowed to operate ANY motorized vehicles on DSEC property.
* No smoking is allowed on property.

*Violation of any of the above rules can and may be cause for immediate termination of camp privileges and/or removal of camper from DSEC.*