

Flying Changes



Dear **Reins to Ride** families,

We hope the winter and holidays have been safe, happy and more recently, warm for everyone. As we begin to enter our fifth year it is time to share some new and exciting changes with our family of riders.

First and foremost, the horse program within Tekoa has a new name, Flying Changes. We are still the same staff, horses and facilities but are trying to establish a stronger name and reputation within the community. As part of that, we have evaluated our past program and policies and are making some small changes. We will no longer be offering a table time activities section and will instead replace it with some grooming and possible horsemanship education. The sessions will still be 50 minutes and will follow a similar pattern as previously done, with sidewalkers, leaders and instructors. We will also be holding an 'Open House' as the sixth session of each series where family, friends and potential sponsors can attend and enjoy the smiles we get to see weekly. You will also notice that we are taking several weeks off in August to allow for horse and heat breaks. Additionally, we are changing our age requirements, keeping the minimum age of five but dropping the age cap and instead evaluating rider suitability and appropriate horse availability.

Lastly, we have altered our registration policy to allow more riders opportunity to participate. Rider's will be allowed to participate in two 6-week series and then will be placed on a waiting list for a third series if spots are available. Registrations are also accepted until the deadline date and then will be reviewed based on postmark date, suitability and horse availability. You can visit our website at www.tekoa.org and find the registration packet on the main page. The packet must be completed entirely by the deadline date but the medical consent may be sent separately if needed.

After all applications are reviewed you will be notified about session and time placements and then asked to send payment in full before the first session. While in the past we have been able to disperse scholarships more freely, we will begin a more formalized process this year where scholarships will be awarded based on both availability and review by multiple **Reins to Ride** staff. Please continue to apply if financial assistance is needed and we will continue to disperse the donation and grant money that allows us to offer scholarships.

We hope that this information is helpful to everyone as we prepare for another great year. We are excited to begin the registration process and prepare our horses and volunteers for memorable moments. If there are any questions or concerns about these policy changes please let us know! We look forward to seeing your names again soon. Enjoy the coming temperature changes.. hopefully!

Tiffany, Michelle & Coreen

Equine Experiential Learning for At-Risk Teens
930 Cambria Street • Christiansburg, VA 24073
540.382.6657 ext. 102 • www.tekoa.org



We are now accepting applications for participation in this year's therapeutic riding program in Christiansburg. The program is open to individuals with gross motor delays and will have three series that run May through October. While this program does have a minimal fee to participate we also offer scholarships.

To complete the registration please fill out the following forms:

- 1- Registration Form (including consent to treat & photo release)
- 2- Medical Release (to be completed annually by physician)
- 3- Equine release, waiver and indemnity agreement
- 4- Rehabilitation referral (*for new participants only*)
- 5- Scholarship request letter (if needed)

After completing the necessary forms **please return them by mail** to Tiffany Smith at 930 Cambria Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073. The program enrollment **will be influenced by the postmarked date** of the completed **mailed** registration paperwork. The packet must be completed entirely by the deadline date but the medical consent may be sent separately if needed. If you have any question, please contact Tiffany Smith at tsmith@chpc2.org or (540) 382-6657, ext. 102 or check our website at www.tekoa.org

Session Cost:

Each session is \$30. That fee covers the use of the horses, staffing and supplies needed to make this program possible. We require payment in full (\$180) with completed registration ***after being scheduled***. Since this program is only offered on Tuesdays, any absences can not be re-scheduled and refunds are not possible. Scholarships are available based on financial need. If you feel as though you need financial assistance {partial or full} please include a letter of need specifying level of desired assistance. ***After being notified about your acceptance, payment is expected in full by the deadline.***

Session Times:

There are two sessions held every Tuesday one from 4:00-4:50 and a second session from 5:15-6:05. You will be given an opportunity to list your preferred time but if that is unavailable your flexibility is appreciated.

Series Dates:

The program runs for six weeks and then takes a two week break before starting the next series. With three series offered a year and only eight spots available per series we want to make the program available to as many riders as possible. For that reason, we again ask for your flexibility and willingness to work with us as we meet the needs of many families. We currently advise you to complete the registration indicating your ideal choices and we will work with that as possible.

Series Date	Registration deadline	Series Notification	Payment Due
<i>Series One:</i> May 1- June 5	April 6	April 17	April 30
<i>Series Two:</i> June 26- July 31	June 1	June 12	June 25
<i>Series Three:</i> September 4- Oct. 9	August 10	August 21	September 3