
CHASTAIN HORSE PARK LESSON PROGRAM POLICIES



Healing through Horses

Chastain Horse Park | 4371 Powers Ferry Road | Atlanta, GA | 30327 | (404) 252-4244

Updated 5/9/18

Welcome to Chastain Horse Park's Lesson Program.

Our lesson program is based on providing a safe and enjoyable learning environment with horses for children and adults. The program will develop and strengthen skills in the areas of awareness, focus, leadership, team playing, confidence, coordination, courage, friendships and fun along with superb hunter equitation skills and abilities.

Our instructors enjoy teaching all aspects of riding and horsemanship with a primary focus on the principles of Hunters, Equitation, and Jumpers. Regardless of age or ability, they teach beginners through advanced students for both fun and competition. Many of our riders began as young children and have continued to ride with us throughout their adult years. Lessons are a great way to make friends and embrace teamwork and fun! As you progress with this style of riding, you can apply your new skills to many different disciplines such as Jumpers, Fox hunting, Trail riding, Polo, 3-Day Eventing, Western Pleasure, and even to prepare for a dude ranch or other horse-related vacation.

Our instructors are very competent and knowledgeable in the techniques for advancing students. They approach students with lots of fun and positive energy, creating an atmosphere that quickly enhances learning, develops life-long friendships with peers, and a great relationship with horses.

Please read the following agreement carefully. It contains not only expectations of the students but requirements that must be adhered to in order to be a part of the lesson program at Chastain Horse Park. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Chastain Horse Park at (404) 252-4244 ext. 1.

LESSON TIME

In order for a student to grow in horsemanship, precise skills must be learned that involve subtle communication between the rider and the horse. A knowledgeable horseman should know how his horse's mind and body works. A horse will tell you everything he needs to know about what he is thinking and what his body is feeling, the rider just has to learn how to listen. These skills take time and are learned from mounted lessons and un-mounted lessons over the years. There is no way to get bored in this sport – it is constantly changing. The un-mounted lessons, when conducted, are just as important as the mounted lessons in accelerating the students to become better horseman. They are given at the instructor's discretion.

TUITION

An initial payment by credit card is required to enroll in the program. After your initial payment, all remaining payments for tuition will be automatically withdrawn from your credit card on the first business day of the month for that month's tuition. CHP accepts MasterCard, Visa, and American Express, and Discover but no corporate or world cards. Tuition must be paid before the rider can start in a session.

If your credit card is rejected, you are required to pay a \$25.00 late fee.

No refunds will be given.

Group lessons include two to five students, while a private lesson is one student only.

Rates are as follows:

GROUP LESSONS: All Group lessons are 1 hour (including tack up and riding time)

Single Group Lesson Rate: \$90.00 (By prior approval only)

Once a week Group Lesson: Monthly Rate: \$370.00

Twice a Week Group Lessons: Monthly Rate: 700.00

PRIVATE LESSONS: All Private Lessons are based on a 30-minute lesson; double rates apply for an hour lesson

Single 30 minute Private Lesson: \$90.00, single 60 minute Private lesson: \$180.00

Once a week Private Lesson: Monthly Rate: \$370.00

Twice a week Private Lessons: Monthly Rate: \$700.00

We do our best to schedule appropriate students together; however, sometimes it requires students to change their time and the day of week they come for lessons. If it is not convenient for your schedule, we will work to accommodate you. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

If you would like to take two lessons per week, or an extra lesson in the month, please let us know and we will be happy to arrange a time.

Lesson time may be adjusted if one or more students are absent from the lesson.

RESPONSIBILITY OF STUDENTS

Students are responsible for arriving at each lesson, on time, unless you have previously notified your instructor. Private 30-minute lesson students are responsible for arriving at least 5 minutes before lesson time. If the rider is able to tack up on his or her own, please arrive 15 minutes prior to lesson. Group lesson students are responsible for arriving at least 15 minutes before lesson time and for staying at least 15 minutes afterwards. Students need to let their instructor know when they arrive. Then, they need to check the board in the barn aisle to see what horse they will be riding. Students are responsible for tacking up their horses if they are in group lessons.

Students are responsible for having correct attire, helmet and crop.

Students are responsible for cleaning up after themselves and their horse.

Lesson times include getting the horse tacked up, cooled down and un-tacked as well as time in the arena. When the weather doesn't allow mounted lessons, we will have un-mounted barn lessons.

LATE TO LESSON

If a student is late, and the other riders in the group are already in the arena, the late student needs to watch the lesson but will not be able to ride. In this case, the student will learn by observing.

CANCELLATIONS AND MAKE-UP LESSONS

The hallmark of Chastain Horse Park is a commitment to excellence in serving a wide variety of participants, from a beginner client to our most advanced competitive rider. You are joining riders of all ages and abilities who call Chastain Horse Park "home."

The Park has obvious limited resources, i.e. horses and ring space available for its rider's and therefore can only schedule a limited number of lesson students. In our commitment to provide the best environment for our clients, students who do not show up their scheduled lessons (i.e. a no-show) will not be allowed a make-up. Consistent with other athletic programs such as soccer, softball, lacrosse, golf etc., riders will forfeit their lesson if they do not come at their allotted time.

Make-up lessons are offered under the following circumstances and the rider must contact their Instructor within the following time frames:

1. If lessons are cancelled due to extreme weather or sickness.
2. There is a 24-hour notice cancellation policy for any missed lesson. If you provide a 24-hour notice that your child will miss a lesson time, a make-up lesson is provided 1X per month. Any subsequent missed lessons that month will not receive a make-up. Please contact the Instructor if your child is

not going to attend the lesson so that CHP can use the horse for another rider. **All make-ups are to be made within 30 days and do not carry over to the next month.**

3. No Chastain Instructor will cancel a lesson unless of severe weather or emergency. On the occasion that we have heavy rain or extreme temperatures, students will have a barn lesson. In the case of instructor illness, all efforts will be made to arrange for a substitute instructor.
4. If students do not wish to take a barn lesson, a makeup will not be granted. Our belief is that there is much more to being a rider than sitting on a horse. Therefore, refusal to participate will be treated as a no show. If an instructor cancels, a makeup will be provided within 30 days.
5. **If students cancel with less than 24 hours notice or inadvertently miss their lesson, the lesson is subject to full charge.** If cancelled with more than 24-hours' notice, students are to arrange with their instructor to make up the missed lesson within 30 days. Again, this will be allowed a maximum of one time per month. Students may need to ride with another instructor for their makeup. Private makeup lessons will not necessarily be Private and Group Lesson makeups must be scheduled in an existing Group Lesson.
6. **Riders that do not appear for a scheduled make up will be charged for the makeup and the missed lesson.**
7. Beginner lessons are more difficult to make up because beginner riders have fewer horse choices. We strongly suggest that beginner riders try to make their regularly scheduled appointment.
8. Please email or call your instructor to schedule a make-up lesson. Please don't call the instructor during lesson hours when they are managing horses and riders.
9. Because our horses are trained and available for riding year-round, we encourage all riders to continue with lessons throughout the summer. If possible, we will adjust to lesson times to avoid the summer heat. All lesson, cancellation, and makeup policies apply during the summer season. If a rider chooses to cancel during summer with the expectation of returning in the fall, please be advised that there is no guarantee of placement as our programs are often full. We expect and strongly recommend committed riders to remain with the program during the summer season to ensure placement.
10. Family vacations make-ups can be scheduled and taken prior to the vacation, if desired. Please let your instructor know in advance if possible (i.e. weeks or months ahead) and schedule the makeups with them. This said, the limit is 1 lesson per month maximum regardless of other considerations. For example, if a student is on vacation early in the month and sick later in the month, we will accommodate one make-up lesson.

PLANNING WEEKS

CHP schedules a planning week once per quarter which is necessary for the general health and well-being of our horses and instructors. During these planning weeks we take horses off-site to be on vacation/have pasture time, get medical/dental work completed, conduct internal training and readiness, etc. There are no lessons during these planning weeks and no make-up lessons. Planning weeks are scheduled annually in advance.

WITHDRAWING FROM THE PROGRAM

You are required to give a 30-day notice prior to your last lesson in the program. This will allow CHP to contact a student on the waiting list and place them in your time slot. All students are billed on the first



business day of the month for that month's tuition. Therefore, if we are not notified of your desire to leave the program 30 days prior to your last lesson, you will be billed for the next month of lessons, regardless of whether or not you attend the lessons.

There will be no credits or refunds given in the program. It is common practice in this sport as well as many others that children and adults are required to give a 30-day notice. We require students to strictly adhere to this policy.

RULES OF BARN

1. Parents are welcome to leave children 12 and over with their instructor and pick them up within 30 minutes after their lesson is over. Children younger than 12 can be left only after instructor permission.
2. Riders are not allowed to have their cell phones on during their lessons and absolutely NO PHONE CALLS OR TEXTING.
3. Parents watching lessons are not allowed in the rings unless otherwise advised by the instructor and absolutely no coaching or clucking from the sidelines. Except for emergencies, parents should avoid interacting, disrupting, or distracting riders. Please do not converse with your child until after the lesson.
4. An adult must supervise all children not riding in a lesson.
5. For safety reasons, please no throwing rocks, running, or spooking horses, etc.
6. All dogs must be on leashes. No barking, growling, or biting dogs allowed on premises.
7. No dogs or baby carriages are allowed in the barns.
8. Occasionally, a school horse may misbehave. The instructor will attempt to correct the behavior. If the horse's behavior does not improve, the instructor may choose for that rider to finish the lesson observing the other riders.
9. Mounted riders on CHP lesson horses are not allowed outside of the rings. You must walk your horse from barn to ring and/or from ring to ring.

WEATHER

Lessons are held rain or shine except in the case of severe weather. We are very fortunate to have two covered arenas, and we can always have a barn lesson. Of course, in case of severe weather, noted by the National Weather Service in Atlanta at (770) 486-1333, lessons will be cancelled.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your instructor or Chastain Horse Park at (404) 252-4244 ext.1; or email at lessons@chastainhorsepark.org

RIDING EQUIPMENT

For your convenience, there is a copy of the riding equipment needed on the last page of this document. Also, if the rider is a child, it's a good idea to write their name in their jackets, helmets, etc. because at some point, they likely will accidentally leave something at the barn. That way it's easy to identify the item.

We recommend buying your equipment at Atlanta Saddlery in Alpharetta. Their address is 1600 South Main Street, Alpharetta, Georgia, 30009 and phone is (770) 475-1967. They are open Monday-Saturday. Their ability to fit the rider is excellent. Also, if anything goes wrong with the equipment, they will make it right. Also, you get the best prices with additional discounts. They are locally owned by an experienced horsewoman and take pride in their business. Chastain Horse Park has no business relationship with Atlanta Saddlery.

Tell them you are our student and you want the new rider program, which is to purchase 3 things on their new rider list, and you will receive 15% off. Also, anytime you buy anything and tell them you are a CHP student, you will receive 10% off. If your child is the rider, make sure to take them with you so they can

properly fit her/him.

Items to purchase:

1. Paddock boots - make sure the boots will accommodate thick socks (the hiking weight) for winter riding.
2. 1/2 chaps
3. Breeches – they have summer and winter weights. Rider may need to put long underwear on under them in colder weather.
4. ASTM/SEI approved safety helmet fitted by salesperson with hair inside hat if over 11 (a hairnet helps). Riders are welcome to use a school helmet although most kids have their own helmet for ease and sanitary reasons.
5. Riders should purchase a black riding bat in the appropriate size to age. The shop will help with this.

Riders should wear conservative tops that are well- fitted. We need to see the rider's silhouette in order to teach proper techniques. Riders can wear stretch jeans in the winter - they are usually warmer than breeches unless you buy the heavy weight. If you choose to wear jeans, make sure they are the stretch kind with no flare and take them with you to the store to fit with ½ chaps.

For winter riding:

1. Winter riding gloves – keeping hands warm is very important
2. Warm socks
3. UnderArmour tops
4. Wool button up Sweater if desired
5. A down jacket or similar type warmth that stops at the hip.
6. Hand warmers to place in rider's pockets and back pockets of jeans. Toe warmers to place in boots

OTHER SUGGESTED ITEMS

Students should bring a cold drink such as PowerAde, Gatorade, or a soft drink in a thermos. Water is sometimes just not enough. It is nice to take breaks and have something cold to drink. There is a drink machine located in the main barn across from the clubhouse if you forget to bring one.

Recommended Reading for children:

- *The United States Pony Club Manual of Horsemanship* by Susan E. Harris
- *Happy Horsemanship* by Dorothy Henderson Pinch.

Recommended Reading for Adults:

- *Equal to the Challenge: Pioneering Women of Horse Sports* by Jackie C. Burke
- *Classic Show Jumping - Complete System of Training Today's Horses and Riders* by Bertalan De Némethy
- *Riding and Jumping Clinic: A Step-by-Step Course for winning in the Hunter and Jumper Rings* by Anne Kursinski
- *Hunter Seat Equitation* by George Morris; *Centered Riding* by Sally Swift.



LESSON POLICY AGREEMENT

Pages 1-5 can be kept for your records. Page 6 (this form) must be returned to our office along with the registration packet.

I _____ (*name of client/parent or legal guardian if under 18yrs old*) have read and acknowledge the Program Policies and will abide by the stated policies. I understand that these policies are designed to help keep all involved parties safe, a predictable schedule, riders' success, proper care for equines, and operations of the Chastain Horse Park regular.

Parent or Rider Signature

Date

(If under 18yrs old, parent or legal guardian must sign)