

**MIDLAND COUNTY 4-H EXCEPTIONAL RIDERS
TALL IN THE SADDLE
APPLICATION FORM**

Date of Application: _____

Date Received: _____

Participant's Information:

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Weight: _____

Height: _____

Diagnosis/Special Education Certification: _____

Additional information about the applicant that would be helpful for the riding program (muscle tone, physical limitations, expected benefits from participating in the program, etc.):

Present school and program attending (if applicable):

Services Receiving (if applicable): OT _____ PT _____ Speech _____ Other _____

Parent/Guardian/Adult Rider Information:

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Return completed application form to:

**Attn: Ms. Betsy Evans
2038 W. Parish Rd.
Midland, MI 48642-9604**

Phone: 1-989-430-2544

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

Revised 8/12/08

MIDLAND COUNTY 4-H EXCEPTIONAL RIDERS--TALL IN THE SADDLE
Michigan 4-H Proud Equestrian Program

STUDENT ADMISSION POLICIES

Tall in the Saddle is a 4-H Proud Equestrian Program which provides therapeutic horseback riding for youth and young adults with disabilities in a fun format and safe environment. It is operated under the auspices of the MSU Extension of Midland County. Students are accepted into the program by the placement committee according to the following guidelines:

1. Tall in the Saddle is organized by and dependent upon volunteers for program operation. Acceptance of applicants may depend on the capabilities of our volunteer roster, both horses and people.
2. Those eligible for Tall in the Saddle riding classes are the Learning Disabled, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Cognitively Impaired, Physically Impaired, Hearing Impaired, Visually Impaired, Emotionally Impaired or Otherwise Health Impaired. Tall in the Saddle is a 4-H Proud Equestrian program. As such it uses the PATH International* guidelines of "who can ride" in it's decision-making for guidance with all medical and non-medical conditions of applicants. We strive to make sure that it is safe for a rider to participate. Our first consideration is to "do no harm". The guidelines may indicate that due to a child's condition it may not be safe or in the child's best interest to ride horses.

*Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship--www.pathintl.org

3. All applicants must be between the ages of 7 and 24 years of age, but must be 8 years old to ride in the program. Applicants under 8 years old will be placed on a wait list until they turn 8.
4. A waiting list will be maintained. The first five 8 year old or older applicants on the wait list will be asked if they would like to be substitute riders. If so, they must complete all annual form paperwork to do so. They will be called to ride when the regular riders are absent. They move into regular rider positions as the positions become available.
5. Applicants are not always placed in classes in order of receipt of application. Availability of appropriate class vacancies & horse availability will affect order of placement.
6. Applicants need to be under 160 to 180 pounds to be accepted into & and to participate in the program. (If they are between 160 & 180 pounds they may be accepted in the program if Tall in the Saddle has horses available to carry the extra weight. No one 180 pounds or greater can be accepted in the program for the safety of all—rider, horses & volunteers.)
7. Riders may continue riding with Tall in the Saddle as long as:
 - They are interested in participating.
 - They are *under* 25 years of age. (Riders will graduate from Tall in the Saddle at the end of the session during or after which they reach age 25.)
 - They are within weight restrictions (See number admission policy #6.)
 - The program and its current volunteer roster (horse and people) is capable of safely helping them participate,
 - The rider's medical condition/s will not be aggravated by participation in the Tall in the Saddle program (as judged by the PATH International guidelines and the riding instructor/s and therapist advisor/s).
 - They are benefiting from participation as judged by the riding instructor.
8. UPON ACCEPTANCE into the program, and once each year thereafter, all students will be required to complete the following forms prior to riding:
 - Physician's Referral Form (to be completed by rider's physician)
 - Rider Registration & Emergency Treatment Form
 - Parent-Guardian/Adult Rider Informed Consent Form
 - Liability Release Agreement Form
 - Photo Release Form (You may indicate on the form that no photos be taken for any purpose.)
9. DOWN'S SYNDROME APPLICANTS: All Down's Syndrome applicants must provide proof of a negative diagnostic x-ray for Atlantoaxial Dislocation Condition (A.D.C.) from their physician prior to riding in their first scheduled class and yearly thereafter. A form will be provided for the physician to complete. It is not required for initial application, only upon acceptance into the riding program. More information on A.D.C. is available upon request.

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