

## WELCOME TO THE RIDING PROGRAM AT



### WHAT IS SGF?

**Stoned Goat Farm** (SGF as we like to call it) is a working horse farm owned and operated by our family, Tim, Kristen & Kayla Verna. Our farm is located in Elverson, Pennsylvania just a few miles from Marsh Creek State Park in Chester County.

### WHAT DOES SGF OFFER?

SGF offers several horse related services and activities such as

- horse boarding
- horse leasing
- horse training
- training board
- horseback riding lessons
- showing
- eventing
- competitive show teams
- summer camps
- riding clinics
- and much, much more!!!

## MEET OUR TRAINERS



**ALYSHA BARBER**



**KAYLA VERNA**

SGF currently has two trainers, Alysha Barber & Kayla Verna. Alysha Barber is the head trainer at SGF and oversees the entire riding program. Alysha comes to us with over 30 years' experience and is part of the third generation in her family tree to be involved in the horse industry. She owns several of her own horses which are kept at her family farm in Mohnton, PA. Alysha teaches our advanced-intermediate to advanced students and she also trains our competitive riding team. Kayla comes to us with 15+ years riding experience and teaches our beginner through intermediate level students of all ages. Kayla has owned several horses over the years and her current horse, "Koda" resides with us here at SGF. Both trainers are incredible athletes, owning their own horses and riding at the competitive level. They work closely with each other ensure the best experience for each student in the program.

## LESSON PRICING

Every riding student is categorized into one of four groups:

1. full time students
2. full time students with their own horse
3. part time students
4. Drop-in students

Explanation of the categories listed below.

### **1. FULL TIME STUDENTS:**

**1/2 hr private lessons \$220/month or \$55/lesson. (\$50 for cash)**

**1 hr private lesson (age 12+) \$400/mo or \$100/lesson (\$90 for cash)**

**1 hr group lesson (not applicable for beginners) \$220/mo \$55/lesson (\$50 for cash)**

**\*Pay for the month up front AND in cash and save an additional \$5.**

Our full time students ride weekly, are committed to ride for the entire month and are billed for the number of lesson days in that given month in order to get the full time rates. The student's lesson days and times remain the same every week. If a lesson is cancelled with at least 24 hours notice, the student will be given the opportunity to reschedule a make up lesson for another date with no penalty. That make up lesson must be scheduled within 30 days of the originally scheduled lesson or the lesson is forfeited. Lessons cancelled within 24

hours are billed for the missed lesson. If a full time student is going on vacation, they are still billed for the week, but they are given the opportunity to reschedule that lesson for another day. Rescheduling vacation lessons must be rescheduled within 30 days of the missed lesson. Full time students are encouraged to pay for the month of lessons at the beginning of each month.

## **2. FULL TIME STUDENTS WITH THEIR OWN HORSE:**

**(horse must be boarded at SGF)**

**1/2 hr private lessons \$190/mo (\$45/lesson)**

**1 hr private lesson (age 12+) \$300/mo (\$85/lesson )**

**1 hr group lesson (not applicable for beginners) \$190/mo (\$45/lesson)**

**\*These lessons are billed as part of the board/lease agreement.**

No additional discounts on top of these rates.

Our full time with their own horse students either board or lease a horse at SGF. These students ride weekly and are billed for the number of weekly lessons that month. The student's lesson days and times remain the same every week. If a lesson is cancelled with at least 24 hours notice, the student will be given the opportunity to reschedule a make up lesson for another date without penalty. That make up lesson must be scheduled within 30 days of the originally scheduled lesson or the lesson is forfeited. Lessons canceled within 24 hours are billed for the missed lesson. These lessons are billed monthly as part of our boarding and leasing contracts.

## **3. PART TIME STUDENTS:**

**1/2 hr private lessons \$55/lesson**

**1 hr private lesson (age 12+) \$100/lesson**

**1 hr group lesson (not applicable for beginners) \$55/lesson**

Part time students ride a minimum of 2x per month and are on a routine bi-weekly schedule. If a lesson is cancelled with at least 24 hours notice, the student will be given the opportunity to reschedule a make up lesson for another date without penalty. That make up lesson must be scheduled within 30 days of the originally scheduled lesson or the lesson is forfeited.

## **4. DROP IN STUDENTS:**

**1/2 hr private lessons \$60/lesson**

**1 hr private lesson (age 12+) \$110/lesson**

**1 hr group lesson (not applicable for beginners) \$60/lesson**

Students who schedule a lesson from time to time when their schedule allows and are not on a routine weekly or bi-weekly schedule are considered drop-in students. If for some reason a student cannot make their scheduled lesson, 48 hours notice is required for all drop-in lessons to avoid being charged for the missed lesson. If a drop in student makes a habit of canceling lessons, SGF reserves the right to decline scheduling of any future lessons with that student.

## **METHOD OF PAYMENTS**

We accept the following methods of payment: **Cash, check, Paypal and Venmo**. Cash is preferred and we do offer a discounted rates for cash for our full time students. All cash must be in a sealed envelope and dropped in the black mailbox in the main barn with participant's name, date, what it's for on the envelope. All checks are made payable to Timothy Verna. Paypal must be sent to [StonedGoatStables@gmail.com](mailto:StonedGoatStables@gmail.com) via friends and family only or the Paypal service fees will be charged to the participant. Venmo payments are to be sent to @Tim-Verna.

# FAQ's

## **WHAT CAN I EXPECT TO LEARN DURING MY LESSON?**

We at SGF teach all aspects of horsemanship, not just how to sit on a horse and “ride”. Horseback riding is sooo much more than that. We teach our students about respect and compassion while learning to care for the horses. One will learn how to retrieve the horses from the field or their stall and how to groom and properly tack up prior to riding. Our students will learn how to safely lead their horse into the riding arena, how to correctly mount the horse and of course how to ride properly. Our students also learn how to properly cool their horse out, how to untack their horse and how to thoroughly clean up after themselves and their horse prior to leaving the barn. We teach additional horsemanship skills such as hosing and bathing when applicable (weather permitting).

## **WHAT DO I NEED TO PARTICIPATE?**

Every student is required to own their own ASTM/SEI certified horseback riding helmet and a pair of English style riding boots. If this is your first time trying horseback riding, we will lend you a helmet for your first lesson to ensure you'd like to continue lessons before making the investment in a helmet and pair of boots. Sneakers are acceptable for the first lesson. **DO NOT PURCHASE A USED HELMET.** Old helmets do not meet the standards of today's protective headwear. Also, once a helmet has been involved in a serious fall, the helmet is considered compromised and should be replaced. For these reasons, it is imperative that our students are wearing the most up to date head protection on the market that is in new condition for their safety. You do not have to spend a ton of \$ on getting quality safety gear. Basic helmets that are ASTM/SEI certified can be purchased for as little as \$45 brand new. Riding boots can be purchased used or borrowed as a hand-me-down. Our staff is more than happy to help you with where to purchase safety gear and what type is needed.

## **DO I NEED TO OWN MY OWN HORSE?**

No, you do NOT need to own a horse in order to take riding lessons. SGF has several lesson horses available for learning how to ride.

## **I OWN MY OWN HORSE, CAN I STILL RIDE WITH SGF?**

Yes! SGF offers training for those who own their own horses. We offer training board for those students who wish to board with us at SGF. We also offer drop in training for those who do not wish to board with us but would like to train with us using their own horse. Contact us for more info on boarding and drop in training.

## **ARE THE LESSON HORSES SAFE FOR BEGINNERS?**

SGF owns several lesson horses so there's a horse to suit everyone's riding ability from dead beginner through advanced competitive riding. All of our horses are considered 'safe', but please keep in mind that horses are living creatures with brains of their own which makes them very capable of making their own decisions. Horses do have good and bad days, just like humans and sometimes horses can act 'bratty' and misbehave. There is risk involved with horseback riding, just like most sports. We take all precautionary steps to ensure a fun and safe riding environment for our guests.

## **IM AN ADVANCED RIDER BUT I DON'T OWN MY OWN HORSE. DO YOU HAVE A HORSE FOR ME TO LESSON ON?**

Yep! We have trained horses for all levels from beginner through advanced. Our trainers fit each student to a properly suited horse for all lessons.

## **WHAT DAYS DO YOU OFFER LESSONS?**

We currently offer lessons Tuesday through Saturday. We do our best to be as flexible as possible with scheduling; however, availability is affected by the rider's ability and which instructor they are assigned. Schedules may be affected due to supply and demand. The farm is always closed to all visitors on Sundays. Lessons are offered during both daytime and evening hours. We have a large outdoor riding ring that we do 95% of our lesson in. Our outdoor is equipped with lights for use during the evening. We also have a lighted indoor

## **WHEN IS LESSON PAYMENT DUE?**

Lesson fees are due on or before the scheduled lesson. Lesson fees received after the day of the scheduled lesson will result in a \$10 late fee. Bounced lesson checks are charged a \$40 fee. All accounts must be current in order to lesson or participate in any farm activities and events.

## **WHAT IF I NEED TO CANCEL MY LESSON?**

We require 24 hour notice for full time and part time riding students. We require 48 hours notice for all drop in lesson students. LAST MINUTE CANCELATIONS OUTSIDE OF THE TIME PERIOD PREVIOUSLY STATED WILL STILL BE CHARGED FOR THE MISSED LESSON.

## **WHAT HAPPENS TO LESSONS DURING BAD WEATHER?**

We have a small lighted indoor facility which we use when the weather isn't desirable (rain, snow, ice, wind, scorching sun in the summer, etc.). In the event the weather is too poor to conduct lessons even inside, we notify our students by posting on our website, Facebook page and Instagram. Our students are still billed for that week's lesson but given the opportunity to reschedule a make up day. Unfortunately, we cannot predict what Mother Nature will do, but, with the use of the indoor, rarely do we cancel lessons. If the weather is questionable and SGF holds lessons as scheduled, our students are expected to show up for their scheduled lesson or they will be billed for that missed lesson.

## **CAN I BRING OTHER CHILDREN & GUESTS TO THE FARM DURING MY CHILD'S LESSON TIME?**

We love visitors and we're happy to have siblings, cousins and friends come to watch lessons; however, for the safety of the little ones, ALL MINORS under the age of 18 be with a parent/guardian and fully supervised AT ALL TIMES. The only exception to this rule is for those children who are participating in a lesson or other programs taking place at SGF and the child is under the supervision of a staff member.

## **DO I HAVE TO ATTEND HORSE SHOWS?**

Our riding students have the option of participating in horse shows, as long as their trainer feels the student is ready to do so. Showing is NOT a requirement, however, we do encourage our students to participate in showing when given the opportunity. Showing is a great way to get off site and allow our students showcase the skills they've learned during lesson times in a friendly and competitive atmosphere. Earning ribbons at a horse show is a sure way to build confidence in our riders. The shows we participate in are always upbeat and positive, focusing on building self-esteem and confidence. Show days are full of fun and they allow the students to bond with each other through commadore while being supportive of fellow SGF riders in a team-like environment.

## **HOW DO I GET STARTED?**

Email Kristen to schedule your first lesson! [StonedGoatStables@gmail.com](mailto:StonedGoatStables@gmail.com)