

# ROCKING HORSE RANCH RESORT

## PARTICIPANTS' RESPONSIBILITIES AND ASSUMPTION OF RISKS

### SECTION 1 (FILL OUT ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION)

PARTICIPANT'S NAME:				<i>(FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)</i> Conf #:			
ADDRESS:							
CITY:			STATE:			ZIP:	
PHONE NUMBER: (     )		WEIGHT: lbs.		HEIGHT: ft.       in.		DOB: mm    dd    yy	
EMERGENCY CONTACT:					PHONE NUMBER: (     )		
SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION NAME:					DATE OF TRIP:		
ANY MEDICAL CONDITIONS, FOOD ALLERGIES AND/OR SPECIAL NEEDS?				RIDING LEVEL: CHECK BOX FOR PARTICIPANTS RIDING EXPERIENCE IN THE LAST 2 YEARS <input type="checkbox"/> Beginner <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Less than 10 Hours    10 to 20 Hours    20 Hours or More			

### SECTION 2

In consideration of being permitted to use the facilities at Rocking Horse Ranch, in Highland, New York, I expressly acknowledge:

1. Participating in horseback riding and other sports and recreational activities available at RHR is at the participant's own risk. I will advise my child of the inherent risk in these activities.
2. My child is physically fit and will only participate in the sports and activities for which he/she possesses the physical strength and skill necessary to meet his/her responsibilities.
3. My child will not participate in any activity while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
4. Horseback riding has inherent risks, including the risk of death or serious personal injury. Horses are unpredictable by nature. As such, there are numerous risks associated with horseback riding, including but not limited to: falling from a horse while mounting, dismounting, or riding; being kicked by or stepped on by a horse; being thrown from or fallen on by a horse; or colliding with other horses, riders, or obstacles. I understand that my child may be injured as a result of these or other unknown or unanticipated risks, and I assume the risk of these injuries.
5. Outdoor recreational activities take place in an ever-changing environment. Conditions at these activities may vary because of weather and natural causes. I understand that ice, variations in terrain, moguls, rocks, forest growth, debris and other obstacles and hazards, including other participants, exist throughout the property. I acknowledge that participation in any sports or recreational activity can be hazardous and that my child could suffer personal injury as a participant.
6. I grant permission to Rocking Horse Ranch to utilize any photographs, videotape, motion picture, recording or other device or record of my child's use of its facilities for any legitimate purpose.

#### **I (WE) AGREE AND UNDERSTAND AS FOLLOWS:**

1. New York State Law requires that persons less than eighteen years of age wear a helmet when riding a horse.
2. I (and/or the infant(s) of whom I am the guardian) understand that should medical emergency treatment be required, our current insurance information will be provided to the attending clinic or hospital to cover payments of incurred bills.
3. I, for myself and on behalf of my children and/or legal wards, have been advised by Rocking Horse Ranch Resort to wear a safety helmet while mounting, riding and dismounting horses, so as to prevent horse-related head injuries.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISKS:**

I (we) agree and understand that horseback riding may entail risks of injury or death. Some of those risks may include falling from a horse while mounting, dismounting and riding; being kicked by a horse, stepped on by a horse, thrown from a horse and/or fallen on by a horse; collisions with other riders and/or obstacles. I (we) understand that unknown or unanticipated risks may result in injury, illness or death as a result of my (our) participation in the activity.

#### **EXPRESS ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY:**

I understand and agree to assume responsibility for the risks of horseback riding identified herein and those risks not specifically identified. Participation in this activity is purely voluntary. No one is forcing me to participate. I verify that I am physically fit, **not under the influence of alcohol or any drugs at this time** and sufficiently qualified, trained and capable to participate in the activity. I assume full responsibility for myself and any of my minor children for whom I am responsible, for any bodily injury, accident, illness, death, loss of personal property and expenses thereof as a result of any accident which may occur while I participate in the activity. I understand that **HELMETS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** and should be worn at all times. I understand that equipment provided for my protection may be inadequate to prevent serious injury. This agreement is governed by the applicable law of the State of New York. If any provision of this agreement is determined to be unenforceable, all other provisions shall be given full force and effect.

PLEASE COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE OF FORM

## SECTION 3

### HORSE RELATED ACTIVITY ADVISORIES

Although domesticated, well-trained horses are usually obedient, docile and affectionate, it is important to understand that their survival instincts are what have enabled them to survive from prehistoric times to present day. The following information is to advise you of their characteristics, and recommendations for you to follow for your, and others, safety and enjoyment.

1. It is strongly suggested that while you are around or riding horses that you wear a well-fitted helmet, hard soled, fully enclosed shoes or boots and long pants to protect legs.
2. A horse has two blind areas around it that it cannot see. It cannot see directly behind it or what it is eating. This is the reason it is best to approach a horse close to the shoulder and never surprise a horse from the rear, or reach first for the horse's mouth. Approach a horse calmly, quietly and cautiously, talking soothingly to it.
3. **While you are on a horse, do not attempt to pick up fallen objects. Loud or sudden, unexpected movements; dropping of objects; approaching vehicles; animals or people; even insect stings causing physical pain can provoke a domesticated horse to react according to his natural protective instincts.**
4. Horses are unpredictable by nature, with minds of their own, as are all animals both domestic and wild. The horse is often somewhat high strung or nervous by nature. Horses are extremely strong and physically powerful. Horses are extremely heavy, weighing from 600 to 1300 pounds on the average. They call for a human being's utmost respect.
5. When a horse is frightened, angry or feels threatened it may be his instinct to jump forward or sideways or to run away from danger at a trot or gallop.
6. If a horse is frightened or feels threatened from behind, it may kick straight back, sideways in either direction, or even forward. If a horse is frightened or feels threatened from above it or on its back, it may hunch its back and buck in a way that could throw a rider. If a horse is frightened or feels threatened from the front, it may naturally react by rearing up, strike with one or both legs, bite, throw its head or even run ahead.
7. The first signs of anger or fear in a horse are the sudden tensing of the muscles of the body, possibly laying its ears flat back against its head, or quickly tossing or raising its head, or sudden snorting through the nostrils accompanying at least on other warning sign. At such signs, pull back on the reins or kick the horse to gain his attention and guide him away from danger.
8. A horse can see independently with each eye, actually looking in one direction with one eye and another direction with the other eye. It can also focus both eyes on one object somewhere in front of it. Usually, the direction the ear is pointing will tell an observer where the eye is looking on the same side, and consequently on what the horse is likely concentrating on at that moment.
9. While a horse is very sure-footed by nature, it may accidentally step on an object such as a human foot when it is balancing itself or turning about. Unforeseen objects or ground conditions may also be present which can lead to unsure footing.
10. For your own safety, all riders who wish to go with a group that exceeds a trot should advise wranglers so that they may review your ability. It is generally accepted that in order to qualify to exceed a trot, you should have more than 20 hours of riding experience within the last 2 years. Our staff will attempt to observe your ability on at least 2 occasions before permitting faster rides. **FOR YOUR - AND OTHERS - SAFETY**, wranglers may slow down a ride group or individual.

An "INTRODUCTION TO HORSES, HANDLING, CONTROL AND TRAIL RIDING" instruction class is given every day (mornings), which should be attended. Then, after learning how to use the reins and basic controls, keep your horse away from others so as to avoid one horse biting another or person; and while on the trail rides, maintain a horse length between horse to avoid kicking and biting. *For your safety: Tickets are non-transferable.*

## SECTION 4

*"I UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT, I AM EXPRESSLY ASSUMING THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH ALL ACTIVITIES FOR THE ABOVE NAMED MINOR."*

**PARENT/GUARDIAN:** I hereby verify that I am the parent or guardian of the above named minor and have the authority to enter into this agreement on behalf of the minor. I expressly acknowledge my understanding and acceptance of the foregoing and agree to assume the risk of any personal injuries which he/she may incur during use of the Rocking Horse Ranch facilities. I agree to advise my child of the aforesaid risks and responsibilities and agree to be bound by the terms and conditions stated above. I also agree that the venue for any action arising out of this agreement or otherwise shall be Ulster County, New York.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_