

# Camp Olympia Riding Center Release Agreement

5511 Muncaster Mill Road, Rockville, MD 20855 (301) 926-9281

## PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING

Serious injuries may result from participation in this activity.  
Camp Olympia does not guarantee your safety.

A. Registration of Riders and Agreement Purpose: In consideration of the applicable fee and the signing of this agreement, I, the following listed individual, or the parent or legal guardian thereof a minor, do hereby voluntarily request and agree to participate in riding instruction as a student of Camp Olympia, and that this student will either ride his/ her own horse, or school horses provided by the Camp for instructional purpose. I understand that I am responsible for the entire payment of my series and that my fee will not be prorated or refunded for any reason.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Numbers (home) \_\_\_\_\_

Height \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

In Case of Emergency, Call \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle:

Riding Experience:   None                      Walk                      Trot                      Canter                      Jump

Please briefly describe your experience (ie: how many weeks of lessons/ camp):

Does the rider have any physical and/ or mental health conditions, problems, and/ or disorders which may affect his/ her safety and ability to ride a horse?  
Yes       No                      If "yes", describe here:

B. Agreement Scope and Territory and Definitions: This agreement shall be legally binding upon me the registered student, and the parents or legal guardian thereof if a minor, my heirs, estate, assigns, including all minor children, and personal representative; and it shall be interpreted according to the laws of the state of Maryland and the county of Montgomery. Any disputes by the rider shall be litigated in, and venue shall be Montgomery County. If any clause, phrase, or word is in conflict with state law, then that single part is null and void. The term "HORSE" herein shall refer to all equine species. The term "HORSEBACK RIDING" herein shall refer to riding or otherwise handling of horses, ponies, or donkeys, whether from the ground or mounted. The terms "STUDENT" and/ or "RIDER" shall herein refer to a person who rides a horse mounted or otherwise handles or comes near a horse from the ground. The terms "I", "ME", "MY" shall herein refer to the above registered student rider and the parents or legal guardians thereof if a minor.

C. Activity Risk Classification: I UNDERSTAND THAT: Horseback riding is classified as RUGGED ADVENTURE RECREATIONAL SPORT ACTIVITY, and that there are numerous obvious and non-obvious inherent risks always present in such activity despite all safety precautions. According to NEISS (National Electronic Injury Surveillance Systems of United States Consumer Products) horse activities rank 64th among the activities of people relative to injuries that result in a stay at U.S. hospitals. Related injuries can be severe requiring more hospital days and resulting in more lasting residual effects than injuries in other activities.

D. Nature of School Horses: I UNDERSTAND THAT: Camp Olympia chooses its school horses for their calm disposition and sound basic training as is required for use for student riders, and Camp Olympia follows a rigid safety program. Yet, no riding horse is a completely a safe horse. Horses are 5 to 15 times larger, 20 to 40 times more powerful, and 3 to 4 times faster than a human. If a rider falls from horse to ground it will generally be at a distance of from 3 1/2 to 5 1/2 feet, and the impact may result in injury to the rider. Horseback riding is the only sport where one much smaller, weaker predator animal (human) tries to impose its will on, and become one unit of movement with, another much larger, stronger prey animal with a mind of its own (horse) and each has a limited understanding of the other. If a horse if frightened or provoked it may divert from its training and act according to its natural survival instincts which may included, but are not limited to : Stopping short, Changing directions or speed at will, Shifting its weight, Bucking, Rearing, Kicking, Biting, or Running from danger.

E. Rider Responsibility: I UNDERSTAND THAT: Upon mounting a horse and taking up toe reins the rider is in primary control of the horse. The rider's safety largely depends upon his/ her ability to carry out simple instructions and his/ her ability to remain balanced aboard the moving animal. I agree that the rider shall be responsible for his/ her own safety, including that of an unborn child, if the rider is pregnant. Camp Olympia advises pregnant women not to ride horses.

F. Conditions of Nature and Inspection of Premises: I UNDERSTAND THAT: Camp Olympia is NOT responsible for total or partial acts, occurrences, or elements of nature that can scare a horse, cause it to fall, or react in some other unsafe way. Some examples are: Thunder, lightening, rain, wind, wild or domestic animals, insects, reptiles, which may walk, run, or fly near, or bite or sting a horse or person; and irregular footing on out of door groomed or wild land which is subject to constant change in condition according to weather, temperature, and natural and man-made changes in landscape. The rider or

