

# Camp Ondessonk Riding Program

Welcome to the Camp Ondessonk Riding Program! Whether you are participating in our summer program or one of our many programs during the off-season, our goal is to help you have a fun and safe experience while you are here. In order to make your experience as enjoyable as possible when you arrive, we would like to share a few guidelines with you prior to your arrival so you are prepared for your ride. Prior to riding, our staff will provide additional instruction in horse safety and riding.

## General Safety Guidelines for all Riders

1. All riders must be at least 10 years old.
2. Riders must be able to control their horse independently after appropriate instruction (stop, turn, etc.) before leaving for the trail ride. Riders must be able to pay attention to and follow instruction given by the stable crew. We will evaluate all other situations on a case-by-case basis, and if we can safely provide riding services, we will. If not, we will gladly make referrals to a riding facility that can meet your needs.
3. Riders must wear appropriate attire. This includes: long pants, closed-toed, closed-heeled shoes with a heel (1") and without hiking or lug soles, and a helmet. We will provide ASTM-SEI certified riding helmets for your ride.
4. Any rider under a physician's care must have permission to ride.
5. For the comfort and well-being of the horses and the safety of the rider, the weight of the rider and the saddle combined should be no heavier than 20% of the horse's weight. The average horse at Camp Ondessonk weighs 1000 pounds.
6. Every rider over the age of 18 must read and sign a stable release form informing them of the risk of equestrian activities. Every minor rider must have a waiver signed by their parent or guardian in order to participate. (See reverse side of this form)
7. Electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, cameras, etc) are not allowed on the trail ride.
8. No smoking allowed while riding or anywhere in the barn area.
9. Stable and pastures are off limits without a staff member.

If you have any questions about the above guidelines, or anything else regarding your upcoming ride here at Camp Ondessonk, feel free to call the camp office at 618.695.2489.

**\*\*\* The waiver on the reverse side of this form *MUST* be completed prior to participating in Camp Ondessonk's riding program.**

# RELEASE

(For persons under 18)

## WARNING

***Under the Equine Activity Liability Act, each participant who engages in an equine activity expressly assumes the risks of engaging in and legal responsibility for injury, loss, or damage to person or property resulting from the risk of equine activities.***

For value received, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, I, on behalf of myself and my minor child/ward, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby release, indemnify and hold harmless Camp Ondessonk, Diocese of Belleville, Department of Outdoor Education, Inc. and the Catholic Diocese of Belleville, Inc., and their employees, clergy, volunteers, officers, board members, and/or agents, from and against any and all claims, losses, suits, damages or costs (including attorneys' fees), arising out of, resulting from or relating to my minor child/ward's participation in equine activities, including, but not limited to, horseback riding in or around the premises operated by Camp Ondessonk.

I acknowledge and understand that participation in equine activities involves inherent risks, including, but not limited to: (1) the propensity of an equine to behave in dangerous ways that may result in injury to the participant; (2) the inability to predict an equine's reaction to sound, movements, objects, persons, or animals; and (3) the hazards of surface or subsurface conditions.

Notwithstanding this knowledge and awareness, I assume all risks of my minor child/ward's participation in equine activities and legal responsibility for injury, loss, or damage to person or property resulting from the risk of such activities.

I further acknowledge that: (1) I am the parent/guardian of the minor child/ward identified above; (2) I have read this Release in its entirety; (3) I fully understand and accept its terms; and (4) I have executed this Release voluntarily.

Parent/Guardian's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# RELEASE

(For persons 18 years and older)

## WARNING

***Under the Equine Activity Liability Act, each participant who engages in an equine activity expressly assumes the risks of engaging in and legal responsibility for injury, loss, or damage to person or property resulting from the risk of equine activities.***

For value received, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, I hereby release, indemnify and hold harmless Camp Ondessonk, Diocese of Belleville, Department of Outdoor Education, Inc. and the Catholic Diocese of Belleville, Inc., and their employees, clergy, volunteers, officers, board members, and/or agents, from and against any and all claims, losses, suits, damages or costs (including attorneys' fees), arising out of, resulting from or relating to my minor child/ward's participation in equine activities, including, but not limited to, horseback riding in or around the premises operated by Camp Ondessonk.

I acknowledge and understand that participation in equine activities involves inherent risks, including, but not limited to: (1) the propensity of an equine to behave in dangerous ways that may result in injury to the participant; (2) the inability to predict an equine's reaction to sound, movements, objects, persons, or animals; and (3) the hazards of surface or subsurface conditions.

Notwithstanding this knowledge and awareness, I assume all risks of engaging in equine activities and legal responsibility for injury, loss, or damage to person or property resulting from the risk of such activities.

I further acknowledge that: (1) I am over 18 years old; (2) I have read this Release in its entirety; (3) I fully understand and accept its terms; and (4) I have executed this Release voluntarily.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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