Welcome to Nomad Farm!

We are so excited to share our beautiful farm with you and welcome you into our barn family! We believe that the beauty of the relationship between horse and human is something truly special…something that every person who loves horses should have the opportunity to explore. All of us here at Nomad Farm have spent years as "nomads," trying to find the right barn home, and are thrilled to now have a barn home of our own to share with you and your family! Entering the equestrian world for yourself or for your child is a big and often intimidating step, so we want to put you at ease by equipping you with as much up front information as possible! Take a quick read through our two page intro, and feel free to message us if you have any additional questions! We are happy you are here!

What should I expect for the first lesson?

Our hunter/jumper lesson program focuses on building strong confident horsemen both in and out of the saddle. Students ages 6+ are welcome- lessons will be individually tailored to their age and experience. All new students will start with an evaluation lesson. The purpose of the eval is to give families the opportunity to try out lessons with us without having to commit to a full month. It also allows our trainer to assess the rider's skill level if they have previous experience so they can place them into the appropriate skill level group lesson. (All beginner riders will start in private lessons one-on-one with the trainer until they are proficient in their riding and horsemanship basics.)

How much are lessons?

All lessons are $70 each, paid monthly. Students in private lessons ride for 30 minutes. Students in group lessons ride for 1 hour. Group lessons have a maximum of 4 riders. Grooming, tacking, and untacking is not included in the lesson duration. Lessons are discounted as follows for riders taking multiple lessons per week:

1 lesson per week- $70 per lesson/$280 per month
2 lessons per week- $65 per lesson/$520 per month
3 lessons per week- $60 per lesson/$720 per month

What do we need to buy if we don't have riding gear yet?

Nothing for your first lesson! Wear tight fitting pants (preferably jeans, but leggings are fine too) and boots with a heel. We will provide a riding helmet to borrow for the first lesson. Once you register for lessons, you will need to buy a riding helmet, paddock boots, and breeches (riding pants). If you are planning to purchase these items before your first lesson, visit Quail Hollow in Bartonville or Dover Saddlery in North Dallas. They have everything you need and will help you fit everything properly.

How long will my rider be at the barn for each lesson?

We believe that time spent on the ground with your horse is every bit as important and rewarding as time spent in the saddle, so students will groom, tack, and untack their lesson horse every ride. Students will always arrive 30 minutes before their scheduled lesson time to tack, and stay after to untack. So for group lessons, plan to be at the barn for 2 hours. For private lessons, plan for 1.5 hours.

What happens in the event of inclement weather?

Lessons are held rain or shine thanks to our covered arena. When the weather is deemed to be either too hot or too cold to safely ride even in the covered arena, we take those opportunities to have unmounted lessons where students learn one of an endless number of ground skills. This can be anything from clipping and braiding, equine first aid, parts of the horse, show prep, feed and nutrition, and much much more. Always bring water, and in the winter, always bring more layers than you think you'll need!

Can we reschedule lessons?

Students are allowed one free rescheduled lesson per month. 24 hours notice must be given. Lessons requested for a reschedule with less than 24 hours notice will be forfeited. If a second lesson within the month needs to be moved, there is a $25 reschedule fee. The reason for the limit/fee is that we monitor our horses' work loads very carefully so they aren't overworked. This requires a huge ongoing effort on our trainer's part to make sure that each kid is scheduled in time slots where an appropriate level horse is available to them. This becomes a very delicate balancing act with up to 15 kids riding each night of the week. Constant reschedules make it nearly impossible to keep the horses' workloads appropriate which results in grumpiness and overuse injuries for the horses, and bad lessons for the riders. We also have hearts though, and acknowledge that sometimes emergencies arise, so this policy has exceptions for extenuating circumstances.

Do we have to have our own horse? What about horse shows?

No! We have a string of lovely lesson horses for students who don't own their own horses. Students can ride these horses indefinitely, though we limit our lesson horses to jumping 2'6" and below, so if your rider progresses beyond that height, we will assist you in finding the perfect equine partner for them to own or lease. We also offer local horse show opportunities for all students whether they ride our lesson horses or own/lease their own.

How do I schedule a first lesson?

Text our trainer Lauren Vanderbilt at 940-220-9939. She is either on horses or in lessons most hours of the day, so a text as first contact will receive the quickest response. She will be happy to answer any additional questions you may have!