





## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

Riding Unlimited's therapeutic horsemanship riding programs are dedicated to enabling the North Texas disabled community by enhancing their physical, social, educational and emotional abilities. Building strength, courage, and confidence is what the program is all about. Our name exemplifies the ultimate goal for any rider - encouragement to pursue their own unique ability.

Our program relies on private and corporate donations, grants and proceeds from special events. No rider has ever been turned away due to financial need.

Riding Unlimited is a PATH (formally Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International) Premier Accredited Center. Classes are taught by PATH certified instructors that develop and follow lesson plans designed to benefit the participants. Trained horse leaders and sidewalkers volunteer their time to insure the safety of our riders.

Rider disabilities may include but are not limited to Spina Bifida, Multiple Sclerosis, Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Attention Deficit Disorder, Developmentally Delayed, Intellectual Disabilities, Down Syndrome, Brain Injury, and Visual & Hearing Impaired.

### **Program goals:**

Therapeutic Riding is based on individual needs. Goals may include improvement in muscle tone, range of motion, rhythm, muscle strength, balance, and coordination.

Riding instruction goals may include improvement in attention span, spatial relations, sensory awareness, sequential performance and reasoning skills.

Horsemanship skills that may be developed include cantering, posting, and stable management. Riders may participate in demonstrations, competitions, and Special Olympics Equestrian events at the local and state level.

The goals for all of our riders include developing self-esteem and having fun!

## RIDING UNLIMITED GUIDELINES

**Sessions:** Riding Unlimited offers a 5 week winter session, a 10-week spring & fall session, and a 5-week summer session. A calendar of riding days for the current session is available at the center.

**Lessons:** Based on the needs and abilities of a student, an individualized program will consist of therapeutic riding, and/or horsemanship skills. Most lessons are approximately 55 minutes in length. Private lessons are 45 minutes in length. In some cases, lesson times may be shortened to accommodate a participant's special needs. Occasionally ground lessons (stable management) classes are conducted in lieu of a mounted activity. Class size is limited to four per class. Classes run Tuesday through Saturday. A variety of morning, afternoon, and evening classes are available.

**Tuition** Winter: Five (5) weeks \$188; Spring and Fall: Ten (10) weeks \$375; and Summer Five (5) weeks \$188. Private lessons are \$45 each for a 45 minute lesson. Tuition covers only approximately twenty-five percent of the overall cost of the session. Tuition is payable to Riding Unlimited (divided into two or three payments) by cash or check. Payments should be placed in the "Pony Express mailbox in the RU Corral" or mailed to:

Riding Unlimited  
9168 T. N. Skiles Rd.  
Ponder, TX 76259-5823

Alternative payment arrangements are available upon request. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify. Applications are available upon request.

**Weight Guidelines:** The following weight guidelines have been set for the safety and comfort of our horses, participants and volunteers:

Maximum weight:	under 5' tall	-	150 lbs. or less
	5'1" - 5'6" tall	-	175 lbs. or less
	5'7" - 6' tall	-	200 lbs. or less
	6'1" - 6'5" tall	-	250 lbs. or less

**Attendance:** Upon arrival, park by the covered arena, go to the "Corral" and sign in by placing a "P" in the Rider Attendance Book. When the student will be absent, notify the center within 24 hours, if possible. If a student knows of an absence ahead of time, mark an "A" next to the student's name corresponding to the date of the scheduled absence and inform the Daily Coordinator. When a student who is scheduled to ride doesn't show up for his lesson, volunteers who were assigned to work with them become discouraged and may drop out. This jeopardizes the entire program. Three absences without notice (denoted by an "X" in the attendance book) may result in being dropped from the schedule. **For last minute cancellations, call the RU office and leave a message.**

**Bad Weather:** Classes will only be cancelled in the event of dangerous or threatening weather or if temperatures reach over 100 or below 32 degrees. To determine cancellations you must call the Riding Unlimited office at (940) 479-2016.

**Class Make-ups:** Make-up classes are held only if Riding Unlimited cancels a class. Riders that cancel forfeit the class. Occasionally stable management lessons may be given in lieu of a mounted lesson. Ground lessons do not require a make-up.

**Punctuality:** It is extremely important for a client to arrive approximately 10 minutes prior to the scheduled riding time.

**Late rider policy:** If a client is late to the scheduled riding time, Riding Unlimited cannot guarantee he/she will be able to ride. Once the lesson has begun, the instructor may not be able to leave the other riders to mount late arriving students. **Horses will be untacked and volunteers released 15 minutes after the scheduled start time of the class.**

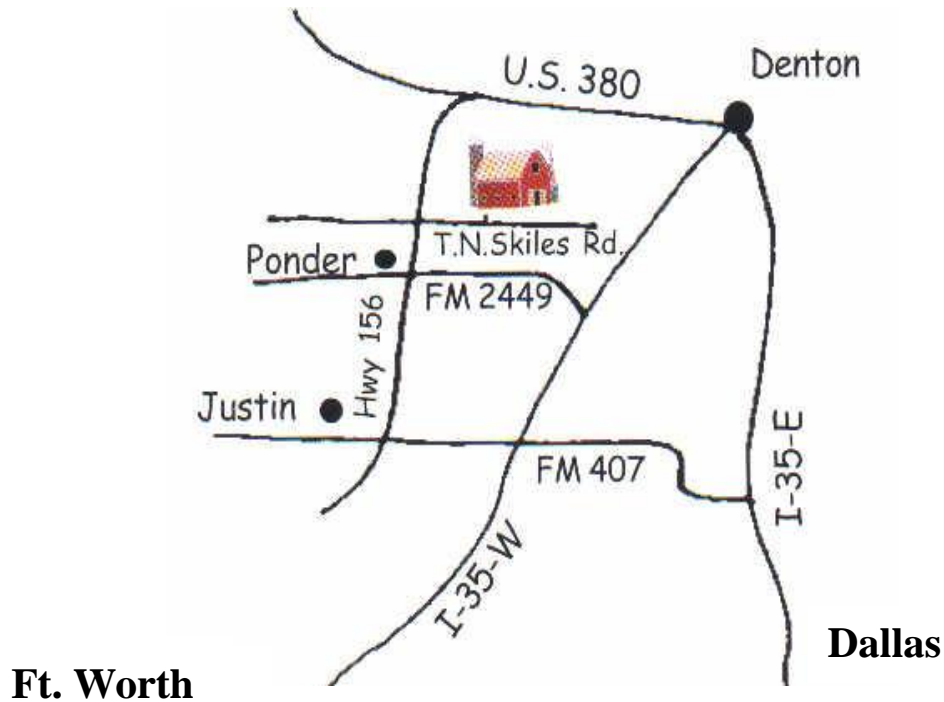
**Clothing Requirements for Riders:** Long pants  
Closed toe shoes or boots, with heels inexpensive hiking boots are ideal)  
ASTM/SEI approved helmet (can be provided by Riding Unlimited)  
Sunscreen, gloves, and jacket, as needed.

**Siblings:** If siblings are in attendance with parents of students participating in class, **parents are responsible for the direct supervision of these children at all times.** Noise and lots of activity can distract horses and students.

**Conduct at the Center:** It is mandatory that everyone complies with all posted **safety rules**. Abide by all posted **off-limit areas**. Riding Unlimited is a **no smoking** facility and the use of **drugs or alcohol on the property is strictly forbidden**. No mistreatment or abuse of any animal will be tolerated.



Riding Unlimited  
9168 T. N. Skiles Rd.  
Ponder, TX 76259  
940-479-2016



***From Dallas***

Take I-35 E North to Denton. Take I-35 W South to FM 2449. Go west on FM 2449 (six miles) to Hwy. 156 in Ponder. Turn right (north) and go 1 mile to T.N. Skiles Rd. Turn right and go over the railroad tracks. Riding Unlimited is the first ranch on the left.

***From Ft. Worth***

Take I-35 W North to FM 2449. Go west on 2449 (six miles) to Hwy. 156 in Ponder. Turn right (north) and go approximately 1 mile to T.N. Skiles Rd. Turn right and go over the railroad tracks. Riding Unlimited is the first ranch on the left.

***From Denton***

Follow directions from Dallas or take Hwy 380 west from I-35 and exit at Hwy 156. Turn right at stop sign. Go approximately three miles and turn left on T.N. Skiles Rd. Riding Unlimited is the first ranch on the left.

***From Grapevine, Southlake area***

Hwy 114 west to I-35 W. North (right turn) on I35-W and go 9 miles to Ponder exit (Hwy 2449). . Go west on 2449 (six miles) to Hwy. 156 in Ponder. Turn right (north) and go approximately 1 mile to T.N. Skiles Rd. Turn right and go over the railroad tracks. Riding Unlimited is the first ranch on the left.