

Summer 2018

Dear Horse Trail Extreme RAD Camper,

My name is Liesl Schnibbe and I'm Big Lake Youth Camp's Associate Director, and I'm so excited you have chosen to spend a week of your summer with the RAD team. You are registered for Horse Trail Extreme RAD Camp, July 15-22, 2018. Sunday evening through Friday morning, you'll be tent-camping near BLYC, and will move into a cabin Friday evening. Come prepared to learn, enjoy each other's company, and have an experience of a lifetime!

When you registered online for camp, you confirmed that you have previous riding experience and the knowledge and the ability to handle a horse. Big Lake's horses do not specialize in 'dude string' trail rides where the horses follow the tail in front of them without the direction of the rider. Campers are expected to provide complete care for their assigned horse during the week, with minimal assistance from the wranglers. Campers are expected to be able to lift a 20-40 lb saddle in order to saddle their assigned horse. Most of our horses are approx. 15 h.

Below is a list of basic horsemanship and riding skills that each camper needs to have in order to participate in Horse Trail Extreme RAD Camp. Please review the list. There will be a riding test when you arrive at camp on Monday, July 16, in which we will confirm that you have the skills and fitness level necessary to participate in this camp. This is for your safety, the safety of the horse, and the safety of other campers. Thank you for understanding.

#### Knowledge, Experience, and Physical Requirements

- Catching
- Haltering
- Leading and trying your assigned horse
- Grooming
- Picking hooves
- Saddling/unsaddling with a 20-40 lb saddle, unassisted by staff

#### Additional Riding Requirements

- Mount a horse from the ground unassisted 6-8 times a day
- Ride for 4-6 hours a day (with breaks)
- Have strong intermediate-level riding skills, and the ability, and confidence to ride at a walk and trot with good control
- Ability to cross typical trail obstacles (including water or logs that the horse may jump)

If you believe, after reviewing the requirements, that this camp is not the right fit for you, please contact our office as soon as possible at 503.850.3583 or [office@biglake.org](mailto:office@biglake.org). We are happy to switch you into a different camp. We want to make sure you have the best possible camp experience at Big Lake!

In addition to the packing list in the “Parent Pack,” please also bring the following items:

- Boots or sturdy shoes for riding (no canvas or open-toes shoes are to be worn around the horses). Big Lake will provide boots if you do not have your own.
- Bandana
- Water bottle that seals well (your water bottle will go in a saddle bag for day rides. Bring your own water bottle, no camelback or hydration backpacks.
- Riding clothes: sturdy clothes for trail rides. Please bring long sleeved shirts for sun protection, and to help prevent branches from scratching your arms. Long pants must be worn whenever riding. Jeans or riding pants are fine; no leggings or skirts/dresses will be allowed.
- An approved riding helmet (Big Lake will provide one if you do not have your own)
- Rain gear

**Note:** Riders may not wear any backpack or fanny pack as it may catch on branches causing the rider to fall. If you would like to bring your own horse, please contact Dave Shasky, Big Lake’s horsemanship director, 541.306.8303 or [dshasky@bendbroadband.com](mailto:dshasky@bendbroadband.com), to make arrangements.

If your parents need to reach you while you are away from camp, your counselor will always have a cell phone and your parents can reach them by calling 503.850.3562 or emailing [dshasky@bendbroadband.com](mailto:dshasky@bendbroadband.com).

If you have any questions concerning your RAD Camp, please let Dave know.

I look forward to seeing you this summer!

Sincerely,

Liesl Schnibbe  
Associate Director  
Big Lake Youth Camp  
[liesl@biglake.org](mailto:liesl@biglake.org)