

Summer 2017

Dear Horse Trail Extreme RAD Camper,

My name is Arthur Ordelleide and I am Big Lake Youth Camp's Associate Director. I am very excited that you have chosen to spend a week of your summer with the RAD team. You are registered for Horse Trail Extreme RAD Camp. You will be staying in the cabins at Big Lake Youth Camp (BLYC) during your week of camp. We will be using BLYC as a base camp as we take day trips into the wilderness. We will return to camp in the evenings to have dinner and sleep. Come prepared to learn, enjoy each other's company, "rough-it" and have an experience of a lifetime!

When you registered online for camp, you confirmed that you have previous experience and knowledge of how to ride and handle a horse. Big Lake's horses do not specialize in 'dude string' trail rides where the horses go in line without the direction of the rider. Campers are expected to provide complete care for their assigned horse with minimal assistance from the wranglers. On average the horses are 15h high, and campers are expected to be able to lift a 20-40 lb saddle to shoulder or head height alone to saddle the horse.

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 this list. There will be a riding test when you arrive at camp on Sunday, July 17 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 tying your assigned horse
- Grooming
- Picking hooves
- Saddling/unsaddling the horse unassisted by the staff with a 20-40 lb saddle

#### Additional Riding Requirements

- Be able to mount a horse from the ground unassisted 6-8 times a day
- Ride for 6-8 hours a day with breaks
- Camper has a strong intermediate level riding ability and is confident to ride at the walk and trot with good control
- Camper is able to cross typical trail obstacles such as water or logs that the horse may jump

If you believe, after reviewing the above requirements, that this camp is not the right fit for you, please contact our office as soon as possible. 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-toed 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 camel back/back pack water bottles)
- Riding Clothes – sturdy clothes for trail rides. Please bring long sleeve shirt to keep the sun off and to help prevent branches from scratching. Long pants must be worn whenever riding.
- 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 Tammi Palmer, Big Lake’s Horse Program Director, to make arrangements. Tammi Palmer: (503) 866-4822 or Tammi@biglake.org

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 (503) 805-2267.

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

I look forward to seeing you this summer!

Sincerely,

Arthur Ordelheide  
Associate Director  
Big Lake Youth Camp  
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(541) 992-0194