Great Escape Stables

**CONTRACT TO ASSUME RISK & WAIVE LIABILITY**

I represent that I am an adult signing on my own behalf or my minor child named \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and that I wish to take riding and horsemanship instruction with Robyn Schamante through RMS Training LLC or Great Escape Stables.

\*I understand that riding horses and working in the stable area have inherent dangers, and that serious injury, and even death may be caused in a horse-related accident. By way or illustration, a horse related accident includes, but is not limited to being stepped on, kicked, or otherwise struck by a hoof, bitten, pushed, knocked over, or fallen from a horse.

\*Great Escape Stables or RMS Training and it's agents, employees, and volunteers have represented to me that it will use all reasonable care in their selection of horses it allows me or my child to ride, and safety in supervising my riding lessons. I understand that by nature, horses are skittish and unpredictable animals and that even the quietest of horses can occasionally act in an unanticipated manner. I understand that the agents of GES or RMS Training cannot prevent all accidents, and I do not expect them to do so. I have been specifically advised that I can expect to fall from a horse in the natural course of learning to ride. If at any time during a lesson I become fearful to the point I wish to dismount, I will so advise my instructor.

\*Great Escape Stables & RMS Training reserves the right to refuse service to anyone with or without reason.

I have read this contract, understand it completely, & execute it voluntarily with full knowledge of its consequences.

**Participant or Guardians Signature** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact (Name & Number):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Great Escape Stables Signature** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

WARNING:

UNDER THE MICHIGAN EQUINE ACTIVITY LIABILITY ACT, AN EQUINE PROFESSIONAL IS NOT LIABLE FOR AN INJURY TO OR THE

DEATH OF A PARTICIPANT IN AN EQUINE ACTIVITY RESULTING FROM AN INHERENT RISK OF THE EQUINE ACTIVITY.

· This form will be used to prove that you understand fully the risks of horseback riding, and that you have made a free choice to ride at Great Escape Stables.

· This form also restricts or eliminates your ability to file a lawsuit against Great Escape Stables and it's agents for injuries you may have sustained while on the premises.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION FORM**

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Residential Parent/Guardian or Emergency Contact:

Parent/ICE #1 Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ICE #2 Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CONSENT to TREAT

I hereby give consent for GES to contact 911 I the event of an emergency. This authorization does not cover major surgery unless the medical opinions of two other licensed physicians or dentists, concurring in the necessity for such surgery, are obtained prior to the performance of such surgery.

Facts concerning the child’s medical history, including allergies, medications being taken, and any physical impairment to which a physician should be alerted: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

**Great Escape Stables Policies & Procedures Acknowledgement**

As professional horsemen our top priority is the safety and progress of riders and horses. Our policies are in place to assure safety, focus, progress, discipline and an enjoyable experience at Great Escape Stables. We are an all-inclusive facility and have a strict non-discrimination policy.

**Outline of GES Lesson Program:**

* Great Escape Stables lesson program is based on professional instruction in a consistent lesson environment. Our Rider Commitment & Expectations form is attached to this liability packet. PLEASE review it carefully prior to committing to lessons.
* Riders sign up for lessons as a session Spring (11 weeks April-June), Summer (11 weeks June-Aug.), Fall/Winter (30 weeks Sept. - March) and may enter the program mid-session with lessons prorated. Lessons are posted on our online lesson calendar on the lesson page of the website.
* Once a rider signs up for regular, on-going lessons they are signed up for that ENTIRE session (or the remainder should then enter mid-session), no exceptions. There is a fee for early session withdrawals. Please refer to the price list on the GES website lesson page. GES has a busy program with a waiting list, so lesson spots are limited.
* We offer an evaluation lesson option for riders who would like to try a single lesson first before committing to an entire session.
* It is a rider or parents responsibility to double check their lesson times each week.
* Our lesson program is tuition based and is billed accordingly each month. Just as a school would issue tuition and invoicing though out a session or semester. Lease & board is billed monthly. Clients may set up a card or bank on file to do automatic payments.
* Our program is designed this way to help students succeed and keep our operating cost economical so dedicated riders can have access to high quality lessons and horsemanship.
* The following Policies and Procedures are in place for safety and rider success at Great Escape Stables.

**General Policies**

* No Cell Phones while riding, no talking or moving about in the arenas while lessons are in session, it is distracting and unsafe. If you need to use your phone please go outside.
* Please DO NOT feed the horses! If you would like to give YOUR horse a treat please check with your instructor FIRST!
* Gates and Doors must always be closed behind you. (This includes rope gates. If you open/unclip it you MUST put it back up.)
* No jumping without a trainer & no outside instruction!
* DO NOT leave horses unattended in cross-ties for any reason.
* If you put your horse in their stall (outside of PM feed time) please make sure their hay/grain isn’t in there and they DO have water.
* Unless told otherwise by staff please make sure to put your horse’s sheet/blanket/cooler back on after riding.
* If your horse is sweaty or body clipped, and it is cool outside they must have their cooler on.
* NO ONE, except riders, are permitted in the barn unless headed in or out of the observation room or have an instructor’s permission. Lingering in the barn aisle or entrance ways is distracting and dangerous!! NO ONE other than riders or parents who are assisting riders with grooming maybe in the aisle during lesson times. Those who wish to socialize may do so in the observation room, outside the barn or in the aisle by the front barn entrance.
* Parents who have instructor questions may ask them at the beginning and end of their rider’s lesson. Parents are not allowed to “coach” riders during lessons and maybe asked to leave.
* Riders must speak up during their lessons and communicate with their instructor.
* If you are waiting to enter the arena and mount while another lesson is still in progress – wait for the gate to be clear, enter, close gate and come to the CENTER of the arena out of the way of jumps. Adjust your stirrups, girth and either mount there or head to the mounting block and quickly get on. Don’t dilly-dally with mounting.
* No open toed shoes in the arena or barn for any reason by anyone, ever!
* Absolutely no yelling, screaming, running or boisterous behavior in or around the barn. Riding lessons are not a place for infants either if they are fussing/screaming. Siblings must remain with a parent or seated quietly in a viewing area NOT running around the barn.
* Riders are expected to assist with keeping the stables clean, organized and safe by always picking up after themselves and their horses. Fee’s may apply to riders not adhering to this rule.
* Riders are expected to exhibit general good manners & sportsmanship to everyone. We have a ZERO tolerance policy for gossip, drama or other ill behavior. Report issues to Robyn immediately.

**Arriving & Departing Expectations**

* 1-hr. Private lessons, Young Riders & Pony Pals plan on arriving about 5 min. ahead of your scheduled lesson time. If you arrive early please have a seat in the viewing area.
* Focus & Group lesson riders should plan on arriving at least 30 min. ahead of your scheduled lesson time to get your horse assignment and start grooming. You should actually be MOUNTED 10 mins before your lesson time to warm up.
* Focus & Group lesson riders are required to stay at least 15 to 30 mins. after their lesson to cool out and put away their horse, sweep up their grooming area and make sure all their tack and grooming items are put away.
* Please remember these times when planning a lesson.
* Please do not drop and leave children under 10 years old w/o making sure the instructor is there.
* Riders who show up late (late is when a rider is not at the barn by the above time) may not be able to ride in their full lesson and will have to pay. If you are on your way and running late or think you may run late to your lesson that day email/text your instructor so they can have your horse ready for you (if we have the help available) and keep everything on time. We take time to plan each lesson and respect our clients times, we only ask the same in return.

**ATTIRE**

* English Riders are required to have a minimum of Paddock Boots & Helmet. Long hair must be tied back or kept out of the face with a sports band. Tops must be mostly fitted and tucked in or tied back if baggy. If riding in cold weather riders must have riding gloves.
* Western Riders are required to have a minimum of riding boot (paddock or western/roper). Long hair tied back or kept out of the face with a sports band. Well fitted top that won’t get caught on saddle, nothing overly baggy.
* Level B and above riders: Breeches/Jeans with tall boots or half chaps and paddock boots, polo shirt, hair tucked up into helmet and gloves. Extreme hot weather a sport tank top is ok. Extreme cold weather sweater, fleece, fitted hoody or jacket ok. No oversize, baggy clothing.
* No boots with inside zippers or other attire that can scratch our lesson saddles. Riders who attend any lesson in unsafe gear will be given an alternative or may not be able to ride.

\*GES has a barn wear page with polo’s, fleeces, jackets, vests, tank tops and more. Link is on the home page of the GES website.\*

* Riders not adhering to this policy will be reminded of correct attire, consistent non-compliance may result in removal from the lesson program. GES has a selection of used riding boots, pants, helmets that you may choose to purchase if cost is a factor.

**PAYMENT**

* No rider may ride without paying first.
* We accept cash, check, credit card or you can pay via ACH.
* All lessons are non-refundable regardless of reason but make-ups maybe available.
* Credit card transactions will incur a service fee.
* Clients are responsible for double checking and reading over their invoice and making the correct payments on time to avoid late fees. If you are issued a late fee and then decide to submit payment without paying the late fee you will not be riding until your account is brought current.
* Please familiarize yourself with our price list which is available on the lesson page of the GES website and updated there as well. If you have a question on your payment, please contact us immediately. If staff is required to do extra administrative work a fee of $10 per time will apply.
* Once a rider signs up for lessons they are committed to the WHOLE session/month/lease etc.
* Canceling, changing or dropping out will incur additional charges. GES reserves the right to remove any rider from the lesson program with or without reason or refund.

**IN CASE OF A FALL**

Please do not run into the ring. Running and yelling can further upset an already upset horse and rider. The instructor will organize the group and attend to the fallen rider. If needed, the instructor will then call you into the ring at which point you may walk out into the arena. As long as the student is not seriously injured it is our practice to put them back on their horse even if they only walk the rest of the lesson. If a concussion is suspected or an injury is severe we will contact a parent or your ICE person. In extreme cases we will call 911.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

In order to ensure riders are learning in a consistent environment we require the following attendance for lessons:

* + Each student is scheduled for MIN. of 4 lessons a month (show team riders a MIN. of 8 lessons a month)
	+ Each student must attend a MIN. of 3 lessons a month to stay in the lesson program, less then this or inconsistent attendance may result in removal from the program.
	+ Lessons effected by holidays maybe offered different days/time.
	+ Students not meeting the attendance policy or those who continually show up late to lessons or lack interest will be removed from the lesson schedule and notified by email, this is not subject to a refund. This also applies to parents who create issues for riders or staff.
	+ If you have a question or concern about the attendance policy, please speak with your instructor.

**CANCELATION POLICY**

We have a busy lesson program & we value our client’s time. We ask for the same consideration from our clients in return.

* + If you need to cancel a lesson please notify us as soon as possible. This effects the horses work schedule as well as the planning of staff.
	+ Consistent cancellations for any reason may result in removal from the lesson program in accordance with our attendance policy. Additionally, once a lesson is canceled and it is removed from the calendar the cancelation is final. Riders can’t cancel and add, cancel, and add as horse use and scheduling is set and constant changes are inconsiderate.
	+ GES will never “cancel” lessons all together. There are times when lessons are modified or rescheduled as needed due to the limitations of staff and/or horses. See the GES weather policy for info. on cold/hot weather lessons.
	+ If your instructor is sick, out of town or otherwise unable to be present at lessons riders will either get an email with their lesson plan/homework and should attend their scheduled lesson(s) to ride and complete their lesson plan/homework or they may be given horsemanship work depending on their level. Riders at Level B+ & above who are not boarders may schedule up to two Practice Rides in place of a missed lesson as well.
	+ MAKE-UPS: There are no “make-ups”. The schedule is the schedule and riders are expected to show up at the lesson day/time they are scheduled for. If you can’t make a lesson and are level B+ or higher you can request a practice ride or two in leu of the lesson you missed. Depending on lesson openings your lesson maybe able to be moved for the week you will be missing. If you know ahead of time you will miss a lesson let your instructor know and request your practice ride day/time or your instructor may have a horsemanship packet for you to work on while you away from the barn.

**LATENESS**

Horses require enough time to be groomed, tacked and warmed up properly. Riders who don't get to the barn with enough time to do this correctly will not be rushed through the process just to "ride". If riders get to their lesson late the lesson may become a bareback lesson (to save on saddling time) or it may be a ground lesson. Riders who rush through grooming and tacking and do it improperly because of poor time management will be directed back to the barn aisle to groom and tack up correctly. Lateness and rushing compromises the SAFETY of the horse and rider! When in doubt talk to your instructor. 1-hour private lessons ARRIVE 5 mins. ahead of time. 1-hour group/30 min. private ARRIVE 30 to 45 mins. ahead of time.

**WEATHER POLICY**

We follow weather using weather.com. You can click the link on this page and enter our zip code 48178.

* **FEELS like less than 25 degrees** (according to weather.com) lessons will be unmounted in the viewing room. Show Team & Level C and above riders may still have mounted lessons.
* **FEELS like less than 20 degrees** OR Ice/Winter storm makes roads dangerous – STAY HOME
	+ Lesson plans will be emailed to riders to do during their lesson time (articles to read or equestrian coach video’s, riders will be asked to discuss learned points from homework assignments at their next lesson).
* Severe Thunderstorms or Tornado warning – STAY HOME
	+ Lesson plans will be emailed to riders to do during their lesson time (articles to read or equestrian coach video’s, riders will be asked to discuss learned points from homework assignments at their next lesson).
* **FEELS like more than 80 degrees** (according to weather.com) lessons will be unmounted. Show Team & Level C and above riders may still have mounted lessons.
* FEELS like more then 85 degrees – Go to the POOL! It is too hot to be riding or schlepping around the barn.
	+ Lesson plans will be emailed to riders to do during their lesson time (articles to read or equestrian coach video’s, riders will be asked to discuss learned points from homework assignments at their next lesson).
* If lessons are canceled or changed for any reason you will get an email and/or text. It will also be updated on the lesson calendar. Make sure to check the calendar.
* If a rider name is on the lesson calendar and no notices about a cancelation have been sent we expect you at your lesson.
* If in doubt please contact your instructor to confirm you lesson.

**Rider & Parent please sign here in acknowledgement & compliance:**

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Please note by signing this page you are committing to compliance with all policies & procedures at Great Escape Stables.