



New Riders - Welcome to URC!

Here are helpful things to know about URC and riding lessons:

Lessons begin promptly - the first minutes of each lesson include mounting and adjusting tack, getting ready to ride. Beginner riders are assisted, and horses are ready in the ring; Intermediate and above riders should arrive before the lesson to tack up, bring their horses to the ring, ready to ride at the start of the lesson time.

All URC horses are outfitted with complete tack. Riders may vary or use their own tack only with permission of instructor or staff.

Riders must be properly attired to ride, including:

All riders must wear an SEI/ASTM certified horseback riding helmet of a current style and model year whenever around or mounted on horseback. We have loaner helmets in a range of sizes that are adjustable. We recommend students invest in a properly fitted riding helmet. Helmets must be fit and properly adjusted; a tack shop is a good resource for helmet fitting and adjustment. Multi-sport helmets are not allowed.

All riders must wear closed-toe boots/structured footwear with a small heel whenever around or riding horses. *No sandals, Crocs or loose footwear of any kind is permitted when riding.* Sneakers are fine for first lessons, but smooth or bulky soles compromise the fit and function of stirrups and not recommended. Instructors can offer ideas for functional, economical footwear when getting started.

Formal riding attire is not required. We do recommend riding pants or long pants or leggings to cover the legs and prevent saddle rubs. Riding gloves, chaps and even tall boots are optional, but with growing skills, add to rider comfort and security.

Coming to the barn:

Directions are best in mapping apps using "Urbana Riding Club" vs. the street address. Watch for our sign, turn right over the bridge, then stay left on the driveway up to the barn parking areas.

DRIVE SLOWLY - 5 MPH on our driveway. We have riders on horses, beloved pets and lots of kids around here - and it's my home: I will yell at you if you drive too fast. Please drive like it's your driveway, not a roadway.

Running late? Still drive slowly... **if you/your rider are more than 10 minutes past the start of the lesson you may forfeit the lesson.** Instructors cannot stop or delay a lesson to get your rider on or warmed up or leave the riding arena once the lesson has started.



Parking is available in the main lot between the Rec Hall and barns and the side lot near the outer riding arena. *Please do not park in other areas on the property.*

When you arrive and during lessons:

First lesson, come to the main riding arena near the barn corner entrance. Most first lessons will be in the indoor or main riding arenas. Helmets to borrow will be near the arenas and there will be staff nearby to assist you/your rider.

Before each lesson, please look at the daily lesson assignment board which is typically in front of the sunshine planter - you/your rider's name will be listed by their lesson time with their assigned horse. There are also helpful notices and information posted.

During, before and after lesson times, instructors and staff will be focusing on horses and riders. If you need to ask questions, we will do our best, but may not have time to chat. We're happy to talk 'offline' of lessons.

Observation is permitted around the riding rings/arenas and in our indoor arena lounge. Calling out to riders, instruction or coaching is not permitted. Conversations and phone calls heard within the arena during instruction should be limited. Young children are not permitted to play near the arenas. Behaviors near horses that may startle or frighten them include loud sounds, voices, and quick movements. If asked by an instructor to do or not do something around our stable, don't take offense. We're keeping you, riders, horses and staff safe.

After the lesson:

You are welcome to interact with URC lesson horses, including treats and pets. We have a couple grumpies, but we'll let you know who they are... 😊 You may pet the URC competition horses but ask before giving treats!

Please do not pet or feed treats to our privately owned boarder horses. They are located in the main barn, first two aisles. Their meals are carefully planned, and many have special guidelines. If their owner is present, you may certainly ask permission to pet their horse.

Note about playgrounds and other facilities - do not enter other buildings, including the rec hall, red barn, sheds, private residences, or the pool house. Play on playground, swings and all equipment is at own risk. You are welcome to walk our private trails, again, at your own risk. No one is allowed on the rock wall or zip lines outside summer camp special activity sessions.

Leaving the farm be careful driving out watching for horses, people, people on horses, pets, and our wildlife friends. Get home safe and enjoy happy riding memories until the next time you're back riding with us!

Thank you!!