

## Smith College Lesson Program at Muddy Brook Farm

Lessons are open to all levels of riders and any style! Muddy Brook offers English style lessons, with more information about our facilities [here](#).

### Lesson Structure:

New riders will start their lessons on the ground to familiarize themselves with horses, grooming, and tack (saddles, bridles, etc). However, the majority of lessons will be on horseback. Jumping lessons are available for those with previous experience.

Lessons are held twice a week for 10 weeks. Riders will have either one jump lesson and one flat lesson OR two flat lessons, depending on their level. The total amount of time needed for each lesson is 3 hours:

1. 20 minutes transportation to the barn
2. 30 minutes to get the horse and tack up
3. 1 hour lesson
4. 30 minutes to untack and return the horse to its stall or field
5. 20 minutes transportation back to Smith

Lessons are organized by the board and coaches around your class schedule and typically offered during the mornings or afternoons. Lessons are usually in groups of approximately 3-6 people.

All lesson fees should be paid directly to Kathy Roberts, barn owner. All lessons will be arranged in coordination with Kathy and the other instructors.

### Attire:

For detailed information and helpful links to inexpensive, riding-specific apparel, [please see this document](#). Riding gear does not have to be expensive to be completely safe and functional!!! If you prefer not to purchase any gear at this time, please refer to the guidelines below for safe clothing:

- Long (to the ankle), comfortable pants - nothing loose or slippery
  - Jeans are a great choice if you are just starting out!
  - Workout tights
  - More regular riders may prefer to ride in pants specific to the sport
- Close-toed, thick-soled, heeled shoes that don't expose the ankle
  - Heels must be approximately 1 inch - slightly shorter is fine, but no higher
  - **No sneakers!**
  - Winter boots often work if you are just starting out, or you can buy one of the cheaper boots made specifically to ride in. We also recommend wearing rain boots or mud boots to the barn because the fields can get very muddy, so be prepared! You can change into riding boots after you have retrieved your horse and before you put it back.

- An ASTM/SEI certified helmet
  - No bike helmets!
  - Muddy Brook does provide helmets at this time if you do not wish to buy your own.

\*If you are new to the sport and have any additional questions about riding apparel, please contact us!!\*  
[\(equestrian@smith.edu\)](mailto:equestrian@smith.edu)

### **Transportation:**

Smith College will provide vans to get you there and back. HOWEVER, in each lesson group there will have to be at least two students registered to drive for Smith. If you are able to be van certified, you must do so. If you are able to drive you will likely be asked to drive your lesson to MBF, and if you are one of the only two van certified drivers for your lesson, it is not optional. Visit [this link](#) to start the process.

### **Attendance and make-up lessons**

You are expected to be present for every lesson unless you are sick, injured, or have an advance conflict. If you are not able to make it to a lesson, you must text, call, or email your instructor and a captain at least 24 hours before your lesson. If you are ill within 24 hours, please text Kathy as soon as you decide you are unable to ride. It is strongly recommended that you do so by 7AM the morning of your lesson.

If you miss a lesson due to a conflict or illness of your own, there will be no make-up lesson and you will not be refunded for the missed lesson. If a lesson is canceled due to weather or other circumstances affecting either the college itself or MBF, there will be a make-up for that lesson for the group at the end of the semester.

### **Cost and Financial Aid:**

The cost of one lesson per week for 10 weeks is \$500. These fees pay for the horses at MBF, the equipment you use, the staff who care for them, and the instructor's time. You will also be asked to provide your own personal equipment: a helmet (Muddy Brook has a limited number available to borrow), long pants, and close-toed, thick-heeled shoes.

If you need more than one lesson paid for per week due to financial reasons, please reach out to the board to inquire about getting your second lesson paid for ([equestrian@smith.edu](mailto:equestrian@smith.edu)). Smith does not provide financial aid for riding at this time, but we do get a certain amount of allocated funding for all team lessons and it is up to the board's discretion to use it.