

Welcome to our Academy program here at Avalon. We are proud of our students and what they accomplish in the show ring, as we are the leading barn in blue ribbons and highpoint for the state. But we are equally proud that our students set the bar in sportsmanship and camaraderie with each other and competing barns. We strive for a happy and well rounded competitor that is proud of their accomplishment if they met their personal goals. This booklet should answer all of your questions about showing on the academy circuit. We, as instructors, are here for you the parents, as well as the students. Please ask us anytime you have any questions. That's why we are here, to make horses a positive experience for you and your family.

Avalon has several different instructors; the head of the academy department is Lonna Glover. She offers several different types of lessons to help the students perfect their skills in different situations.

Private Lessons- \$45 for a half hour

Semi-Private Lessons- \$35 for a half hour with 1 to 3 riders

Group Lessons- \$35 for 45 minutes with 4 or more riders, not available for the novice rider.

Family Group Rides- \$20 each for half hour of fun light riding around the farm, perfect for parents, friends or spouses to see just how fun it is!!

Camps- we offer camps anytime school is out and will run a camp day for four or more children. Camp is from 9am until 3pm and the campers' ride twice a day and get to do all the things they don't get to do in structured lessons. Riding bareback is a big request, as is relay races on horse-back and red light green light and Simon says all on horses!

Avalon Riders :

- ✓ Please arrive a few minutes ahead of your scheduled lesson time
- ✓ Call ahead if you will not attend a lesson, or that time will still be charged to you
- ✓ All riders under 18 must wear a helmet
- ✓ Always check the bulletin board next to the office for news of what we are working on next and for sign-up sheets!
- ✓ Enjoy your time at the barn! Come early and stay late to groom and bond with your horse!

We have Gift Certificates for everything!!!!

We also offer horse visits to school and will be happy to participate in career day to focus on the wonderful careers in the horse world. Just let us know if we can bring the joy of horses to your school. We have had many schools come to Avalon for a field trip as well, Manascalco Elementary bussed their entire first grade to learn about Mustangs, their school mascot. First United Methodist Church of Lutz brought their huge youth group to learn how to care for animals. Many Girl Scout groups all around the Tampa area have earned their Horseback Lover and Horseback Rider badges here at Avalon . If we can be of service to your group let us know.

Avalon Staff:

Pam Roush, owner and trainer (813) 765-7162

Lonna Glover, instructor (205) 994-5456

Avalon's Frequently Asked Questions:

What does Academy mean?

Academy is a good way to see if showing horses is right for you or your children. The Academy Showing Program was developed to introduce newcomers to the show ring, so they can see what competing on horseback is all about. Academy is the most inexpensive, entry-level way to gain experience and confidence at showing horses. Also, the attire for the academy rider is more basic than the performance, "A" circuit riders' attire.

Do I have to own a horse?

Absolutely not, we provide lesson horses for you to ride at Avalon and show in the academy division.

How much do horse shows cost?

Each horse show varies in cost depending on set horse show fees, distance, hotel (for instructor), and number of students competing from our barn.

Avalon "Home" Shows : \$150

Other Farm Shows: \$250 (West Coast Morgan and Judd Stable Shows)

Florida State Fairground Shows: \$350

What other expenses are there to consider?

Aside from the riders' show attire, some customers prefer to stay closer to the horse show facility, so you may have hotel and meals to consider. Sometimes each family brings a potluck lunch so all the students can eat together, depending on when the show start time is.

What are the benefits to showing horses?

Horse showing fosters development in good sportsmanship, determination, confidence building, and the ability to act under pressure. Most of all, showing allows students to apply what they have learned during their lessons. Shows are ultimately what we work toward during lessons.

What is proper show ring etiquette?

It is only appropriate to cheer and applaud when the riders are trotting and you think the judge is looking at your favorite rider. It is appropriate and encouraged to do so when the riders are in the line-up and the judge is approaching your favorite. Also, remember to leave the coaching to the instructors.

How many times can a student ride at a show?

Depending on the horse show, students may show two times. Each class lasts about 10 minutes.

Where can we get what we need?

- Tailored Horseman Riding Apparel : Custom, Tailored, Consignment
 - Diane Tanguay
 - 813-949-7509
 - 813-777-4408
 - JC SADDLERY

Phone: 813-920-3587

Hours: Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat. 10-5

8541 N. Gunn Hwy.

Odessa, FL 33556

---Great for Kentucky jods, paddock boots, helmet, and gloves

ONLINE

- The American Jodphur Company
 - <http://americanjods.com/>
- World Champion Horse Equipment
 - <http://www.ehorseequipment.com/>

Preparing for your horse show:

What you will need:

Saddleseat

1. Kentucky Jodhpur pants-order these extra-long; we want them to go past the rider's boot
2. Jodhpur boots- in black only- POLISHED!
3. Vest- in any color you like, needs to be snug fitting and over belt
4. Long-sleeve dress shirt in any color or pinstripe that coordinates with your vest- need to have a collar and cuffs- needs to be long enough to cover wrists when arms are stretched out- must tuck in!
5. Tie- real men's ties are best and come in many colors. NO CLIP ONS (unless you are tiny)!
6. Gloves- in black leather only
7. Number pins or magnets- you need 4
8. Black thin belt
9. Tie bar
10. Tie pins
11. Well fitted helmet and black helmet cover
12. Hair in a bun with bun bow under helmet

Huntseat

1. Tan breeches
2. Rat catcher hunt shirt with stock pin or embroidered design on collar
3. Jodhpur straps with short jodhpur boots
4. Tall boots must be used by cantering rider
5. Cantering riders wear a bun in their hair under helmet
6. Walk/ trot riders wear two braids and ribbons under helmet
7. Helmet with velvet cover
8. Number pins/ magnets

Western

1. Dark Pants, No Blue Jeans
2. Matching boots
3. Western shirt
4. Bolo Tie
5. Coordinating gloves
6. Earring posts for girls
7. Western hat in coordinating color
8. Number pins/ magnets
9. Bun under hat/ helmet

Caboodle (storage box) Items

1. Age appropriate make up
2. Brush and comb
3. Hairnets that match hair color- thin mesh- at least two (Sally's Beauty Supply)
4. Hairspray
5. Bobby pins & Hair pins
6. Pony tail holders
7. Hair bow
8. Safety pins
9. Shoe polish for your boots
10. Black electrical tape
11. Earrings for girls (posts only)
12. Tie bar (an extra is recommended)
13. Lint brush
14. Underpasses or tie downs for pants (always bring extras)
15. Cuff straps to hold pants up when walking at show

16. Other optional items:

Small baby powder

Deodorant

Small sewing kit with buttons

Practice Before a Show

Usually students take one to two lessons a week. We encourage them to make sure they are in a group situation as well. A group situation prepares a student for the feeling of riding with 6-8 other riders and all the circumstances that may present them. During the show, there is little time for a warm up, classes run back to back. A rider must be mentally ready to mount and go on into the show ring at maximum performance. This should be practiced at lesson time as well. Rider should practice getting on and give 110% at the beginning of their lesson!

Sportsmanship

Usually a horse show is a child's first competitive sport that is not a conventional team situation. Riders put a lot of time and effort to try their best. The academy program is designed to let those show who have not yet become completely proficient in their riding, but rather "start somewhere" and work harder to get better. This creates a situation where you or your child will not always win or place well. At Avalon, we like to put our focus on the child's personal goals and creating a bond between horse and rider. We do not push to a blue ribbon, but a well ridden class sends Avalon staff over the moon proud and excited for that rider. Avalon expects their riders and their parents carry the same attitude. It is a process to teach good sportsmanship, we all know we weren't born with it! This is usually discussed individually with parents if we feel the child is too disappointed in a performance, or is too hard on themselves. Learning to deal with these feelings is one of the life lessons learned in sports.

Costs

Secret Shows at Avalon : \$45 per class entered (polo shirts and jods- academy attire not required- no point earned toward highpoint awards)

Avalon "Home" Shows : \$150

Other Farm Shows: \$250 (West Coast Morgan and Judd Stable Shows)

Florida State Fairground Shows: \$350

Horse Selection

We make every effort to match every student with the horse that best teaches the skill they need to move up. At a show, we try to give everyone a good match, but with 7 school horses and 70 students, it's not always easy. Sometimes you will show your favorite in one class and we will switch you to a difficult one in your next class. The sign-up and payment dictates part of the selection, first to sign-up and pay gets priority. Also, experience plays a factor, if a rider has more experience, we will push to the more difficult. The only time you are guaranteed a specific horse is if you lease one. That bears repeating, if you do not own or lease a horse, you should be proud to try your skills at mastering whatever is available to you. Some of our best teachers in our lives were not our favorites until we saw what they brought out within us.

Payment

The sign up sheet will tell you when the payment is due (6 days before the horse show). Avalon shows are the only shows that you will operate on a pay when you get there system, all other should be paid in advanced. It is important to keep us up to date if you cannot attend and only sign up if you are reasonably sure you can compete that date. There are no refunds after the sign up date, but add-ons may be taken with a late fee from the show. All academy horses must be ridden by multiple riders and your decisions effect everyone.

When do I start to show horses?

The academy division has many age divisions. It is designed with two classes for each age group, equitation and showmanship. Equitation classes are judged on the riders' basic equitation skills (body position) with correct diagonals to be counted; proper use of show ring is to be considered. Showmanship classes are judged on the rider's horsemanship abilities. They are judged on the riders ability to control and show their horse, including speed, collectiveness, and placement in the ring (the rider's command of the horse). The following age divisions are divided to insure fair competition:

8 and under

9-10

11-13

14-17

Adult

What time should I be at the show to compete?

The next page is an example of an academy show prize list or class sheet. It states the start time and then lists the classes. Each class is approximately 10 minutes in length, with a few 2 minute holds in between classes for riders to quickly change horses or saddles and enter the ring. We have to have everyone at the show when it begins, just in case classes are cancelled. The great part about arriving early is to find great parking, find the barn at the show grounds, have time to get your number on, and have time to watch the classes and notice similarities in how the classes are being called and judged.

Avalon Stables Camp

Avalon offers camps anytime school is out and will run a camp day for four or more children. Camp is from 9am until 3pm and the campers' ride twice a day and get to do all the things they don't get to do in structured lessons. The activities during the day will include basic horse care and grooming, riding lessons or trail ride, games, outdoor activities, and arts & crafts. Riding bareback is a big request, as is relay races on horse-back and red light green light and Simon says all on horses!

In the event of inclement weather, alternative activities have been planned. Early drop-off and late pickup are available for a nominal fee, if arranged in advance. Please contact us prior to camp week to schedule accordingly.

Children should wear long pants, boots, and appropriate shirt. Please insure that lunch, snacks, and plenty of drinks are brought daily. We have two vending machines on site for your convenience, there is a \$1.00 machine with water and sport drinks, there is also a .75 cent machine for soda. Please send sunscreen, hats and medications, with instructions, as needed.

The fee for the Avalon Camp is \$350 or you can select a per day option which is \$70.00 each day. Camp is limited to 14 participants; and no less than 4 to ensure a safe and positive experience for the children. Because of the high demand for our camp, reservations are made on a first-come, first-serve basis. Completed paperwork and a \$25.00 deposit per camper is due upon scheduling. This deposit will be applied to the balance that is due the first day of camp.

Camp is structured to accommodate all ages and skill levels. The younger, less experienced riders will practice more beginner type horse skills and participate in more fun horse games. The older, more experienced riders are routed to learn specific skills needed to be able to attend Summer Fun Show Camp. Summer Fun Show Camp is a fun way to learn to be super horse savvy and spend some quality time with your Avalon family! Best part is that YOU get to be responsible for the duties of a horse trainer at a show. Of course, your Avalon family will back you up, but YOU are responsible to learn skills to prepare and prepare YOUR horse for the show ring! You will also get a lesson with a clinician, as well as help with center ring duties and show entries. Taking the time to learn and practice new skills, as well as passing skills tests needed to attend Summer Fun Show Camp will be a great goal setting experience for every horse lover!

We look forward to spending the day with you and our four legged friends!

Be sure to check the bulletin board for camp dates and fill out a registration form for the camp you plan to attend.