



Empowerment through horses!

Fall 2020 Update

Please see the new "[Participant Handbook](#)" that fully outlines the policies and procedures for participants. Below is a summary of the major changes for this fall

- **Building the COVERED ARENA in Dripping Springs!**
- **All riding will only be in San Marcos for the Fall semester**
- **Reading and Job training will continue in Dripping Springs for Fall**
- **Fall will be 8/31 - 11/20. Make up week and weekly riding in Dec.**
- **Rate increase and policy change on refunds**
- **Sign-Up & Schedule link (Sat options for DS/BC/LT/Austin) :**
 - <https://forms.gle/oxGLLMT2bvN2va5Q8>
- **Scholarship applications due 8/15:**
 - <https://forms.gle/JqDf3wDxRRHfkcT9>
- **Round-Up**
- **COVID precautions**
- **Helmets**
- **Please let us know if you are not returning this fall**

BUILDING THE COVERED ARENA IN DRIPPING SPRINGS

Thanks to a \$1 MILLION donation from Mariam McCoy, wife of the late Emmett McCoy (founder of McCoys Building Supply) we can purchase some of the land and begin building the covered arena in Dripping Springs! We are in the process of completing the land purchase and will begin building in September. We will need to raise another \$500,000 to complete the building in time for Spring sessions. It's the final push, I know our community can come together to make this happen!

We'll have a covered arena, fully accessible walkways to all parts of the barn, indoor waiting area and therapy rooms. Our goal is to also expand our job training / day vocational programs for adults with disabilities. We'll have classroom space for participants to create items to sell in our coffee shop and boutique that they can also work in.

ONLY RIDING IN SAN MARCOS FOR FALL

Without Round-Up funds to help us cover expenses, we are not able to pay staff when we have weather cancelations in Drip. We have decided to consolidate all the riding to San Marcos, with the covered arena, this fall.

- Saturday times will be offered for Drip/Lakeway/Bee Cave/North&West Austin riders in San Marcos for the fall
- All therapy and riding lessons will be in San Marcos, none in Dripping Springs
- Address: [1708 Centerpoint Rd. San Marcos TX 78666](#) it is right behind the outlet mall off I35
- Reading and job training will continue in Dripping Springs for the fall. If you can not make the drive to San Marcos but want to continue to have time with the horses, job training maybe a good option for the fall. It's focus is learning more about horse care: grooming, tacking, leading, groundwork and barn chores.

One of our biggest challenges is paying staff consistently in order to retain them, which is impossible to do when we have days and weeks canceled because of weather in Drip. The gift of the covered arena in San Marcos alleviates the weather related cancelations so we can count on consistent sessions = consistent income for our staff. We plan to resume riding in Drip in January with completion of the covered arena in Dripping Springs.

FALL SEMESTER: SEPT 1 - NOV 21, CAMPS IN DECEMBER

We will do weekly sessions 9/1 - 11/21 on Tuesdays - Saturdays.

After Thanksgiving we will offer a week of makeup sessions and 2 weeks of either horse camp or daily rides for the week. We are thinking that time of year will be higher risk with cold/flu season so returning to our summer model of daily rides decreases the number of people onsite for the week and this helps decrease exposure and spread. This is subject to change, we'll know more as we get closer.

RATE INCREASES & CANCELLATION POLICY

A one hour at RED costs over \$300. All these years, Round-Up, donations/grants & volunteers have offset all the costs to keep program fees as low as possible. With postponement of Round-Up, a significant decline in grants & donations and almost no volunteers allowed back, we will be increasing our fees for the Fall semester.

12 weeks of one hour weekly sessions for the Fall semester will be:

Job Training = \$ 540

Riding Lessons = \$ 1,020

Equine Assisted PT/OT = \$ 1,440

Reading (30 min sessions) = \$ 360

Program fees will need to be paid in full as soon as your spot is confirmed. If payment is not received within 5 days we will release your time to the next person.

Missed visits will no longer be credited to your account. These funds will be used to pay our staff so our staff can count on consistent income. We will credit accounts if we are legally required to shutdown. As medical providers we are offering essential care and do not anticipate shutting down again. Cancellations because of road closures, illness, doctor appointments will be offered make-up sessions the first week in December but these are not guaranteed.

Refunds for the semester can be made for special circumstances if approved and the spot can be filled by another participant.

SIGN-UP LINK: <https://forms.gle/oxGLLMT2bvN2va5Q8>

Please use this link to complete your annual forms and provide your schedule options. In the past we have worked off the previous semester's schedule to give time preference to current participants. With so much unknown we will not hold spots for the fall. Like camp, days/times will be first come, first paid. If you have 3rd party funding/CLASS, please sign up as soon as possible to reserve your spot.

Please review our Participant Handbook for more details on our policies for infection control, weather and cancellations at:

https://www.redarena.org/uploads/1/7/4/8/17487101/participant_handbook_2020-2021.pdf

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION LINK: <https://forms.gle/JqDf3wDxRRHfkcft9>

The scholarship application for full and partial scholarships is due by 8/15 and must be complete to be accepted.

1. Completed registration forms (above)
2. Complete the online scholarship application:
2. Email or upload a copy of first page of 2019 tax return (black out SS#s)

Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.

Round-Up and grants fund our scholarships, there will be significantly less funding this year. This application will be required for partial funding/sliding scale/discounts.

kinda like ROUND-UP Oct 16-18:

Riders will complete their trail competition in early October during their usual riding sessions. They will be scored and ribbons will be available for pick up at our social distance events happening Oct 16-18 at the NEW Dripping Springs location.

- **FRI Oct 16** - Silent auction, socially distanced opening (silent auction items will also be available online)
- **SAT Oct 17** - 5k/10k hill country trail run. 8am start
- **SUN Oct 18** - Hill Country Horse Power - Car rally poker run & BBQ lunch pick up. You buy into a poker hand, do a nice hill country drive to pick up cards along the way and end back at RED to pick up BBQ lunch. The best poker hand wins. Open to all our families and the community as well as classic, cool, sport and super cars. It's a fun new way to social distance and support RED!

COVID PRECAUTIONS

The complete list is on our website and will change/evolve as more information becomes available. Main points are

- Everyone (staff, participants, families, volunteers) is health screened and temperature checked before entry
- Participants are picked up at their cars and returned to cars after the sessions
- Everyone will wear masks, except participants who can not tolerate them, they will use a bandana loosely secured near the chin.
- Everyone will wash/sanitize hands upon entry and between sessions
- Limited the number of people onsite per hour
- Families will remain in/at cars while onsite. We are working on a plan for social distancing in the waiting area but it's not approved yet
- Increased sanitation of used or exposed surfaces
- Riders have their own helmet and a dedicated belt that is not shared.
- In the event of a positive covid test everyone in contact with that person will be notified asap

ORDERING A HELMET

All participants who ride will be required to have their own helmet. Please let us know if you cannot afford one and we will assign one to you. Helmets must be less than 5 years old and ASTM/SEC certified. The Ovation Schooling Helmet usually has a good fit and has an adjustable knob in the back for better fit. The order should have a size chart for head circumference. If ordered on Amazon, be sure to select RED Arena as your charity so a portion will be donated back to us.

<https://www.amazon.com/Ovation-Deluxe-Schooler-Helmet-Medium/dp/B005GOL3QA>

We will also assign a safety belt to each rider. We use a specific belt that is \$45 for small and \$55 for large. If you would like to donate to help us cover the costs of the belts please do so with your fall registration payment.

YOUR FALL PLAN:

Please use the sign up/registration link to let us know if you are or are not returning this fall, or not sure. **We will be assigning riding spots in the order of sign-up, so the sooner you sign up the better chance of getting your first time preference.** Our goal is to get the new Drip location up and running with the covered arena by Jan/Feb to resume riding programs in Drip. We also hope the nonprofit climate will improve by then with increased funding to offset the program fees for everyone.

We hope to see yall soon!

Jennifer Young, PT, MS
Physical Therapist, Founder, Executive Director

RED Arena

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