

# COLUMBIA HORSE CENTER, INC. RELEASE AGREEMENT

10400 Gorman Road, Laurel, MD 20723 (301)776-5850

## HORSEMANSHIP SUMMER CAMP 2012 RELEASE FORM

### PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING

Serious injuries may result from participation in this activity. Columbia Horse Center does not guarantee your safety.

Camp Session: (Please **circle** Camp Session or combination of dates):

Session 1: June 18 - June 29

Session 2: July 2 - July 13

Session 3: July 16 - July 27

Session 4: July 30 - August 10

Session 5: August 13 - August 24

Before & After Care: Yes or No

A. Registration of Riders and Agreement Purpose: In consideration of the applicable fee and the signing of this agreement, I, the following listed individual, or the parent or legal guardian thereof a minor, do hereby voluntarily request and agree to participate in riding instruction as a student of Columbia Horse Center, and that this student will either ride his/her own horse, or school horse provided by Columbia Horse Center/Columbia Association for instructional purpose. I understand that I am responsible for the entire payment of my series.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

(Work) \_\_\_\_\_ Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Complete - Yellow Pages, Internet, Newspaper, Friend, Sign)

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print Clearly)

In Case of Emergency Call: \_\_\_\_\_

(Name)

(Telephone Number)

Please Circle Riding Experience: None Walk Trot Canter Jump

Does the rider have any physical and/or mental health conditions, problems, and/or disorders which may affect his/her safety and ability to ride a horse? Yes No If "yes" describe here:

B. Agreement and Territory and Definitions: This agreement shall be legally binding upon me the registered student, and the parents or legal guardian thereof if a minor, my heirs, estate, assigns, including all minor children, and personal representative; and it shall be interpreted according to the laws of the State of Maryland and the county of Howard. Any disputes by the rider shall be litigated in, and venue shall be Howard County. If any clause, phrase or word is in conflict with state law, then that single part is null and void. The term "HORSE" herein shall refer to all equine species. The term "HORSEBACK RIDING" herein shall refer to riding or otherwise handling of horses, ponies, or donkeys, whether from the ground or mounted. The terms "STUDENT" and/or "RIDER" shall herein refer to a person who rides a horse mounted or otherwise handles or comes near a horse from the ground. The terms "I", "ME", "MY" shall herein refer to the above registered student rider and the parents or legal guardians thereof if a minor.

C. Activity Risk Classification: I UNDERSTAND THAT: Horseback riding is classified as RUGGED ADVENTURE RECREATIONAL SPORT ACTIVITY, and that there are numerous obvious and non-obvious inherent risks always present in such activity despite all safety precautions. According to NEISS (National Electronic Injury Surveillance Systems of United States Consumer Products) horse activities rank 64th among the activities of people relative to injuries that result in a stay at U.S. hospitals. Related injuries can be severe requiring more hospital days and resulting in more lasting residual effects than injuries in other activities.

D. Nature of School Horses: I UNDERSTAND THAT: Columbia Horse Center/Columbia Association chooses its school horses for their calm disposition and sound basic training as is required for use for student riders, and Columbia Horse Center/Columbia Association follows a rigid safety program. Yet, no riding horse is a completely safe horse. Horses are 5 to 15 times larger, 20 to 40 times more powerful, and 3 to 4 times faster than a human. If a rider falls from a horse to ground it will generally be a distance of from 3 ½ to 5 ½ feet, and the impact may result in injury to the rider. Horseback riding is the only sport where one much smaller, weaker predator animal (human) tries to impose its will on, and become one unit of movement with, another much larger, stronger prey animal with a mind of its own (horse) and each as a limited understanding of the other. If a horse is frightened or provoked it may divert from its training and act according to its natural survival instincts which may include, but are not limited to: Stopping short, Changing directions or speed at will, Shifting its weight, Bucking, Rearing, Kicking, Biting, or Running from danger.

E. Rider Responsibility: I UNDERSTAND THAT: Upon mounting a horse and taking up the reins, the rider is in primary control of the horse. The rider's safety largely depends upon his/her ability to carry out simple instructions and his/her ability to remain balanced aboard the moving animal. I agree that the rider shall be responsible for his/her own safety, including that of an unborn child, if the rider is pregnant. Columbia Horse Center/Columbia Association advises pregnant women not to ride horses.

F. Conditions of Nature and Inspection of Premises: I UNDERSTAND THAT: Columbia Horse Center/Columbia Association is NOT responsible for total or partial acts, occurrences, or elements of nature that can scare a horse, cause it to fall, or react in some other unsafe way. Some examples are: Thunder, lightening, rain, wind, wild or domestic animals, insects, reptiles, which may walk, run, or fly near, or bite or sting a horse or person; and irregular footing on out of door groomed or wild land which is subject to constant change in condition according to weather, temperature, and natural and man-made changes in landscape. The rider or parent or legal guardian have inspected Columbia Horse Center/Columbia Association facilities, as have the Howard County inspections, as per our stable license, and are satisfied that all premise conditions are reasonable safe for rider's intended purpose, usage, and presence upon Columbia Horse Center/Columbia Association's premises.

G. Saddles Girth/Natural Loosening: I UNDERSTAND THAT: Saddle girth (saddle fasteners around the horse's belly) may loosen during a ride. If a rider notices this, he/she must alert the riding instructor as quickly as possible so action can be taken to avoid slippage of saddle and a potential fall from the animal.

H. Accident/Medical Insurance: I AGREE THAT: Should emergency medical treatment be required, I and/or my own accident/medical insurance company shall pay for all such incurred expenses.

I. Protective Headgear Warning: I AGREE THAT: I shall purchase and wear protective headgear (approved equestrian riding helmet) while around and mounted on the animals. I understand that the wearing of such headgear while mounting, riding, dismounting, and otherwise being around horses, may prevent or reduce severity of some head injuries, and may even prevent death from happening as the result of all or other occurrence, but cannot guarantee my safety or that of my child. Columbia Horse Center does not provide helmets for this use.

J. Liability Release: I AGREE THAT: In consideration of Columbia Horse Center/Columbia Association allowing my participation in this activity, under the terms set forth herein, I, the rider, and the parent or guardian thereof if a minor, do agree to hold harmless and release Columbia Horse Center/Columbia Association, its owners, agents, employees, officers, members, students, premises owners, affiliated organizations and insurers from legal liability due to Columbia Horse Center/Columbia Association's ordinary negligence; and I do further agree that except in the event of Columbia Horse Center/Columbia Association's gross and willful negligence, I shall bring no claims, demands, actions and causes of actions, and/or litigation, against Columbia Horse Center/Columbia Association and its associates as stated above in this clause, for any economic and non-economic losses due to bodily injury, death, property damage, sustained by me and/or my minor child or legal ward in relation to the premises and operations of Columbia Horse Center/Columbia Association, to include while riding, handling, or otherwise being near horses owned by or in the care, custody and control of Columbia Horse Center/Columbia Association.

All Riders and Parents or Legal Guardians Must Sign Below After Reading This Entire Document:

SIGNER STATEMENT OF AWARENESS

I/We, the undersigned, have read and do understand the foregoing agreement, warnings, release and assumption of risk. I/We further attest that all facts relating to the applicant's physical condition, experience, and age are true and accurate.

Signature of Rider \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

**TO BE COMPLETED BY CHC:**

**Cost of Camp Session Due:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cost of B/A Care Due (if applicable):** \$110.00

**Total Amount Due:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Deposit Received/Check # or CC type:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Balance Due by one week prior to start of camp:** \_\_\_\_\_